

Future Work under the Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme

Since its start in 2006, the Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme has focused on the development of common definitions and empirical indicators of entrepreneurship. At the same time, it has sought the involvement of as many countries as possible by establishing links with their National Statistics Offices. So far, it has mainly collected indicators of entrepreneurial performance (Figure 2). This report presents the first results of that effort; it is not an endpoint but the beginning of a thorough collection of international entrepreneurship indicators.

Efforts will continue and it is hoped that more countries will join the EIP so that a maximum of countries will be covered by the entrepreneurship indicators. The collection of data in future rounds will also allow for longitudinal analyses of entrepreneurship by studying, for example, the performance and survival of specific cohorts of newly created firms over time.

Future efforts will target, in addition to entrepreneurial performance, the collection of indicators on entrepreneurial determinants and impacts (Figure 1). The analyses in Section C, “Determinants and impacts of entrepreneurship” are a first attempt to identify (potential) relations between different indicators. The results show the added value of these analyses but also their incompleteness.

In building the knowledge base of indicators for analysing interrelationships, different sources of information could be used and linked with the entrepreneurship indicators collected through the EIP. Linked firm-level data would certainly help to answer questions about the relationships between entrepreneurial determinants and entrepreneurial performance. For example, do more innovative entrepreneurs grow faster or more strongly than non-innovative entrepreneurs in terms of employment or turnover? Do firms that receive venture capital show different growth patterns? Likewise, relations between entrepreneurial performance and entrepreneurial impacts could be assessed; for example, the precise contribution of firm births, firm deaths and gazelles to employment and productivity growth could be measured.

Results of this additional collection and analysis of data will provide inputs to the OECD Entrepreneurship Compendium to be published in 2009. This publication will contain the most recent information on entrepreneurship indicators across the participating countries. It will also present the first results of more detailed analyses to show interdependencies between the different indicators.

In this respect, the publication of the Structural Business Statistics Compendium should also be mentioned, as it contains several indicators closely related to the Entrepreneurship Indicator Programme. For example, the distribution of different economic variables by size classes of firms (see Section A, “Structural indicators on firm population”) will be presented in combination with more thematic analysis.

Another important future output of the programme will be the *Entrepreneurship Measurement Manual*, also to be published in 2009. It will describe all the target indicators of the Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme along with the specific definitions, methodologies and data requirements that have been identified. This joint manual of the OECD and Eurostat will be directly based on the ongoing work of the Entrepreneurship Indicators Steering Group and all the stakeholders in the EIP.