Preface

This is the third edition of the *Global Entrepreneurship and Development Index* (GEDI). The mission of GEDI is to offer a detailed look into the entrepreneurial character of nations. This composite index combines both individual- and country-level data to offer policymakers a tool to understand the entrepreneurial strengths and weaknesses of their economies, and by so doing enable them to implement policies to foster productive entrepreneurship.

The purpose of the *Global Entrepreneurship and Development Index* is to contribute to a more complete understanding of economic development.¹ The index is a powerful tool to measure how ‘fast the future’ is spreading around the world. Like a global positioning system, the GEDI can pinpoint a time and place and identify its strengths and weaknesses relative to other countries. Moreover, it offers a measure of the quality and scale of the firm formation process in the most important countries in the world. The GEDI captures the contextual feature of entrepreneurship by focusing on entrepreneurial attitudes, entrepreneurial ability and entrepreneurial aspirations – the ‘3As’ of development.

The GEDI is part of a long-term research project aimed at measuring global progress. It is an annual evaluation that over the decades will give us a valuable database on most countries in the world. The goal of the GEDI is to include most countries of the world by 2015. Not only will this allow us to improve institutions around the world, it will also allow us to see which countries are making progress and which policies are working. By creating better institutions, we will create better individual incentives.

The Index was jointly developed at the University of Pécs and at George Mason University.² The purpose of the earlier publication was to position the index in the global market place for measures of economic development. The current *Global Entrepreneurship and Development Index* is an outgrowth. The current edition makes three important contributions over earlier versions. First, we have added 39 countries to the Index and now have 118 countries in the Index with extensive coverage in Europe, Africa, the

MENA countries, South America and Central and Southeast Asia. We are close to having global coverage.

Second, we have added two new chapters to the index. Chapter 2 examines entrepreneurship policy in the context of National Systems of Entrepreneurship (NSE). The NSE approach allows us to have a framework at the national level that has been missing up to now, with most of the focus on either the individual level or the firm level. Chapter 3 explicitly connects institutions, incentives and entrepreneurship.³ This chapter connects our two data points on institutions and individuals in measuring entrepreneurship at the national level. Third, we have added Erko Autio from Imperial College Business School as a coauthor of the Index. Dr Autio has been involved with GEDI from the beginning and brings valuable insights and capabilities to the team. We have also added Ruta Aidis, Associate Director of CEPP at George Mason University to the team. Dr Aidis brings valuable insight from the perspective of institutions. Finally, Saul Estrin from the London School of Economics, a management and development expert, rounds out the team.

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Notes

1. Auerswald and Ács (2009).
2. Ács and Szerb (2009).
3. Acemoglu and Johnson (2005).

References

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