



Babson 2013 Pre-Conference Event

How Incubation Mechanisms Support Innovative Entrepreneurship? Reflections on the Literature and Worldwide Experience

EMLYON Business School, June 3rd, 2013

Hours of the event: 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Sarfraz Mian, School of Business, SUNY at Oswego, USA

Wadid Lamine, Groupe ESC Troyes in Champagne, FR

Alain Fayolle, EMLyon Business School, FR

Historically, the modern business incubation movement started in 1959 with the establishment of the first formal incubator in New York. Subsequently, the work of David Birch (1979) which highlighted the importance of innovative small firms in job growth and vibrancy of national economy further helped to catalyze the incubation movement. Parallel to this the establishment of Stanford Research Park in 1951 adjacent to the Silicon Valley in California led to the creation of larger incubation infrastructure mechanisms for the development of innovative firms. These key business incubation mechanisms/infrastructure elements continued to grow throughout the past several decades with steady increase in their numbers and type of models since the 1980s, first in the USA and then in Europe and elsewhere; today several thousand such facilities are operating throughout the globe (Mian 2011). However, there has been a dearth of theoretical frameworks available to assess how they are working and thereby improve their effectiveness (Mian, 1997, 2001, Rothaermel and Thursby, 2005).

To take stock of the progress in this field, assess past achievements and consider future direction, we suggest organizing a workshop around the *Technology business incubation mechanisms* and gathering five researchers' experts in this area.

The keynote speakers are:

- **Sarfraz Mian:** Incubation mechanisms' evolution, typology and future direction;
- **Kevin Mole:** Incubation program assessment and sustainability challenges;
- **Sarah Jack:** Incubation spaces as hubs of entrepreneurial networking;
- **Jonathan Linton:** The state of the art and gaps in incubation literature;
- **Alistair Anderson:** Comments and reaction on the presentations

This workshop is planned prior to the BCERC 2013 conference at EMLyon Business School, which will take place on June 3rd, 2013. The *Technovation* journal has offered to publish a Special Issue on Technology Business Incubation Mechanisms, in relation to this workshop.

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