



Special Session Proposal

Aligning entrepreneurship, sustainability and regional policy

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Abstract

Entrepreneurship is an essential factor in dealing with local, national or global challenges. While conventional entrepreneurship policy tries to foster entrepreneurship in general, policy makers may try to design support for entrepreneurship in order to promote an entrepreneurial response to specific challenges. The challenge of becoming more sustainable is emblematic. Although our knowledge about entrepreneurship and appropriate policy measures has grown considerably over the last twenty years, when it comes to mobilizing this knowledge to serve the definition of what could be an efficient entrepreneurial policy, a fortiori including the indispensable issue of sustainable development, many questions remain open. A question as fundamental as whether the policy can be targeted or whether it should remain a broad-based enabling policy has not yet been answered very clearly. What elements of the puzzle are we missing to progress in this regard? This special session is intended to gather contributions that allow us to provide some answers to these questions.

The expected cutting-edge contributions could be theoretical and/or empirical, positive and/or normative; comparative; reporting the evaluation results of some regional entrepreneurial policy. We particularly invite evidence-based contributions. Integration into the analysis of the entrepreneurial factor is a necessary condition.

Specific questions might be (indicative):

- What policy measures aimed at stimulating entrepreneurship are appropriate under what kinds of regional conditions?
- What can be the principles of an entrepreneurial policy seeking in particular to address sustainability issues?

- How can policy improve the quality of regional start-ups, considering Sustainable Development Goals?
- What entrepreneurship policy can be designed for incumbent firms?
- Why is entrepreneurship rather productive in some regions and why are transformative effects of entrepreneurship not sufficiently working in other regions?
- What is the role of institutional framework conditions for the effectiveness of local entrepreneurship policies?
- What are appropriate strategies and means to improve a regional ecosystem?