
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Michael Dowling received his PhD in Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin, USA, in 1988. Currently, he is a Professor at the University of Regensburg, Germany, and holds the Chair of Innovation and Technology Management. Together with Jürgen Schmude, he founded the annual Interdisciplinary European Conference on Entrepreneurship Research (IECER) in 2003. His research interest focuses on technology management and entrepreneurship.

Jürgen Schmude is a Professor at the University of Munich, Germany. He obtained his PhD in Geography from University of Heidelberg, Germany, in 1987. In 1993, he received his Habilitation (post-doctoral qualification for the supervision of doctoral research) in Entrepreneurship from the University of Heidelberg and became a tenured Professor in 1994. From 1998 to 2004, he was the Coordinator of *Interdisciplinary Entrepreneurship Research*, a research programme funded by the Germany Research Association (DFG). Together with Michael Dowling, he established the annual Interdisciplinary European Conference on Entrepreneurship Research (IECER) in 2003. His research interest focuses on entrepreneurship and economic geography.

In February 2011, the 9th Annual Interdisciplinary European Conference on Entrepreneurship Research (IECER) was organised by Jürgen Schmude at the University of Munich, Germany. IECER has become one of the most important entrepreneurship conferences in Europe, providing researchers from a variety of relevant disciplines the opportunity to discuss their latest research findings in an interdisciplinary forum. The IECER in 2011 attracted over 60 entrepreneurship scholars from many disciplines and countries to hear and discuss over 40 papers. For the third time, the *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business* has accepted a special issue to publish a selection of papers.

The first article (Günzel and Wilker) analyses the interrelation between business model development and technology. Multiple case studies show that business model development is influenced in several ways by technology. The second article (Hauser

et al.) explores how the propensity for early-stage-internationalisation of new ventures is affected by team formation and team dynamics. Results show that internationalisation is more easily pursued by productive matched teams than by a single person. In the third article, Michl et al. present the spin-along approach as a combination of internal and external corporate venturing management tools. The authors argue that higher innovative performance can be achieved using the spin-along approach. The fourth article (Mueller) concentrates on network governance and its adaptation to different kinds of networks. Third-party governance is found to have weaker incentives to promote a network than lead-firm governance. Therefore, cooperative vertical networks are usually managed by lead-firm network managers, whereas horizontal networks tend to have a third-party network manager. The fifth article (Hacker and Dowling) focuses on succession in family firms and the role of successor choice and successor entry strategies. Findings of German family firms reveal that family harmony is higher when the family is involved in the decision making process and when successors enter the firm early. The sixth article (Kuntarič et al.) analyses the effect of social capital on new venture performance in Slovenia. The results show that Slovenian start-ups rely on the strong personal network of the founder, which influences the performance significantly. The seventh article (Trillig) explores whether young technology-based firms in the 'cleantech' industry have different risk/return-profiles because of political decisions. Results indicate that policy makers can influence the risk and return proportions, because capital markets show abnormal stock returns after regulatory announcements.