
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Vanessa Ratten's main research areas are alliances, technology and international entrepreneurship. Most recently she has been focusing on international entrepreneurship in Europe and is particularly interested in how government policy affects interorganisation collaboration and business development. Her research on technology has focused on technology innovations in the mobile commerce area but also on how organisations in the technology industry compete through alliances. Most of her work on alliances has utilised a learning perspective to help understand how both firm- and collaboration-specific variables affect alliance performance.

1 Introduction

Recent research by Zahra et al. (2005) highlights that the contextual landscape is important in understanding entrepreneurial behaviour. Thus, entrepreneurship can be described as a socially constructed activity that is impacted by its geographical location. Findings from the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor show that entrepreneurship in Europe differs from other worldwide locations (Acs et al., 2005). This Special Issue discusses the role of geographic location through examining the different types of entrepreneurship that exists in Europe. This first paper by Pena discusses whether there are different types of interpreneurial behaviour between European and US companies in the biotechnology and life science industry. Pena discusses how rapid technological developments in the global marketplace have impacted on business performance. The second paper by Sciascia, Naldi and Alberti examines the impact that environmental conditions have on entrepreneurial orientation of Swedish businesses. This paper highlights the importance of organisation contexts on Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). The third paper by Masurel, van Hemert and de Groot examines how Dutch SMEs have internationalised. Their paper stresses the importance of geographical location in developing a firm's international performance. The fourth paper by Stok et al. discusses how the value managers in Slovenia influence a firm's development process. This paper states that in order to be more innovative a manager must adapt to changing environmental influences. The fifth paper by Moog and Backes-Gellner examines the importance of the labour market in developing entrepreneurs in Germany. This paper stresses that the legal environment existing in a country is an important determinant and influencer of entrepreneurship. Also included in this Special Issue is two book reviews. The first book review by Petschnig and Hormann is on Leo-Paul Dana's book 'When economies change hands'. The review highlights that the book is an important contributor to existing research on the role of transition

economies in Europe. The second book review by Ratten is on Vaz, Morgan and Nijkamp's book 'The new European rurality: Strategies for small firms'. The review stresses that geography in Europe can be examined by the impact rural regions have on overall entrepreneurship in a country.

References

- Acs, Z., Arenius, P., Hay, M. and Minniti, M. (2005) *GEM 2004 Executive Report*, GEM Consortium, London.
- Zahra, S.A., Korri, J.S. and Yu, J. (2005) 'Cognition and international entrepreneurship: implications for research on international opportunity recognition and exploitation', *International Business Review*, Vol. 14, pp.129–146.