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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Katherine Gundolf received her PhD at the University of Montpellier 1, France in 2006. Currently she is an Assistant Professor at Montpellier Business School – GSCM, France, Associate Member of ERFI, and Founding Member of the Institute for Management Research Cologne, Germany. She is also in the Board of Directors of the French speaking Council on Entrepreneurship and Small Business (AIREPME), reviewer for several journals and she has participated at the organisation of diverse conferences and workshops. She works on small business strategies in general, especially in a local context. She also works on local development strategies of SMEs, and collective strategies. She is particularly interested in entrepreneur's relationships.

Annabelle Jaouen is an Assistant Professor at GSCM-Montpellier Business School, France. She is a member of Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Organisations et le Management (CEROM), and a member of several academic associations such as ECSB or EGOS. She earned her PhD at the University of Montpellier 1 (France) in 2005. Her research objects are entrepreneurship and microfirm strategies, notably collective behaviours, networks and strategic alliances. She also works on entrepreneur profiles and strategic decision-making processes.

Frank Lasch, Associate Professor at GSCM, arrived in October 2003. He is Research Director since May 2007 and Head of the Research center (CEROM). He holds a bi-national doctorate in Economic Geography (2002: University of Regensburg, Germany & University of Montpellier III, France) and a French habilitation of supervising doctoral research in Management science (2007: 'HDR', University of Montpellier III France). His major topics of research are the relationship between entrepreneurship and the regional environment, start-up survival and growth, entrepreneurship in the ICT sector.

Frédéric Le Roy is full Professor at Montpellier I University, author of more than 20 papers in the field of strategy and high tech entrepreneurship, joined GSCM as Adjunct Professor in October 2003. He is actively involved in the research policy of GSCM and serves as research advisor and president of the Scientific Advisory Board (*Conseil Scientifique*). During these last four years he taught Management Research Methods for GSCM faculty and research assistants. He is also the Director of the management research laboratory *Equipe de recherche sur la firme et l'industrie (ERFI)* hosted at Montpellier I University. He is member of the GSCM research center (CEROM).

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The *International Journal of Business and Globalisation* aims to improve the communication channels between academic, political, research, business and institutional actors concerned with the important question of globalisation and business. Increasingly, academics and practitioners have been showing increased interest in themes such as cross-cultural business, sustainable development, emerging economies, environmental preoccupations, human mobility or internationalisation of SMEs.

Surfing on this wave, this special issue is specifically centred on international entrepreneurship. Following the 5th Interdisciplinary European Conference on Entrepreneurship Research (IECER) organised in Montpellier (France) in 2007, the papers presented in this issue illustrate, by relevant empirical studies entrepreneurial processes, in different European and non-European regions: Austria, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, Russia and Slovenia. Thus, emerging developed economies are analysed through the focus of entrepreneurship: entrepreneurial contexts, cultures, intentions and strategies are apprehended in international contexts.

The first paper of this issue, 'Collective entrepreneurship and collective strategies: the case of tourism in France', by K. Gundolf, A. Jaouen and S. Loup, explores the lifecycle of collective strategies implemented in a local territory to improve its tourist attractiveness. The authors put into light the role of entrepreneurial processes, but also of institutional formalisation as key success factors for tourism development.

The two following papers deal with the important topic of culture, and propose comparative studies between developed and transition economies. Despite a large research on individual traits of entrepreneurs, culture plays an important role in entrepreneurship, as it influences entrepreneurial outcomes.

'The impact of entrepreneurs' cultural capital on early performance of new ventures: a comparison between Austria and Slovenia', by E.J. Schwarz, M.A. Wdowiak, R.J. Breitenacker and A. Kuntaric, analyses the effects of cultural values, education, entrepreneurial skills and previous experience on the performance of new ventures. It also shows some differences between transition and developed countries.

In the following paper, 'A comparative study of cultural influences on intentions to found a new venture in Germany and Poland', R.B. Bouncken, J. Zagvorzdina, A. Golze and A. Mrozevska, propose a cross-cultural comparison to analyse the motivators and intentions to new venture creation.

'An integrated model of entrepreneurial intentions' based on the Shapero and Sokol model of Entrepreneurial Event and Ajzen's Theory of Planned Behaviour is proposed in the fourth paper. In this contribution, T. Iakovleva and L. Kolvereid question the

possibility of assimilating the processes of entrepreneurial intention, self-employment intention and business acquisition intention in the Russian context.

Calin Gurău analyses 'Entrepreneurial strategies of small Romanian-Italian joint ventures' in the fifth paper. He investigates in this paper the structure, functioning and strategy of three bi-cultural joint ventures and puts into light several difficulties that have to be taken into account when deciding to enter into this type of collaboration.

Finally, in their paper 'Ethnic enclaves or middleman minority? Regional patterns of ethnic minority entrepreneurship in Britain', D. McEvoy and K. Hafeez study self-employment in ethnic minorities in Britain. The authors show British realities by interesting in the regional distribution of five entrepreneurial minorities in Wales and England.

In traditional market economies, the development of new ventures assumes importance for a long period. But also in post-communist countries entrepreneurial activity has become a priority. New ventures create jobs, generate wealth and are an important source of innovation. Nevertheless, entrepreneurship has been shown to be different in transition economies than in mature economies. Thus, cultural and institutional environments, but also resource affectation, seem to play a major role in entrepreneurial development. The purpose of this special issue is to propose diverse analyses of entrepreneurial activity in the context of a globalised world.