



Stakeholder Consultation Workshop Report

Magnus Henrekson

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Annex 1 to D2.1 Institutional Reform for
Enhanced Innovation and Entrepreneurship: An
Agenda for Europe

Version

1.0

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28-01-2016

WorkPackage

2

Lead Beneficiary

IFN



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Place, Date and Time

Meeting of the board of the Research Institute of Industrial Economics, Stockholm February 25, 2016. 14:30–18:00.

Stakeholders

The board of the Research Institute of Industrial Economics comprises of leading industrialists, businessmen and women and leading entrepreneurs.

Name

Michael Treschow,

Affiliation

Chairman of the board. Master of Science in Engineering. Chairman of the Board at Unilever. Former president and board chairman of several major Swedish corporations including Atlas Copco, Electrolux and Ericsson. Chairman of the Board of the Wallenberg Foundation Investment Committee and board member of the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation. Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA).

Magdalena Gerger

BSc and MBA Stockholm School of Economics. CEO Systembolaget AB (government-owned liquor stores; the only retail store allowed to sell alcoholic beverages that contain more than 3.5% alcohol by volume). Board member Investor AB, Husqvarna AB, Swedish Trade Federation and Ahlsell AB. Former board member of IKEA. Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA) and the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise.

Carola Lemne

Director General of the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise. Associate Professor Karolinska Institutet. Chair Uppsala University and board member Getinge AB. Former CEO Danderyd University Hospital and CEO Praktikertjänst.

Jenny Lindén Urnes

B.A. (Phil.). Owner and Chairman of the Board of Lindéngruppen AB. Chairman of the Board of Färgfabriken Foundation. Board member of Becker Industrial Coatings Holding AB, ColArt International Ltd, Höganäs AB, Moorbrook Textiles Ltd and Uppstart Helsingborg.

Sverker Martin Ljöf

Tech. Lic., Honorary Ph.D at Mid Sweden University and the Royal Institute of

Technology (KTH). Former Chairman of the Board, president and CEO of SCA. Former Chairman of the Board of Industrivärden and SSAB, as well as former chairman of Ericsson and Handelsbanken and board member of Skanska.

Tomas Nicolin

Master of Science in Management. Board member of, among others, Nordstjärnan, SEB, the Nobel Foundation, Centre for Justice, the NIAM Property Fund's Investment Committee, the Swedish Corporate Governance Board, the Society of Friends of Pauvres Honteux and the Swedish Free Enterprise Foundation. Formerly CEO of Alecta, and the Third Swedish National Pension Fund.

Magnus Henrekson

Magnus Henrekson, Managing Director IFN, Ph.D., Professor. Board member of the Swedish Economics Association and Fundcurve AB. Member of the Bertil Ohlin Institute's Foundation Council, the SNS Council of Trustees and the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA).

Lars Persson, Deputy Director IFN, Ph.D., Professor, served as secretary.

Format

Information and discussions about the Fires project was part of a meeting of the board held in February 2016. For obvious reasons further topics and discussions during the meeting can't be disclosed.

Main Question put to the Stakeholders

The main question put to the participants was how the economies of the European Union can become more entrepreneurial to promote innovation and economic growth.

Executive summary

Magnus Henrekson presented the project. He stated that the main purpose is to propose how Europe can become more entrepreneurial. He explained that "the aim of Fires is to develop a reform strategy for increased entrepreneurship to create growth in Europe."



In addition Magnus Henrekson updated the board about the kick-off in Berlin September 2–5, 2015, where researchers met to discuss the upcoming research that should result in proposals for policies that can make Europe more innovative and entrepreneurial. Prof. Henrekson informed that from IFN participated: Niklas Elert, Mikael Stenkula and he himself. Entrepreneur Birgitta Stymne Göransson, Chairman of the public firm Medivir AB and member of the board of leading health care firms Elekta and Capio, was invited by IFN and participated in the Berlin meeting. She gave a talk on the subject of challenges regarding issues such as cross-country differences in business regulation, labor legislation and the taxation of labor income. She pointed out that on several of these areas the EU has not adjusted and harmonized rules and regulations sufficiently to live up to its self-proclaimed goal of enabling the region to become the most dynamic in the world. Elisabeth Precht, Communications Officer IFN, also attended the meeting in Berlin.

Prof. Henrekson presented economic issues to be studied at IFN, within the Fires project. Which institutions/regulations are important to a reform strategy? Are the same reforms applicable to all EU countries?

The board discussed how the Swedish taxation system affects entrepreneurial businesses. One issue raised was that the complexity of a system scares away first-time entrepreneurs. That a large share of savings currently goes into pension funds, and can't be used to support start-up businesses, was another subject discussed as an obstacle to entrepreneurship and growth in the economy.

Flexibility in the labor market (which is widely discussed in Sweden today) was yet another issue deliberated at the meeting. It was conveyed that flexibility, in regards to for example government income insurance systems, is a prerequisite for individuals to have the courage to develop into entrepreneurs and to leave secure jobs in existing firms for unsecure jobs in start-ups.

Several of the board members emphasized the importance of the quality of the educational system and the incentives among young people to opt for an advanced degree, especially in the STEM fields. They pointed out that in their experience there are large cross-country differences in these respects, which greatly affects decisions regarding the location of cutting-edge R&D activities as well as production facilities that requires highly skilled labor.

Follow Up

The input from the stakeholders was collected and incorporated into our deliverable's first version. Informal follow-up discussions have been conducted during the writing process. Comments and insights from the meeting have been worked into the final version of the deliverable and the report in the internal reviewing process. The stakeholder meeting was thus organized by IFN. The feedback of the practitioners in this workshop led to several suggestions and improvements to the main report.