

CONCLUSIONS OCTOBER 2006

As pointed out by Tim Davis, the start-up rates project carried out in the OECD has greatly benefited from the Consortium's support and would presumably not have been implemented with such a speed had it not been for the Consortium. Tim Davis also informed us that the OECD and EUROSTAT have agreed on jointly collecting information on start-up rates in both EU and non-EU countries. This initiative should be up and running within one year. In addition, the OECD work on high-growth firms also seemed well on its way and we are looking forward to hearing more about this at future meetings.

The regional growth model was presented by FORA and countries which are interested in knowing more or participating in the project are encouraged to send me an email. Our discussions on entrepreneurship education were fruitful and I would like to thank Karen Wilson for her contribution in this regard. As she rightly pointed out, the effects of entrepreneurship education are difficult to track. This is partly because post alumni are not tracked in Europe (contrary to the US) and partly because the real effects of the education in some cases can not be seen before maybe 10 years later, depending on which level in the school system the education was carried out. In addition, she stressed that when evaluating the education, there is generally too much focus on how many post alumni start up a new firm. Teachers - as well as evaluators - should rather consider the changed behavioural aspect as a success factor and the entrepreneur's improved ability to actually grow/manage a company.

In the discussions regarding the knowledge filters and commercialisation of research, the Kauffman Foundation informed us that particularly two factors have proved to be crucial for universities' ability to commercialise their research. According to the Kauffman surveys, the researcher's social network and firm's absorptive capacity are fundamental when explaining universities' varying performance in commercialisation of research. The Kauffman Foundation invited FORA to visit the foundation sites in Kansas in order to know more about their ongoing activities and research. We thank the Kauffman Foundation for this opportunity, and we will follow up on this invitation as soon as possible.

In the discussion of the risk capital markets, countries agreed on the analytical framework and the supply/demand side approach. It was stressed that exploring the Friends, Family and Founders (FFF) segment makes sense and that markets' institutional structures are likely to explain the varying risk capital performance between countries. The Kauffman Foundation informed us that they would launch a new business angel and venture capital study in the spring 2007, and offered the Consortium to have a look at the questionnaire which they have used in their survey. I would like to thank Lesa Mitchell for this offer, and we would appreciate to receive a copy of this questionnaire. Consortium Members generally expressed an interest in proceeding with the risk capital market study.

Voting on Projects

The Consortium has approximately €90 000 left for project activities this year. In order to prioritize our efforts and decide which projects to proceed with in 2007, I would kindly ask you to rank the three projects by answering the following questions:

A: KNOWLEDGE FILTERS

Question	Please select (x)	Please select (x)
Should the Consortium spend €25 000 on the Knowledge Filters project? This will allow FORA to explore whether policy areas	Yes	No

are covered by existing data or not. In addition, FORA would develop surveys for collecting the missing data.		
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B: ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

Question	Please select (x)	Please select (x)
<p>Should the Consortium spend €40 000 on the Evaluation of Entrepreneurship Education project (adapted according to the discussions at the meeting)?</p> <p>This will allow the OECD to uncover which methods have been used to evaluate policies/programmes and bring forward the results of the policies/programmes from various countries.</p>	Yes	No

C: RISK CAPITAL MARKET

Question	Please select (x)	Please select (x)
Should the Consortium initiate the first two stages of the Risk Capital project in total €80 000 ?	Yes	No
Or should we initiate only some of the stages and if yes which stages		
<p>Should the Consortium spend €20 000 on stage 1 of the Risk Capital project?</p> <p>This will allow FORA to finalize analytical framework, establish international group of experts and finalize policy questionnaire.</p>	Yes	No
<p>Should the Consortium spend €20 000 on stage 2 of the Risk Capital project?</p> <p>This will allow FORA to collect the national risk</p>	Yes	No

capital studies and prepare a policy handbook/synopsis.		
Should the Consortium spend additional €40 000 on stage 2 of the Risk Capital project? This will allow the OECD to carry out the risk capital data/definition mapping.	Yes	No

Tim Davis would like to know as soon as possible whether he should plan to initiate the data track as mentioned above.

The Netherlands suggested that we should hire a consultant to do all the country reviews – instead of having each country to carry out their national study (based on eth policy questionnaire). I think this is an excellent idea.

Question	Please select (x)	Please select (x)
Do like the idea that the Consortium spend additional €6 000 + travel per country in stage 2 of the Risk Capital project? This will allow a consultant to conduct national risk capital studies. The costs will be deducted from the 2008 budget or paid by the countries directly. We will decide at our next meeting so this is just an indication of interest.	Yes	No

Next Year's Activities

Although we did not discuss the future financial contributions to the Consortium, I would recommend that we continued with our current level. This would mean a contribution of €30 000 for each participating country for 2007. I would appreciate feedback on this issue.

As we discussed, the next Consortium meeting should be in held February 2007. Some possible dates are February 22/23 or February 26/27. Please let me know which dates you prefer. The meeting will take place either in Denmark, Paris or the Netherlands. We hope to have a fall meeting in the US.

Finally, some other ideas for possible future projects were also discussed. It was mentioned that the Consortium should strengthen its working methods used to collect comparable micro data. This could be done in line with what Eric Bartelsman has been doing. The Dutch would explore the possibility for inviting Eric to one of the next Consortium meetings. The Consortium Members agreed on this.

Moreover, it was suggested that each Consortium Meeting should highlight a “hot political” entrepreneurship topic/challenge from one or more of the member countries. Consortium members are hereby invited to send us suggestions for next year’s topics.

I would like to remind you that if you have new ideas or wishes for doing things differently, please let me know. Also, in case you have some new reports and publications, which you think would be of value for the other consortium members, please send them to me and we will distribute them by email.