

In this Edition

NEWS

Entrepreneurship Editorials

LEARNING CORNER

FASTER PARTNERS

NEWS

Faster project, work in progress



The FASTER project is supported by the Leonardo da Vinci Programme of the European Commission. Its goal is to promote the mainstreaming in Europe of good practices for entrepreneurship education.

The project is aimed at transferring the ISTUD Entrepreneurship Programme (IEP), a training course to support high-growth oriented entrepreneurs. The course, designed to teach entrepreneurship to those committed in exploiting their knowledge through the creation of a knowledge intensive company, has been developed and successfully run in Italy by the business school ISTUD Foundation and will be modified and transferred to other European Business schools, Universities, Innovation Intermediaries in Poland, Hungary, Cyprus, and the Czech Republic, which are committed in adapting the IEP model to their own entrepreneurial environment.

In doing this, the FASTER project will foster the cooperation among key actors involved in entrepreneurship promotion such as organizations providing learning opportunities, incubators, Technology Transfer Offices and early stage investors. The cooperation among the above mentioned actors is crucial for the success and effectiveness of the training programme, because it will give the opportunity to the would-be entrepreneur to build a network able to support him in the starting phase.

[\[Read more...\]](#) | [\[Top of page\]](#)

Entrepreneurship Editorials

In this issue, some interesting articles/papers about High growth oriented Entrepreneurship

Politics and Entrepreneurship in Transition Economies



- Simon Johnson - Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) - Entrepreneurship Center; National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)
- Daniel Kaufmann - The Brookings Institution
- Andrei Shleifer - Harvard University - Department of Economics; National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER); European Corporate Governance Institute (ECGI)

Abstract:

The economies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union (FSU) escaped communism with a heavy burden. Despite the collapse of central planning, these economies continued to suffer from heavy political control of economic

activity, reflected in massive subsidization of state firms, heavy regulation of entry and operations of private firms, as well as punitive taxation by the government and - separately - by its agents (corruption). Such politicization of the economy had to be reduced significantly for small business formation and growth to begin. In recent years, some countries have succeeded in depoliticizing their economies much better than others. As this paper shows, these are the countries that also had the best growth records.

Business Start-Ups or Disguised Unemployment? Evidence on the Character of Self-Employment From Transition Economies

- **By John S. Earle** - Upjohn Institute for Employment Research; Central European University - Department of Economics; Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA)
- **Zuzana Sakova** - Newark College of Arts & Sciences - Department of Economics

Abstract:

We study the character of self-employment, drawing upon household survey evidence from six transition economies. Multinomial-logit analysis distinguishing employers from own-account self-employed and comparing both groups to employees and unemployed finds that own-account status is intermediate in most characteristics; tests reject the pooling of any of these categories. Selection-bias-corrected earnings premia are large for employers and smaller for own-account. A structural polychotomous model shows that employers respond strongly to predicted earnings premia in all countries, while the own-account response is estimated to be negative, supporting the interpretation that individuals may be pushed into own-account status by lack of work opportunities.

LEARNING CORNER

In this issue, some interesting books, dealing with subjects strictly related to activities and scope of Faster Project.

Central and Eastern Europe: Europeanization and Social Change



Authors: *FranCois Bafail and Chris Turner*

Year: 2009

Publisher: *Palgrave MacMillan*

Series: *Sciences Po Series in International Relations and Political Economy*

"Bafail's book combines an empirically rich and theoretically valid analysis of the impact of the European Union on the Central and Eastern European states. A significant and stimulating contribution to understanding the process of Europeanization and social change in the new member states." - Wolfgang Wessels, Jean Monnet Chair, University of Cologne

[\[Read more...\]](#) | [\[Top of page\]](#)

Public Policies for Fostering Entrepreneurship: A European Perspective



Authors: *Joao Leitao and Rui Baptista*

Year: 2009

Publisher: *Springer*

Series: *International Studies in Entrepreneurship, Vol. 22*

The contribution of this book is to join in the same volume a set of theoretical visions and empirical assessments by leading scholars about public policies towards entrepreneurship in Europe and how to rethink them. The book is divided in two parts: Part I – Entrepreneurship Policies – A European Framework; and Part II – Entrepreneurship Policy in Countries and Regions.

[\[Read more...\]](#) | [\[Top of page\]](#)

FASTER Partners

The FASTER project is based on transferring knowledge from the well-developed innovation and entrepreneurship support institutions in Italy to the business support institutions in the countries which joined the EU in 2004. Therefore all the partners organizations are key players at regional/national level for entrepreneurship promotion and start up creation, having strong linkages with policymakers and innovation intermediaries.

The partners of the project are:



[\[Read more...\]](#) | [\[Top of page\]](#)



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[\[Top of page\]](#)