

Foreword

As President of the European Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ECSB), it is my pleasure to introduce the 13th volume in the *Frontiers in European Entrepreneurship Research* series.

This book is an exclusive platform aimed at creating value for all members of the ECSB as well as scholars in entrepreneurship and small business all over the world. The ECSB is a non-profit organization whose main objective is to advance the understanding of entrepreneurship and to improve the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Europe. The organization has around 400 members and a growing network of about 2000 friends from nearly all European countries. Thus, ECSB is the largest European association of researchers, educators and practitioners in entrepreneurship.

For more than 30 years, it has been our continuous objective to provide our community with top class offers that allow for a better understanding of entrepreneurship and SMEs. With an excellent community of researchers and teachers throughout Europe, we are a network of junior and senior scholars that aims to include all voices to be responsive to the demands in our societies. ECSB allows for a passionate and lively discourse which everyone is kindly invited to be part of.

The ECSB aims at offering benefits that are characterized by high quality, relevance and impact. It invites disciplinary as well as interdisciplinary work while being distinctive in its focus at the same time. With a heritage of more than 30 years, the RENT Conference, jointly organized by ECSB and EIASM (The European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management), is the flagship offer to our community to meet up yearly to present and discuss cutting-edge research. This two-day event has the privilege of travelling around Europe with excellent venues in a different European city every year.

Since 2013, the 3E – ECSB Entrepreneurship Education Conference – has become our second signature event, dedicated to research on entrepreneurship education. Spread over the year, we host smaller events across Europe that allow for different local communities to attend as well.

We offer a doctoral consortium and a post doc writing workshop as well as a policy forum and a set of professional development workshops.

We supplement our offers by providing our early and mid-career scholars with a career mentoring programme. And we also promote creating and spreading knowledge via our webinar series.

All chapters selected and revised for this book have previously been presented at the ECSB's flagship event, the RENT Research in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Conference in Antwerp 2016. RENT is among the premier entrepreneurship conferences in the world. It attracts more than 200 entrepreneurship scholars every year and only its best papers are invited to become part of this anthology.

Research-informed knowledge and expertise are needed to guide entrepreneurs and SMEs through current political, technological and economical changes on the global markets. On behalf of the ECSB, I am very honoured about these excellent contributions from the researchers that have contributed to this book.

The papers, pre-selected by the Scientific Committee and the reviewers, go through a developmental review process of a minimum two stages to allow for the high-quality standard the ECSB is striving for with this anthology. I thank all authors and reviewers who have contributed to this volume. In sum, the Frontiers series offers a selection of the latest, cutting-edge research in entrepreneurship and small business in Europe. It has become a key resource for researchers, educators, entrepreneurs and policy makers interested in understanding entrepreneurship and the prosperity of SMEs.

I hope you enjoy the read and I kindly invite you to enter the discourse with the ECSB community. Please, visit our website for the most up-to-date developments and initiatives from the ECSB, www.ecsb.org.

On behalf of the ECSB, I am looking forward to your engagement with us!

Silke Tegtmeier
President of the ECSB
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