



ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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ECSB – EUROPEAN COUNCIL FOR SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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ECSB COMMUNITY

ABOUT ECSB

The European Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ECSB) is a non-profit association whose main objective is to advance the understanding of entrepreneurship and to improve the performance of SMEs in Europe. ECSB facilitates the creation and distribution of new knowledge through research, education and the open exchange of ideas between professions and across national and cultural borders. ECSB organizes high-quality conferences for its members, such as the annual RENT conference in co-operation with EIASM, in order to facilitate and enhance the exchange of knowledge among the ECSB community.

The network of ECSB's members covers nearly the whole of Europe geographically. It has more than 400 members in over 30 countries. Through its affiliation to the International Council for Small Business since 1989, the European network is also connected to the global academic and professional small business community.



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

Dear member

As a new initiative it is with great pleasure that I send you this first Annual report, which provides information on ECSB activities in the year that has gone by. The Report contains material from the Annual General Meeting that we wish to make more widely available, since many of you were unable to attend the AGM in Luxembourg. It is also a tangible record of all that we have achieved in 2014. I am pleased to be able to report that we continue to make a small surplus on our activities. We are ploughing back any surplus into benefits for members, notably young scholars who usually have fewer resources at their disposal than their senior peers. Hence, in the past year we have generously sponsored the participants in the doctoral consortium and the post-doc workshop. As such the Annual Report takes a retrospective look on the year. However, please do not forget to look at our newsletters for information on upcoming events and activities.

The Board of ECSB has worked arduously to increase the benefits for ECSB Members. Whilst the RENT Conference continues to be our flagship event, attended yearly by around half of our members, the 3E Conference is rapidly becoming the premier entrepreneurship education conference in Europe. This is attended by a select group of researchers who are interested in enhancing the quality of the entrepreneurship/enterprise educations offered by institutions of further education in Europe. In collaboration with our Country Vice Presidents and members, we have also hosted numerous

smaller, more localized co-branded events across Europe that make cutting edge-research and discussion more closely available to our members.

Additionally, our new website was launched in 2014 so that it is both timely and appropriate to the interests and career needs of our members. We have also been using new media channels highly effectively through our popular Webinar Series and our groups on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter.

Since the ECSB is a voluntary organisation, we are very much dependent upon the continued efforts of our Board, Country Vice-Presidents and members to suggest new ideas to improve our portfolio of activities and keep the wheels turning. So let me take this opportunity to thank you for contributing to our successful year and encourage you to become even more involved with the organisation in the future to the continued benefit of all.

Helle Neergaard
President of ECSB

2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors serves as the long-range planning and policy-making authority of ECSB, responsible to the Membership, while the Executive Committee serves as a management resource to the President in the implementation of Board policies. The Board of Directors consists of the three members of the Executive Committee and seven other members.

In the ECSB Board election 2014 Assistant Professor Cristina Diaz and Doctor Silke Tegtmeier were elected to their second term to the ECSB board, term ending in 2017.



ECSB PRESIDENT, STRATEGY AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Professor **Helle Neergaard**
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PAST PRESIDENT OF ECSB, MARKETING

Professor **Luca Iandoli**
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PRESIDENT-ELECT OF ECSB

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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP POLICY AND COUNTRY VICE PRESIDENT

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COLLABORATION AND INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

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EVENT COORDINATION AND SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT

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REPRESENTATIVE OF ECSB FELLOWS

Professor **Friederike Welter**
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ECSB COUNTRY VICE PRESIDENTS 2014

The position of ECSB Country Vice-President was created to enable ECSB to reach out more effectively to its Members across every country in which it has a presence. The primary role of a Country VP is to act as the ECSB representative for that country and as an intermediary in terms of acting as a channel of communication between the Board and Members.

The Country Vice-Presidents enable local ECSB initiatives and encourage greater participation in ECSB activities. The Country VPs are also able to identify local personnel and organizations that would benefit from ECSB's activities, while additionally informing the ECSB Board of the current needs of members. Country VPs advise local members on e.g. co-branding activities.

During the year ECSB has been in the process of replacing a number of its Country Vice Presidents. In some countries we are still looking for appropriate candidates. In particular, we are looking for a new representative from Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece, Kosovo, Portugal, Spain, Netherlands and Sweden. If you are interested and you are from one of these countries, please contact Eddy Laveren (eddy.laveren@ua.ac.be). Below you will find a list of our current Country Vice Presidents.

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HISTORY OF ECSB AND ECSB FELLOWS

ECSB was officially inaugurated on 19 September 1988, with 162 members at that time. Professor Josef Mugler was its first president, heading the organisation from 1988 until 1991. Besides him, the first board consisted of Allan Gibb (UK), Dieter Ibielski (Germany), Jean-Jacques Obrecht (France) and Hans Jobst Pleitner (Switzerland) and country vice presidents for Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Turkey.

ECSB Fellows are people who are recognized for their outstanding service to the field of entrepreneurship research / education and to work of ECSB. A Fellow of

ECSB shall be nominated by existing ECSB Fellows and ratified by the Board of ECSB. A person who is an ECSB fellow is deemed to be an Honorary Life Member of the organisation. The expertise and experience of the ECSB fellows is an important resource for the organisation.

The ECSB fellowship is to honor exceptional achievement and/or service within the professional domain of ECSB. Professor Emeritus **Bengt Johannisson** is the new ECSB fellow nominated at the RENT XXVII in 2013 in Vilnius. Professor Emeritus **Hanns Pichler** is the new ECSB fellow nominated at the RENT XXVIII in 2014 in Luxembourg.



Professor **Jóse Maria Veciana**, R.I.P.



Professor **Antti Paasio**
University of Turku



Professor **Zoltán Román**
Hungarian Academy of Sciences



Professor **Friederike Welter**
University Siegen
Institut für Mittelstandsforschung
(IfM Bonn)



Professor **Roy Thurik**
Erasmus University of Rotterdam



Professor emeritus **Josef Mugler**
Vienna University of Economics and
Business
Institute for Small Business Management
and Entrepreneurship



Professor **Hans Crijns**
Vlerk Leuven Gent Management School



Professor Emeritus **Bengt Johannisson**
Jönköping International Business School
Växjö University.



Professor **David Smallbone**
Kingston University
Small Business Research Centre



Professor Emeritus **J. Hanns Pichler**
KMU Forschung Austria – Austrian
Institute for SME Research



Professor **Hans Landström**
Lund University
School of Economics

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The international scientific committee serves as the backdrop for ensuring scientific quality at the RENT conference. The members are closely involved in the review process.

Luca IANDOLI (University of Naples Federico II, Italy)

Hans LANDSTROM (University of Lund, Sweden)

Eddy LAVEREN (University of Antwerp, Belgium)

Helle NEERGAARD (University of Aarhus, Denmark)

Mario RAFFA (Università Degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Italy)

Roy THURIK (Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam, The Netherlands)

Friedrike WELTER (Institut für Mittelstandsforschung Bonn & University Siegen, Germany)

ECSB EVENTS

2014

RENT 2014

The RENT XXVIII conference took place in Luxembourg, at the Chamber of Commerce on November 19-21st. The main theme of the conference was "Entrepreneurial endeavours: a profusion of research, policy and practitioner practices"

ECSB wants to thank the Chamber of Commerce, University of Luxembourg, and Chairperson Denise Fletcher for a very well organized conference.

The following ECSB pre-conference events were successfully organized at RENT XXVIII:

ECSB Pre-conference events at RENT 2014:

- RENT PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: THE ECSB POLICY FORUM: SME Financing for Innovation and Growth
- ECSB-DOCTORAL SEMINAR ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS
- ECSB POST-DOCTORAL WRITING WORKSHOP (PDWW) at RENT XXVIII

Doctoral Seminar

The Doctoral Seminar has a successful tradition at RENT. It represents a unique opportunity for up to 20 select

doctoral students to present their thesis proposals and obtain useful insight into how their work can be improved and progressed as well as an opportunity for bouncing ideas off on experienced faculty. The workshop also facilitates the exchange of research experiences and new ideas in the fields of entrepreneurship and small business. The ECSB Doctoral Seminar is truly a meeting place for both new and experienced researchers from all over Europe and an ideal place to start networking. We particularly encourage students *in the early stages of their research* to participate as a way of launching themselves into the international research community.



The seminar is organized full day event. The morning session is a round table plenary session discussing common challenges and the afternoon session discusses individual student proposals in 4-5 tracks based on the proposals received from the doctoral students. One or two senior faculty experienced in the specific topic addressed will discuss each proposal.

No fee is charged for participation in the Doctoral Seminar. However, participation in the RENT Conference is compulsory. Please note though that students need not present a paper at the Conference itself to participate, although this is encouraged. Upon acceptance to the Doctoral Seminar students qualify for a significant reduction of the official conference fee, sponsored by EIASM. The fee includes one year's full membership of ECSB.

Post-doctoral Writing Workshop at RENT

The PDWW is compounded by a face to face roundtable at RENT plus an online paper development process afterwards. All participants get a chance to meet and discuss with colleagues with similar interests as well as with top entrepreneurship scholars in the field. From this networking, presenters get high quality and comprehensive feedback on their papers. This workshop has a real developmental nature since it devotes 40 minutes face-to-face time in discussion format, plus written reviews by peers. The strong panel consists of experienced senior reviewers.

ECSB grants the POST-DOCTORAL WRITING WORKSHOP AWARD with the aim of promoting and rewarding high-quality research from post-docs. The award winning paper receives a certificate, a free RENT subscription -which includes an online subscription to JSBM and 12-month membership of ECSB- and the consideration of the paper for publication in ISBJ subject to blind peer review process.

In the last call (2014) two novelties were included:

- ECSB POST-DOCTORAL WRITING WORKSHOP AWARD (2nd edition) will consist in both a certificate and a 400 euros award sponsored by International Small Business Journal (ISBJ) <http://isb.sagepub.com/>
- The number of participants is limited to 12 researchers who will receive a grant of 150 euros fee reduction in the RENT conference.

Papers are assigned a peer and a senior reviewer (to secure that everyone has feedback) and a fixed time of presentation in the PDWW.

RENT Awards



Some ECSB members were acknowledged for their professional achievements at the RENT conference in Luxembourg:

The José Veciana best paper award went to the best paper presented and (co-) authored by a young scholar. The award winner in 2014 was **Cyrine Ben-Hafaiedh** for her paper "Entrepreneurial team formation: taking into consideration the mutuality of the decision-making process".

The winners of the JSBM best paper award were **Denis Frydrych, Adam J. Bock & Tony Kinder** for their paper "The Effects of Network Size and Quality of Network Relationships on Capital Assembly in Reward-Based Crowdfunding". The award offers Denis and his co-authors a fast-track through the review system of JSBM with a potential of publication.

ECSB also awards its doctoral students for the best proposal. The winner in 2014 was **Jeroen Neckebrouck**. Jeroen received a scholarship of \$1,000 for participation in USASBE in January 2015.

New RENT anthologies

The RENT anthology is a yearly published, edited book containing the best papers submitted to the RENT conference. Two latest anthologies published in 2013 and 2014 are:

- The Anthology 2014 (from the 2012 conference): RENT Anthology Series 2014 – Robert Blackburn, Frederic Delmar, Alain Fayolle, Friederike Welter (eds) (2014) Entrepreneurship, People and Organisations: Frontiers in European Entrepreneurship Research.
<http://www.elgaronline.com/abstract/9781783478767.xml>
- RENT Anthology Series 2013 (from the 2011 conference) – Friederike Welter, Robert Blackburn, Elisabet Ljunggren and Bjørn Willy Åmo (eds) (2013) Entrepreneurial Business and Society. Frontiers in European Entrepreneurship Research.

3E CONFERENCE – ECSB ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION CONFERENCE

3E2014 in Turku, Finland, April 10-11, 2014

Through an innovative and untraditional format, the 3E conference establishes a new paradigm for entrepreneurship conferences. It offers an exclusive and engaging opportunity for researchers, educators and politicians to debate and exchange their experiences of the major challenges and advances in enterprise education with a special and unique focus on Europe. Unlike more traditional academic events, the conference focuses on problems and questions rather than on ready-made solutions and presentations of research findings. There are no keynote speakers to tell us the way but we will pave it ourselves in a joint effort!



The second 3E (ECSB Entrepreneurship Education) Conference was arranged in Turku, Finland, on 10-11 April in 2014.

This year we had 85 participants from 19 different countries. Check out the conference [video](#) and [pictures](#)!

ECSB LOCAL, CO-BRANDED EVENTS 2014

- ECSB co-branded event: 4th Leuphana Conference on Entrepreneurship in Lüneburg, Germany, 16–18 January 2014
- ECSB doctoral consortium at ICSB 2014 World Conference in Dublin, Ireland, 11–14 June 2014
- ECSB co-branded event: 8th GEM International Research Workshop in Madrid, 10–11 September 2014
- ECSB co-branded Special Track at IFKAD 2014 in Matera, Italy, 11–13 June 2014
- ECSB co-branded event: 1st Developmental Workshop on Entrepreneurial Teams and Collective Entrepreneurship Research in Troyes, France, 23–24 June 2014
- ECSB co-branded event: E2KW Energy and Environment Knowledge week 2014 in Toledo, Spain, 30–31, October 2014

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

ICSB 2014 Conference, in Dublin, Ireland, 11–14 June 2014



ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH COLLABORATION AND INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

In an effort to facilitate collaboration among the ECSB community, dedicated workshops took place during the 3E Conference 2014 in Turku and the ICSB conference 2014 in Dublin. The workshops were designed as an interactive and networking session to meet potential partners for joint research and project proposals under programmes such as Horizon 2020, Erasmus Plus and other relevant initiatives*. The workshops were facilitated by Dr Breda Kenny, member of the board of directors of ECSB with responsibility for research collaboration and industry engagement.

The aim of the sessions was to:

- Ascertain the level of interest in collaborative research among the ICSB and ECSB community
- Highlight current research projects and areas where members are seeking collaborative partners
- Disseminate relevant information on open calls for research funding

A number of people attended the workshops and the interest in collaboration ranged from sourcing international partners for data collection, joint papers to project collaboration under EU programmes. The ECSB LinkedIn page has been used as a means to communicate calls for projects and partner search information.

*The ECSB is not in a position to become a partner in EU funded programmes but can facilitate networking, partner searches and dissemination.

ECSB ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND SIGS

ECSB social media activity continued to grow including LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter. The ECSB has 126 followers on Twitter, and 147 likes on Facebook. With over 5000 members, the ECSB LinkedIn group is a thriving community also open to non-members where entrepreneurship scholars and practitioners consult with their peers and share knowledge and information on a daily basis. We have eight special interest subgroups including Entrepreneurship Policy, Entrepreneurship Education, Female Entrepreneurship, Social Entrepreneurship, Doctoral and Post Doctoral Group, Corporate Entrepreneurship, and SMEs and Innovation.

If you want to volunteer to serve as SIG group manager or to start new SIGs, please do not hesitate to contact our Secretariat at info@ecsb.org. If you have already a LinkedIn or Twitter account please consider following ECSB online.

ECSB WEBINARS

In Autumn 2014 we started the new webinar series.



The first webinar *"Flock Theory – a new approach to the study of innovation"* aired on 25th November with Rosemary Athayde (Kingston University). It was followed on 18th December by John Kitching (Kingston University) whose topic was *"Is effectuation enough? New venture creation, agency and social structure"*. The webinar series will continue in 2015.

ECSB MENTORING PROGRAMME

ECSB Career Mentoring is aimed at junior researchers. For six months, experienced researchers and professors will advise junior researchers with their personal career development. A mentor supports by listening, discussing one's personal goals, providing encouragement, information and contacts. Mentoring can assist one with assessing one's experiences and achievements and considering one's future career options and choices.

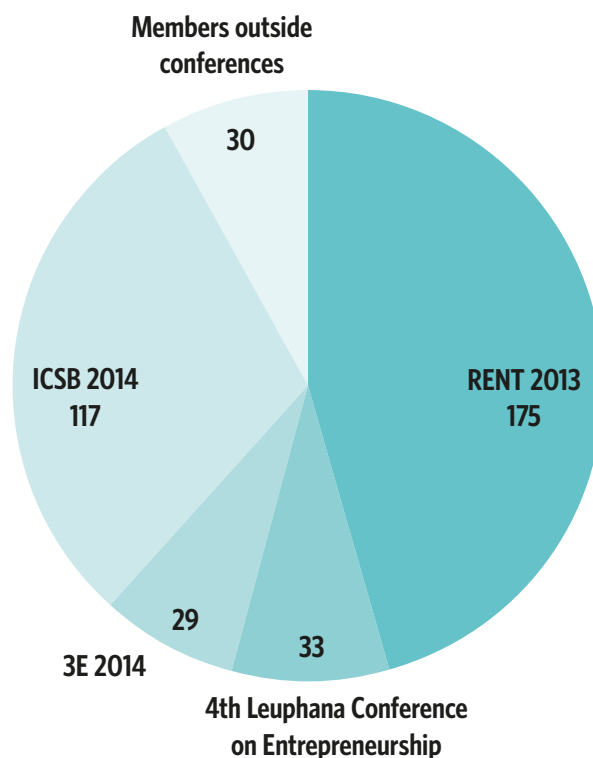
A new mentoring cohort started in Autumn 2013 with 11 participants. Application for the 2014 programme started in May and ended in September gaining 16 applications of which 14 were invited into the programme. Thanks to the active mentees and committed mentors the feedback has been very positive.

MEMBER UPDATE

Between November 2013 and October 2014 we welcomed over 450 new and existing members to our events. New members joined from different conferences and by registering through the ECSB website as follows:

ECSB has currently 418 members (October 2014). ECSB members are from all over Europe, strongest representations are from: UK, Finland, France, Germany, Sweden, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Italy. Membership types break out, as follows: Full Individual memberships 89 % and Student memberships 11 %.

ECSB has members from 38 countries. In the following figure the countries with 5 or more members are presented.



ECSB members October 2014



BENEFITS OF ECSB MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP TYPES

The ECSB membership offers you:

- Free publications: ECSB electronic Newsletter; JSBM; InterRENT publications, ICSB Bulletins, etc.
- Special Interest Groups: Entrepreneurship Policy, Female Entrepreneurship, Doctoral Researchers, Entrepreneurship Education, and Social Entrepreneurship
- For younger researchers: free participation at dedicated ECSB events as the ECSB Career Mentoring Program, the PhD workshop, the post-doc collaborative research roundtable
- 35% discount on all entrepreneurship books published by Edward Elgar
- 10% discount on Sage Publications
- Reduced rates for several entrepreneurship and small business journals (e.g. ISBJ)
- Access to useful resources for academics in the field of entrepreneurship and small business (case studies and teaching materials)
- Reduced registration fees to international conferences (e.g. ICSB World Conference and partners conferences)

- Regular competitions for ECSB members only, as the José Veciana best paper award or the ECSB case study competition
- Access to ECSB Webinar Series
- Access to ECSB Country events and country chapters

ECSB members also get a complimentary membership to the International Council for Small Business, a global association with more than 3000 full members worldwide.

ECSB MEMBERSHIP TYPES:

Full Individual Fee: 85.00 euros

Entitles one person to have full membership benefits for a period of 12 months.

Developing Countries Individual Fee: 60.00 euros

Entitles a person from a developing country (see list of countries that are considered eligible from www.ecsb.org) to have full membership benefits for a period of 12 months.

Student Fee: 35.00 euros

Allows the student receive all other membership benefits except the Journal of Small Business Management and ICSB Bulletin for the period of 12 months.

FINANCIAL UPDATE 2013-2014

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT		1 October 2013 - 30 September 2014
Ordinary operations		
Expenses		
Membership fee to ICSB		-9 815,96
Postal services		-40,23
Administrative services		-9 920,00
Travel expenses		-2 031,34
Other expenses		-4 458,78
Law and audit services		-496,00
IT services		-431,70
Banking fees		-105,15
VIPWEB		-410,00
ECSB doctoral sponsorship		-2 025,00
Other		-990,93*
3E Conference costs		-32 368,75
Expenses total		-58 635,06
Fund raising		
Income		
Membership fees		23 415,48
RENT royalty from EIASM		9 000,00
3E Conference		34 322,45
Investments and financial activities		
Income		30,16
Incomes total		66 768,09
Deficit/(surplus) for the financial year		8 133,03

*Awards 250,00, promotion 740,87

