Entrepreneurship Education
Around the World

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## REE International Venues

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Key Issues for Entrepreneurship Education

Context... Context... Context!

Economic  Political  Historical  Cultural
Common Questions Related to Teaching Entrepreneurship

• Is it possible to teach entrepreneurship?

• Who should teach entrepreneurship?

• How do you measure the success of your program?

• What is the relationship between entrepreneurship education, university research, and technology transfer?
United States

- Strong political, economic, and cultural support for new venture formation in many regions. (Some are still very risk averse.)

- Very different environments in different regions. Some regions have a strong history of entrepreneurship and tolerance for failure.

- In areas with high entrepreneurial activity, education is focused on enrichment, in other areas it is designed to stimulate the economy.

- Many role models for entrepreneurs: Entrepreneurs are admired and emulated. Large number of entrepreneurial immigrants.

- Long history of entrepreneurship and, therefore, there are many entrepreneurship educators available.

- Interest in entrepreneurship education comes both from students and university leadership.
Europe

• Very different cultures/environments in different countries

• Governments support entrepreneurship within university education with the hope of preparing students to make economic contributions

• Lack of role models, serial entrepreneurs, and a robust exit strategy

• Goal of fostering more university technology transfer

• Challenging to identify faculty who want to participate in this effort

• Strong desire for international collaboration

• New efforts (less than five years old) with lots of experiments
Asia

- Quickly changing economic environment across the region. It isn’t always clear how entrepreneurship education fits into traditions.

- In some countries the government encourages entrepreneurship education (Singapore) and in others it is limited (China and Korea).

- Significant growth in entrepreneurship education over past few years with focus on teaching venture management to MBA students

- Long history of individual entrepreneurship across the region

- Great demand from students across the university

- Strong interest in international collaboration and cooperation

- Shortage of trained educators

- Need to accumulate formal knowledge and expertise
Latin America

• Entrepreneurship has a very mixed connotation in Latin America. For example, in Brazil entrepreneurs are considered “thieves”

• In Argentina there is a national mission to promote entrepreneurship to lower unemployment and stimulate economic development

• In Chile people do not feel empowered to start new ventures. Entrepreneurship education is about democracy.

• Low credibility of entrepreneurship in traditional research institutions

• Everyone is inventing the wheel regarding teaching entrepreneurship. Strong desire to learn from others and to build a global network.

• High unemployment, concentration of wealth, limited access to capital/credit, high failure rate, aversion to risk-taking, policies that stifle VC, and businesses born out of necessity not opportunity
Conclusions

• Entrepreneurship education differs around the world based upon the regional context (cultural, political, economic, historical)

• In regions where there is not a long history of entrepreneurship, universities face the challenge of building support/legitimacy, finding experienced educators, and gathering needed resources

• In most regions university entrepreneurship education is viewed as a tool to stimulate economic development

• In many regions entrepreneurship education is new and, therefore, there is a lot of experimentation, including incubation.

• A global network of entrepreneurship educators provides a community where faculty can share best practices and raise the bar for everyone.
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