



Stakeholder Consultation Report

Axel Marx, Ward Munters and Erik Stam

Document Identifier

Annex 1 to D2.7 Megatrends and the transition from a managed to an entrepreneurial economy in Europe

Version

1.0

Date Due

M24

Submission date

30 May 2017

WorkPackage

2

Lead Beneficiary

KU Leuven



Grant Agreement Number 649378

Deliverable 2.7 is a literature review of existing reports on future trends which might influence the European economy and which are relevant for future institutional reform. The primary aim of the consultations was to identify literature sources and narrow down the scope of trends for further investigation. Hence, for this deliverable a series of consultations were organized to identify sources and studies, identify an overview of megatrends which will develop in the near future, and identify megatrends which are relevant for FIRES and which were further elaborated in the report. Below we report on the different consultations which were organized. For these consultations different stakeholders were approached.

Place, Date and Time

Vlaams Agentschap voor Innovatie en Ondernemen, Brussels (BE)
29 January 2016, 9-12 h

Stakeholders

Policy makers and entrepreneurs from Flanders

Format

Presentation (“Ecosystem for Ambitious Entrepreneurship in Flanders. Why the next Google will be in Flanders”) and discussion

Main Question(s) put to the Stakeholder(s)

What are the key challenges for stimulating entrepreneurship and economic development regionally in light of upcoming trends and challenges.

Executive summary

Why should a government not focus on ‘more entrepreneurs’ but on ‘more ambitious entrepreneurs’ in times of globalization, technological change, and fundamental changes in product and labour markets? Good policy should include four domains: more ambitious citizens (attitude, culture), more start-ups (opportunity recognition, risk taking, entrepreneurial skills, entrepreneurial career, status of successful entrepreneurs), more ambitious entrepreneurs (growth attitude), and more value creation (taking away the barriers to realize growth). In addition, policy should take a more systemic perspective in improving the functioning of the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Follow Up

This consultation was useful to better understand policy problems and institutional reforms needed to anticipate and accommodate megatrends and for the identification of megatrends.

Place, Date and Time

Utrecht, 8th April 2016, Prior to EB

Stakeholders

Consultation with Coordinator Mark Sanders and WP-leader Magnus Henrekson.

Format

Meeting.

Main Question(s) put to the Stakeholder(s)

Meeting to discuss the mapping of megatrends on the basis of a working document of the authors of megatrends deliverable and to identify on that basis megatrends to focus on for a more in-depth assessment.

Executive summary

The identification of sources for an overview of megatrends was deemed sufficient. The overview of the megatrends could take the form of overview tables in order to show diversity of megatrends. The remainder of the report best focused on 2 megatrends for a more in-depth description. Three megatrends were suggested: climate and environment, demographic changes and technology.

Follow Up

Identification of three megatrends, two of which ideally were to be further developed in the report (i.e. demographic changes and technological advances).



Place, Date and Time

Philadelphia, 14th April 2016, 11am-2pm

Stakeholders

Academic experts - most notably Professor Terrence Guay, Clinical Professor of International Business at Pennsylvania State University

Format

Panel at Council for European Studies International Conference and subsequent meeting.

Main Question(s) put to the Stakeholder(s)

Discussing of the paper 'Sustaining the competitiveness of Europe's Business Environment'. This paper deals with many of the megatrends identified in our initial mapping. Questions focused on which megatrends are important for Europe and how these megatrends will influence the competitiveness of European firms and entrepreneurs.

Executive summary

The consultation focused on two issues. First, discussion was held on the overall mapping and identification of megatrends we conducted in order to assess whether we covered the most important sources. Second, a more in-depth discussion of some key trends. In this context five trends were identified that will influence the resilience of Europe's business environment in the coming years, representing challenges to the sustainability of European economic competitiveness, and opportunities for Europe and companies doing business there. The first is the continuing impact of the economic crisis on labour and growth. Second, changing demographics are presenting burdens on workers and public finances. Third, the considerable influence of technological innovation and trends in technology were discussed. Fourth, the effect of increasing inequality was explored. Fifth, the role of increasing globalization was considered.

Follow Up

This discussion co-led to the identification of demographics and technological innovation as key trends for Europe to further develop in the report.



Place, Date and Time

OECD High-Level Event on the Knowledge Triangle: Enhancing the contributions of Higher Education and Research Institutions to Innovation
OECD Headquarters, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris (FA).
16 September 2016, 9-13 hrs.

Stakeholders

Policy officials from OECD member states, representatives from government ministries, regional development agencies, research funding agencies, business, universities, academic entrepreneurs, public research organisations, trade unions and the third sector

Format

Presentation (“Regional Governance, Knowledge & Talent in the Knowledge Triangle”) and discussion

Main Question(s) put to the Stakeholder(s)

What are the key challenges for stimulating the interaction between research-education-innovation under conditions of technological change and globalization.

Executive summary

How can institutions and regional governance stimulate the presence and interaction between knowledge and talent within entrepreneurial ecosystems. What does the roles of universities and other education institutes look like, when megatrends have to be faced? The effect of the Knowledge Triangle on aggregate value creation cannot be understood without taking into account the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Follow Up

Discussion on the role of institutional change and more specific policies to productively deal with megatrends, in the interaction of research-education-innovation.



Place, Date and Time

INNOVA EUROPE, Place de la Liberté 12, Brussels
Thursday 29 September 2016 11h00-13h00

Stakeholders

Mr. Gavriel Avigdor, National Expert for Belgium in the SBA Fact Sheet monitoring mechanism and the SME Performance Review by the EU Commission, INNOVA EUROPE, consortium partner to the Commission in the SBA Fact Sheet monitoring mechanism.

Format

Interview

Main Question(s) put to the Stakeholder(s)

Questions focused *inter alia* on key challenges for SME development in light of upcoming trends and challenges. In addition, the broader goals and structures of EU entrepreneurship policy were discussed.

Executive summary

Mr. Avigdor stressed *inter alia* the strong role and importance of the European Structural Investment Funds under DG REGIO. The Funds offer the Commission a powerful tool to direct investment to specific priority areas and to steer regions towards the implementation of EU objectives including anticipating future trends such as demographic changes and technological innovation which influence European societies. Investment funds can be used both to counterbalance potential negative effects of these trends, as well as to ensure the EU's societies are well positioned to take maximum positive advantage of predictable - or unpredictable - future trends.

Follow Up

This consultation was useful to better understand potential policy implications and concomitant institutional reforms and mechanisms anticipative of trends.

Place, Date and Time

Workshop attendance on 'Promoting young entrepreneurship at regional and local level: The European Entrepreneurial Region experience'. The European Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors building, Rue Belliard 101, Brussels – Room 52
Wednesday 12 October 2016, 11h15 – 13h00

Stakeholders

Speaker panel: representatives from European Entrepreneurial Regions and European Commission, as well as academic experts.

Format

This activity constituted more participatory observation and collection of information through participation. The workshop comprised a panel presentation from several representatives from European Entrepreneurial Regions, the European Commission and academia.

Main Question(s) put to the Stakeholder(s)

Key questions addressed in the panel concerned key challenges and trends confronting entrepreneurial regions and especially trends influencing the promotion of entrepreneurs in younger demographic cohorts.

Executive summary

Panel representatives explained in more detail the manner in which their successful regional strategies organized educational and other initiatives to activate young people in their regions and promote entrepreneurship in general and among younger demographic cohorts in particular. This relates to the elaboration of the megatrend on demographic changes. Particular attention was paid to the drafting of evidence-based dynamic policies. In addition, it was underscored that successful entrepreneurship policies were the result of extensive experimentation and the sharing of results and best practices that could help lead others to success.

Follow Up

Participation of the workshop was useful for the further elaboration of the megatrend on demographics and to better understand the possible policy implications.

Place, Date and Time

Netherlands Scientific Council for Government (WRR) meetup 'Voor de zekerheid. De toekomst van flexibel werkenden en de moderne organisatie van arbeid' (For security. The future of flexible labour and the modern organization of labour).

Pakhuis De Zwijger, Amsterdam (NL)

7 February 2017, 20-22 hrs

Stakeholders

Policy officials from Dutch Ministries, representatives from business, universities, entrepreneurs, public research organisations, trade unions and the third sector.

Format

Panel discussion on the labour market facts and mechanisms with respect to understanding how megatrends will work out in the Dutch economy.

Main Question(s) put to the Stakeholder(s)

What are the key challenges for securing proper work and wealth generation in the Dutch economy, and more in particular what is the role and nature of entrepreneurship in this.

Executive summary

Less and less people have a secure job, and uncertainty increases in the labour market. How do we deal with important trends in the labour market and new developments in the organization of labour? The distinction between independent entrepreneurs and (entrepreneurial) employees is likely to become blurred, with substantial implications for labour market regulation and the welfare state at large.

Follow Up

Discussion on the role of institutional change and more specific policies to productively deal with megatrends, in the Dutch labour market. This will mainly spill-over in the reform agenda which will be informed by the deliverable on megatrends.