

OBSERVATORY ON EUROPEAN RESEARCH FOR CRAFTS AND SMEs

Issued by Academy Avignon of Crafts and SMEs in Europe

The Observatory on the European Research for Crafts and SMEs was set up by the Academy Avignon of Crafts and SMEs in Europe, based in Brussels. Its mission is to monitor the results of research on Craft and SMEs carried out in Europe by several bodies e.g. research centres, universities, the EC agencies. The Observatory diffuses the results to Crafts and SME organizations and the other relevant stakeholders.

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2010/N.11

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ALCUNI DATI SUL MERCATO DEL LAVORO. FOCUS SULLE MPI E L'ARTIGIANATO

R. Giovani, E. Quintavalle con coll. di S. Cellini; S. Ciuffini, G. Curatulo.

[Confartigianato- Associazione aziendale italiana. Italy.](#)

SUMMARY

The text is written in Italian only.

(EN)

This work has presented an overview of the key figures of the labor market in Italy. The aim is to highlight the situation of employment working in one of the most difficult economic crises of the last hundred years. In addition to an analysis of the dynamics of major variables related to International, the report examines some focus on the labor market. Finally, the report provides some data on the dynamics of employment and apprenticeships in crafts.

(IT)

In questo lavoro viene rappresentata una rassegna dei principali dati congiunturali sul mercato del lavoro in Italia, con l'obiettivo di mettere in evidenza lo 'stato di salute' dell'occupazione nel cuore di una delle più difficili crisi economiche degli ultimi cento anni. Oltre ad una analisi della dinamica delle principali variabili con i relativi confronti internazionali, il rapporto esamina alcune focalizzazioni sul mercato del lavoro. Infine il rapporto propone alcuni dati sulla dinamica dell'occupazione e l'apprendistato nell'artigianato tratti dalla rilevazione dell'Osservatorio che Confartigianato realizza con ISPO

[LINK](#)

MODELLING THE DETERMINANTS OF JOB CREATION: MICROECONOMETRIC MODELS ACCOUNTING FOR LATENT ENTREPRENEURIAL ABILITY

Abdelfatah Ichou. [*EIM Business and Policy Research Zoetermeer, The Netherlands*](#)

SUMMARY

During the last decades, most developed countries have shown a remarkable increase in entrepreneurship rates. Recent research suggests that this increase is, for a considerable part, caused by an increase in the share of solo self-employed. Nowadays, for example, more than half of all Dutch business owners are solo self-employed. This raises the question which factors determine whether an entrepreneur becomes an employer or remains solo self-employed. This paper is devoted to answering this question by means of an empirical analysis using data of Dutch start-ups founded between 1998 and 2000. Using various duration and count data models we are able to identify several factors that influence job creation by entrepreneurs.

[LINK](#)

INTERNATIONALIZATION PROCESSES OF SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES-A MATTER OF ATTITUDE?

Lutz Sommer. [*Journal of International Entrepreneurship*](#)

SUMMARY

Scholars suggest that when it comes to the role owner-managers of SME play in terms of their companies' internationalization, their attitudes have a major impact. However, little is known on how exactly they lead to international entrepreneurial behavior. This paper sheds light on this relationship by making use of the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB). Besides attitudes, other cognitive factors are examined for relevance. The study is based on empirical data which have been gathered from owner-managers from Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and Germany. The study yielded several interesting results. First, TPB clearly is applicable to investigate the cognitive antecedents of SME owner-managers' international business activities. Second, some extensions proved to be useful in order to increase the approach's predictive strength. From these results several conclusions can be drawn. Cognitive aspects are a promising starting point for increasing the knowledge on decision-making in the context of SME internationalization.

[LINK](#)

THE IMPACT OF FIRM AND INDUSTRY CHARACTERISTICS ON SMALL FIRMS' CAPITAL STRUCTURE

Hans Degryse, Peter de Goeij and Peter Kappert. [*IDEAS*](#)

SUMMARY

This article studies the impact of firm and industry characteristics on small firms' capital structure, employing a proprietary database containing financial statements of Dutch small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from 2003 to 2005. The firm characteristics suggest that the capital structure decision is consistent with the pecking-order theory: Dutch SMEs use profits to reduce their debt level, and growing firms increase their debt position since they need more funds. The authors have found that inter- and intra-industry effects are important in explaining small firms' capital structure. Industries exhibit different average debt levels, which is in line with the trade-off theory. Furthermore, there is substantial intra-industry heterogeneity, showing that the degree of industry competition, the degree of agency conflicts, and the heterogeneity in employed technology are also important drivers of capital structure.

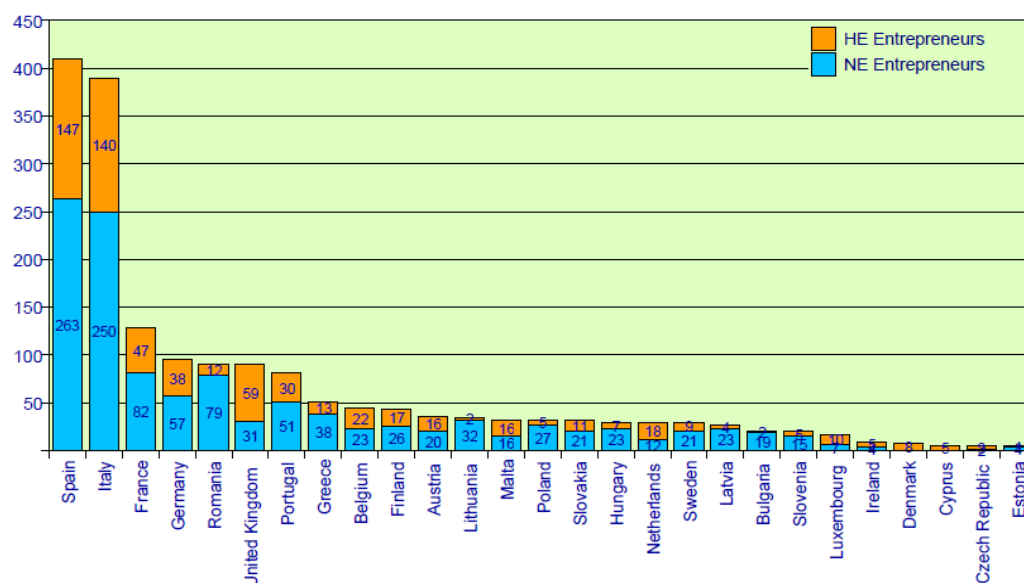
[LINK](#)

Report:

Erasmus for Young entrepreneurs: Total number of applications received: 2518

Or French Language

"Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs" is a pilot project financed by the European Commission. It aims at helping new entrepreneurs to acquire relevant skills for managing and growing a small or medium-size enterprise by working with an experienced entrepreneur in another EU country for 1 to 6 months. It contributes to improving their know-how and fosters cross-border transfers of knowledge and experience between entrepreneurs. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs comes under the Small Business Act for Europe which considers this pilot project a key contribution "to create an environment within which entrepreneurs and family businesses can thrive and entrepreneurship is rewarded".



Other statistics

News:

A saving of 7 billion euros for SMEs

News - 15/07/2010

The first legislative success for the Belgian Presidency: Jean-Claude Marcourt, in his capacity as President of the European Competitiveness Council for industry, welcomed the fact that the Belgian Presidency has today been given a mandate by the Council to reach an agreement with the European Parliament on a flagship directive for the Small Business Act, that is to say, a directive on combating late payment in commercial transactions.

Forthcoming Events:

European Cluster Conference "World-Class Clusters Renewing European Industry" Brussels, Belgium 29.09-01.10.2010

Organized under the chairmanship of the Belgian EU Presidency by the European Commission DG Enterprise and Industry

The high-level "European Cluster Conference 2010" will address the role of world-class clusters in renewing European industry in light of the Europe 2020 strategy. It will gather key policy-makers from the European Commission, European Parliament, Member States, regional authorities and high-level speakers from academia and industry to discuss how better policies can be formulated to make full use of the economic potential of excellent clusters. The event is organized under the chairmanship of the Belgian EU Presidency by the European Commission DG Enterprise and Industry.

29/09/2010	Pre-conference parallel workshops: European Club of Cluster Managers & European Cluster Alliance workshop	Centre Borschette
30/09/2010	World-class clusters renewing European industry	Centre Charlemagne
01/10/2010	Cluster policies of the Future	Centre Borschette

[Link](#)

Eighth Annual WIPO Forum on Intellectual Property and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) for IP Offices and Other Relevant Institutions in OECD Countries Rome, Italy, October 4 and 5, 2010

The World Intellectual Property Organization is organizing, in collaboration with the Ufficio Italiano Brevetti e Marchi (UIBM), the Eight Annual Forum on Intellectual Property and SMEs for IP Offices and relevant institutions in the member countries of the OECD. The Forum will be held at UIBM, Rome, on October 4 and 5, 2010. The Forum is a key event for IP Offices and relevant institutions to discuss and share experiences on the effective use of the IP system by innovators, creators, entrepreneurs and SMEs. The aim of the Forum is to provide an open and interactive platform to raise questions and to share experiences and views on matters concerning intellectual property for industry and business; in particular, the participants will discuss:

- IP related key issues relevant to entrepreneurship and competitiveness of SMEs;
- Share experiences on their outreach activities, special programs, services and products, and best practices on IP for innovators, creators, entrepreneurs and SMEs;
- Explore possibilities of cooperation and partnership in the outreach and marketing activities for greater and more effective use of the IP system for wealth creation.

Those interested in participating may contact Mr. Marco Marzano de Marinis, SMEs Division, WIPO (e-mail: marco.marzano@wipo.int).

[Link](#)

THE LIST OF SOURCES IN THIS ISSUE.

Confartigianato Confartigianato is an autonomous organization, founded in 1946. It represents small and medium-sized companies in different sectors.

EIM Business and Policy Research Zoetermeer, The Netherlands EIM carries out a long term research program on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurship, which is being financed by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs.

International Entrepreneurship was founded in 2001 by Jim Beach and Chris Hanks.

Pro Inno Europe is an initiative of Directorate General Enterprise and Industry which aims to become the focal point for innovation policy analysis and policy cooperation in Europe, with a view to learn from the best and contribute to the development of new and better innovation policies in Europe. The ultimate aim is to help European enterprises to innovate better and faster and to optimise and leverage complementarities between the various innovation support measures that exist throughout Europe (be it at regional, national and Community level). To achieve this, PRO INNO Europe® gives a prominent role to national and regional innovation policy and innovation support actors.

INSME The International Network for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises-INSME is a non profit Association open to international membership. Its mission is to stimulate transnational cooperation and public and private partnership in the field of innovation and technology transfer to SMEs.

IDEAS This site is part of a large volunteer effort to enhance the free dissemination of research in Economics, RePEc

If you have any question or comment, please, don't hesitate to contact us at:

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