

Preface

This anthology consists of thirty-nine revised papers, first presented at the fourteenth Uddevalla Symposium & the Third International Symposium of Entrepreneurship of E-Lab at University of Bergamo, June, 16-18, 2011¹, held at University of Bergamo, Italy. The overall theme was “*Entrepreneurial Knowledge, Technology and Transformation of Regions*”. The symposium was hosted by the E-Lab, University of Bergamo, Italy. The purpose of the symposium was to contribute to an increased understanding of the role of entrepreneurial knowledge and technology for the transformation of regions by means of the entry, growth and exit of firms.

Except for the overall theme there were twelve special sub-themes, chaired by invited scholars from the Uddevalla Symposium Network: “*Work-integrated learning in transforming regions*”, “*Entrepreneurship, family business and innovation*”, “*Slow city movement and sustainable local development*”, “*Shrinking urban regions*”, “*Entrepreneurship, networking and regional development*”, “*Resilience capacity of firms and new forms of innovation*”, “*Cluster development and regional transformation in an economic perspective*”, “*Entrepreneurship policy in comparative perspective*”, “*Learning and knowledge transfer processes in small firms’ clusters*”, “*The spatial agglomeration of business services*”, “*Entrepreneurship, creativity and the brain*”, and “*Productivity and financing of regional infrastructure*”.

Ten keynote-speakers gave presentations during these three days; Prof. *Shaker A. Zahra*, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, USA. Assoc. Prof. *Charlotta Mellander*, Jönköping International Business School, Sweden, Prof. *David Audretsch*, Indiana University, USA, Assoc. Prof. *Johan Klaesson* Jönköping International Business School & CenSE, Sweden, Prof. *Andrés Rodríguez-Pose*, London School of Economics, UK, Prof. *Hans Westlund*, The Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm & Jönköping International Business School, Sweden, Prof. *Maryann P. Feldman*, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA, Prof. *Giovanna Dossena*, University of Bergamo, Italy, Prof. *Hans Lööf*, The Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, and Prof. *Zoltan J. Acz*, George Mason University, USA.

To stimulate high quality papers a Best Paper Award as well as a Best PhD Candidate Paper Award was announced and financially supported by the municipality of Uddevalla, Sweden. The winners of the Best Paper were *Johan Klaesson & Sofia Wixe*, Jönköping International Business School and CenSE (Centre for Entrepreneurship and Spatial Economics), Jönköping, Sweden. The winner of the Best PhD Candidate Paper Award was *Mattias Örnherm*, Linköping University, Sweden.

Organizers of this 14th Uddevalla Symposium were the *University West*, Sweden and the *E-Lab at University of Bergamo*, in co-operation with *Jönköping International Business School (JIBS)*, and *George Mason University*, School of Public Policy, USA. The symposium was also financial supported by the *Centre for Entrepreneurship and Spatial Economics (CenSE)*, Jönköping International Business

¹**Uddevalla Symposium** is an international scientific symposium established in 1998 in Uddevalla, Sweden. The primary objective is to foster research collaboration and bring together leading-edge views between experts, researchers and insightful practitioners from various fields of regional science, international business, economics, entrepreneurship and small business economics as well as from regional economics, regional planning, economic geography/economic history/political science and sociology in order to increase our knowledge as regards research questions related to “Entrepreneurship and Regional Development”.
For further information on the Uddevalla symposium, use the link: www.symposium.hv.se

School, Sweden and *Centre of Excellence for Science and Innovations Studies (CESIS)*, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden.

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Also I thank all *members of the Uddevalla Symposium Organising Committee* and *all colleagues at University West*. A special thank goes to *Rebecca Olsson*, University West not at least for editorial help.

Trollhättan, Sweden in December 2011
Department for Economics & IT, University West

Irène Bernhard
Editor