

Foreword

With this book, the European Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ECSB) presents the fourth volume in a series of papers from the annual Research in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Conference (RENT). RENT XXI was held in Cardiff in November 2007. Since its inauguration in 1996, RENT has grown to become one of Europe's best known and globally recognized conferences in the entrepreneurship field. RENT is organized jointly by the European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management (EIASM) and ECSB.

This book assembles selected best papers from RENT XXI, which centred on entrepreneurship and small business development making the difference in local, regional and national economies. Besides new venture creation and business exits, the papers in this book look at knowledge-based entrepreneurship and the role entrepreneurship can play related to social inclusion. Each of the papers went through a rigorous selection and review process. I thank the editors and reviewers who assisted in selecting papers, for their great effort. With this book and series, ECSB continues to offer a look into current European entrepreneurship research, thus facilitating knowledge transfer and international discussions.

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