Preface

This second book in the series 'European Research in Entrepreneurship' highlights the unique characteristics and rich variety of European research in the field of entrepreneurship, environment and education. Its three parts, with 14 chapters and 28 authors from 21 European universities and research institutions presenting findings from 13 countries enable a perception of the importance of European cultural roots within the international entrepreneurship landscape. The first volume of this book series, under the collective supervision of the European Entrepreneurship Summer Universities group (ESU Network www.esu.fi), was published in 2005 under the title: *Entrepreneurship Research in Europe: Outcomes and Perspectives*. Encouraging comments on it inspired us to continue this discourse and to go deeper into its different dimensions. The current landscape of the research introduced in this book exemplifies the expanding European dialogue between entrepreneurship, environment and education. We hope it delineates the shape, dimensions and horizon of the multidisciplinary landscape for others to learn from and explore further.

We also want the book to provide university students, teachers, researchers and policy-makers with new insights through which to understand the contextual dimensions and the broadening aspects of the current state-of-the-art in European research into the dynamics between entrepreneurship, environment and education.

To paint such a landscape always requires a sustained and intense commitment from different contributors. In our process the first step took place in 2005 with the start of the preparations for the third ESU meeting in Finland. A total of 63 participants from 15 countries presented their research for evaluation, obtained feedback and improved the first versions of their papers. Initial choices from these revised papers were then made by the ESU scientific publishing committee. The authors of the chapters selected were then supported by the excellent international reviewers who altruistically invested time and effort in helping the authors to improve the quality of their contributions. Also, during this process, the publisher was always willing to support our ideas. We would like to extend warm thanks to all these people for their help, intelligent involvement and capacity in this publishing process and hope its outcome will result in a better understanding of and engagement in the complex European landscape of entrepreneurship research.

Finally, as we approach the first step towards our next ESU meeting in Norway (August 2008), we have in mind a great number of ideas, thoughts and dreams about a third book in the series. We hope that, like its predecessors, such a book will be a great opportunity for young and older researchers in entrepreneurship to share and communicate original and fruitful research findings with a unique European flavour.

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