

Guest Editors:

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Over the last three decades, supporting the creation of new businesses has become a major issue all over the world. Support programmes have been launched at national or regional levels to support the founders of young companies. Entrepreneurial ecosystems have emerged around key players such as incubators. The structuration and institutionalization of this field have been made easier by national or international networks such as the National Business Incubation Association. Over this period, this theme has become a research trend in the field of entrepreneurship. Two complementary trains of thought dominate. The first takes an economic stance, focusing in particular on the role of location in entrepreneurial dynamics and the impact of entrepreneurial policies (Audretsch, Grilo and Thurik, 2007). What are the best entrepreneurial policies? How can programmes that support business creation be evaluated? Evaluation models have been developed to answer these questions (Storey, 2000). The second train of thought focuses on the key players in support and the different types of support. What determines the performances of incubators? Many works have played a role in better understanding the performances of incubators (Mian, 1997; Hakett and Dilts, 2004, 2008).

There are two aims for this special issue of the *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business*. The first is to propose a review of current research on entrepreneurial support; how this theme has become, in the last 30 years, a major research field in entrepreneurship. What theories have been put forward? What are the future perspectives for research? The second aim is to offer readers a cross-referencing of entrepreneurial support, taking into account geographical and cultural specificities. The question of entrepreneurial support is effectively raised differently from one country and culture to another. In this case, can we – should we – give a universalist reading of entrepreneurial support? On the contrary, is support only contextualised? What tools and methods should be focused on?

Subject Coverage

Suitable topics include but are not limited to:

- Incubation – business incubators
- Managing incubators
- Skill management and incubators
- Learning and entrepreneurial support
- Performance of business incubators
- Networks and entrepreneurial support
- Innovation and entrepreneurial support
- Genre and entrepreneurial support
- Entrepreneurial policy and evaluation
- Revenue models for business incubators

Timetable

Deadline for papers: 15 March 2013

Papers returned to authors: 15 June 2013

Deadline for revised version: 15 September 2013

Publication: 2014

Send your papers to:

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Author guidelines

[http://www.inderscience.com/info/inauthors/author mp.php](http://www.inderscience.com/info/inauthors/author_mp.php)

The original article should be submitted electronically in single column format, with a word count of 5000-7000 (excluding figures).

A final article which would exceed 7000 words or occupy more than 20 pages of the journal *may be returned for abridgement*.

All articles must be written in UK English. If English is not your first language, please ask an English-speaking colleague to proofread your article.

Please assist us by following these guidelines:

Title: as short as possible, with no abbreviations or acronyms.

Abstract: approximately 100 words, maximum 150.

Keywords: approximately 10-15 words or phrases. *Keywords are important for online searching*

Address: position, department, name of institution, full postal address and email address for each author.

Biographical notes: approximately 100 words per author, maximum 150.

Inderscience journals use the Harvard (name and date) short reference system for citations in the text with a detailed alphabetical list at the end of the article. For example 'Hamel (2000) suggests ...' or 'Nonaka and Takeuchi (1995) found that ...' or 'A study of economic change (Nelson and Winter, 1982) has shown that ...'

Footnotes should be avoided, but any short, succinct notes making a specific point may be placed in number order following the alphabetical list of references.

References should be made only to works that are published, accepted for publication (not merely 'submitted'), or available through libraries or institutions. Any other source should be qualified by a note regarding availability.

Full reference should include all authors' names and initials, date of publication, title of article, title of publication (*italics*), volume and issue number (of a journal), publisher and form (books, conference proceedings) and page numbers.

All illustrations, whether diagrams or photographs, are referred to as Figures. If any figures appear in colour, please note that they will only appear in colour in the online version; in the printed version they will be in black and white. If the quality of the colour figure supplied is not suitable to be produced in colour, it will also be shown in black and white in the online version. Figures should ideally be black and white, not colour, and numbered sequentially. However, if colour is essential to the figure please send a good quality colour image. Please place them at the end of the article, rather than interspersed in text.

Please prepare all figures, especially line diagrams, to the highest possible standards. Bear in mind that lettering may be reduced in size by a factor of 2 or 3, and that fine lines may disappear.