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## NEWSLETTER

### June 2016



## Editorial

*By Dr. Mark Sanders*

With one year progress of the FIRES project, it is a good time to launch our FIRES regular newsletter. Our first reporting period draws to a close and we look back on an eventful first year. We kicked off our project in September 2015 at [Adlershof in Berlin](#). After the intense process of putting together the consortium and the project, it was very important and useful to have all participants present and go over what lay ahead. In Berlin, we forged the FIRES team. And we also reached out...

In the Fall of 2015, at the start of our journey, we wanted to engage with entrepreneurs directly. We invited people active in shaping entrepreneurial ecosystems across Europe and beyond and had an intense day where we presented our project and exchanged views on our assumptions and research questions with our distinguished guests. After inviting entrepreneurs to come to us, we also went out and engaged with the stakeholders in their own habitats. FIRES-members engaged in conferences, organized workshops, taught master classes and attended entrepreneurship events where entrepreneurs, financiers and other stakeholders in Europe's entrepreneurial future gather. In these engagements, without exception, we met enthusiasm and encouragement. FIRES is different. Our call for more fundamental, institutional reforms in finance, labor, and knowledge, clearly resonates. And with every engagement, we learned new things too and could sharpen our focus. FIRES thinks outside the box, will go beyond the obvious, and entrepreneurs recognize the importance of doing so.

Meanwhile, of course, our scientific work also took off. PhDs and postdocs were hired, data collection has commenced, and work on the many reports and manuscripts we have proposed is progressing. One year into the project we have produced all deliverables and milestones on schedule while dealing with the

many and inevitable managerial issues the startup of any large project entails. We are glad to report that all is now set in order, and we can turn our attention to the work we planned in the remaining two years. Gradually the focus shifts from preparing and research to formulating policy and reform proposals. Also in our engagement strategy, we need to move from engaging with entrepreneurs to hear what hinders them to engaging with decision makers in finance, labor and knowledge creation to hear what they can and cannot do to promote a more entrepreneurial society in Europe. We continue the FIRES engagement with entrepreneurs at the [largest startup event](#) Europe has seen to date as that just landed in our lap. But fortune favors the prepared. At our annual meeting on 12-14 October 2016, we shift focus to engaging those in control at banks, labor unions, and knowledge institutes to hear what obstacles they see for our preliminary proposals.

Before entering that dialogue, however, FIRES will host a special track at the [IECER2016](#) Interdisciplinary European Conference on Entrepreneurship Research in Chur, Switzerland in September 2016. This will be an excellent opportunity to share our results with colleagues from all over the world. We will thus bring thoroughly discussed and broadly supported reform proposals to Brussels in 2018. FIRES is fired up!

## New Deliverables

Since the start of the project, substantial progress in research activities has been made. Recently, we have submitted our first scientific outcomes in the form of reports, case studies, and databases. Detailed information on the progress and full version of these reports can be found on the project website: <http://www.projectfires.eu>

### Indicators and Growth Effects of Related Variety

#### **Deliverable D3.1 By Prof. Koen Frenken and Jeroen Content**

A Review Paper, written by Prof. Koen Frenken and Jeroen Content from Utrecht University, examines the concept of related variety in regional economics and its effect on economic development. The report finds that related variety supports regional employment growth; and that regions or countries that already host industries related to a specific industry are much more likely to become specialized in that industry. Read the full paper [here](#).

### Pan-European Database with New Indicators of Related Variety

#### **Deliverable D3.2 By Prof. Koen Frenken and Jeroen Content**

This paper presents datasets for EU-regions, in particular on related

and unrelated variety on the one hand and opportunity-driven entrepreneurship on the other hand. The authors discuss the sources, nature and quality of the data, construction of variables as well as the descriptive statistics and spatial patterns. The report ends with an outlook, discussing the future research questions that can be addressed empirically using this newly compiled dataset. Read the full paper [here](#).

### **Extension of GEDI Indicators**

#### **Deliverable D4.1 By Prof. Zoltan Acs and Dr. László Szerb**

This review paper introduces the National Systems Entrepreneurship (NSE) as a framework for a resource allocation system driven by individual-level opportunity pursuit through the creation of new ventures and its outcomes regulated by country-specific institutional characteristics. The NSE approach is an important tool for policy makers to identify weaknesses in the entrepreneurial ecosystem and this report addresses how to include taxes, labour markets and knowledge institutions in NSE. Read the full paper [here](#).

### **Case study on London's Crowd Funding**

#### **Deliverable D5.2 By Prof. Saul Estrin**

This case study offers an entrepreneurial and regulatory perspective on the potential of equity crowdfunding to address the entrepreneurial equity gap, within the context of the rapidly growing UK equity crowdfunding cluster particularly prominent in and around London. Read the full case study [here](#).

### **Case study on Dutch Solo-Self Employment**

#### **Deliverable D5.3 By Werner Liebrechts**

This case study investigates the rise of solo self-employment in the Netherlands as well as the increasing importance of entrepreneurial activity by employees. The report attempts to explain which institutions have contributed to the deviating pattern in Dutch solo self-employment numbers from European perspective. Read the full case study [here](#).

## Upcoming Events:

### IECER conference, September 2016

FIRES will host a track on institutions for an entrepreneurial society at the 14th annual IECER Conference in Chur, Switzerland.

Read about the conference [here](#).

### FIRES annual meeting, October 2016

On 12-14 October, the second FIRES annual meeting and stakeholder event will take place in Utrecht. Relevant stakeholders will be invited to join the discussion on FIRES' preliminary results.



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#### Contact us:

We would like to hear from you. Please send any questions or comments about this Newsletter to [fires@uu.nl](mailto:fires@uu.nl)

#### Colophon:

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