



## *Book reviews*

**Entrepreneurship and business. A regional perspective.** Miguel-Ángel Galindo, Joaquín Guzman and Domingo Ribeiro (Eds.) Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 2009, 308 pp., 25 illus. \$159. ISBN 978-3-540-70899-5.

This book provides an almost complete overview of the modern concepts of entrepreneurship and those aspects related to regional economics. It is divided into two parts. Firstly, a historical perspective of the binomial relationship between firms and their regional environments is provided; secondly, an empirical analysis of entrepreneurial behaviours and performances under different conditions is presented. Taken as a whole, the publication is composed of an introduction and fourteen chapters developed into increasingly interesting issues.

In order to revisit the great amount of literature related to entrepreneurship, the first chapters start from a broad view about the early developments in the field of regional economics to expand further into endogenous development models. A brief overview of the key topics on issues such as local production systems, knowledge spillovers, the theory of clusters, and the new economic theory is supplied, not forgetting a description on all those progresses introduced by the GREMI, since the mid-eighties.

To enhance the existing conceptual framing in the social sciences, the reader can meet the need to better explore the relationship between regional subjects and other scientific areas. As an example, the theory of complex systems is pointed out to facilitate the better understanding of dynamics within the territorial systems. Further related to this subject the authors emphasize the way how the Italian school has valued the gapping phenomena among territories. In spite of the significant contribution made by the Italian scholars, to include the proposed issue in the context of this publication risks to disperse the readers' attention into a macroeconomic development approach, not necessarily coherent with the general trend of the following sections.

An additional contribution to the theoretical framing related with the diffuse boundaries between entrepreneurship and business from a regional perspective is the perception of entrepreneurial structure, observed from a spatial context. Without much novelty, and mainly dealing with its qualitative features, an effort is done for a comprehensive literature revision.

A central aspect discussed in the book is the need to combine micro and macro perspectives to adapt the entrepreneurship phenomena to the condition of growth. This is done from a solid scientific perspective and focusing on a crucial question: Under which conditions can entrepreneurship be effective for growth? Hereby, rarely discussed arguments, of great value for decision makers when facing development issues, are supplied. These are based on methodological

applications of oligopolistic models and cost saving restrictions – both serious constraints directly related to the current international context.

In the first part of the publication, the need for companies to develop into cooperative forms as a way to better diffuse knowledge is stressed. Whether linking, networking or clustering, the diverse aspects of cooperation as forms of entrepreneurial behaviours are exhaustively described. In some cases, the topic about entrepreneurship and growth becomes recurring, in particular whenever the importance of innovation and small firms in local dynamics is illustrated.

Those inputs provided for pursuing a new development policy may be lessons for many *gapping* regions around the world. When dealing with the difficulties upcoming from globalization, it sounds possible that such regions still can be pushed by the hope in a new industrial model. From the social context perspective, undergoing the building up of infrastructures and focusing on the governance systems, the value of all actors' participation in the development process is clarified and becomes an insight for future actions related to citizenship.

As to the second part, the book introduces the conventional topic on clusters and business innovation, in a promenade along the recent literature – some kind of basis for the next discussions. Associated is an exhaustive list of references.

An essential contribution to the quality of this publication is given by the study on entrepreneurial behaviours. Frequently, the authors' arguments are major issues, unusually used. Factors such as informal labour regulations, deficient institutional frameworks, and personal networks which may hinder the success of entrepreneurship in the development processes are pointed out. Relevance is given to a must-reading article for all those in charge to develop regulatory systems encouraging entrepreneurship within fragile environments.

Right through the end of the publication, social capital is recommended as a major guideline of research. The validation is done by explaining the exact measure that the model may have upon firm competitiveness, even though the key dimensions are difficult to identify at the entrepreneurial function level. Nonetheless, some confusion subsists concerning the distinction between social capital and social networks. Illustrating examples are offered with the case of female entrepreneurship and by describing the success factors of hosted accommodations in Australia.

In summary, I would propose this book as a broad and rich overview on Entrepreneurship and Business from a regional perspective. Although it does not provide so much novelty as one could expect, some articles (as for example those by Søggaard, Vázquez-Barquero, and Smallbone and Welter) may be considered exceptional and are highly recommended. Moreover, quite motivating is the emphasis put on the particularities of transition economies and rural environments for which a considerable amount of case-studies are worth mentioning too.

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**Entrepreneurship in the creative industries: An international perspective.** Colette Henry (Ed.). Cheltenham, UK and Brookfield, US: Edward Elgar, 2008. 215 pp., index. £ 53.96. ISBN 978-1-84542-610-1.

Today, many acknowledge that creativity and innovation are driving the new economy. Businesses and regions that embraces creativity generates higher revenue and provides greater