

Horizon 2020 Twinning project ‘Smart EIZ’
‘Entrepreneurship and knowledge-based economy’

Training Workshop Report:

The Institute of Economics, Zagreb

The ‘Entrepreneurship and knowledge-based economy’ training workshop took place on the 14-15th of February 2018 at the Institute of Economics in Zagreb. It was structured in two parts with the first day covering the state of the art research in the field, and the second day focusing on thematic topics that have become subjects for more recent research agenda in the field.

- The first day of the workshop has started with the presentation of Dr Korosteleva who provided the context for the workshop, discussing Entrepreneurship as an evolving field of the academic research, the controversies surrounding the entrepreneurship theory, including the identification of entrepreneurial function and its role in the economic development, and measures of entrepreneurial activity, concluding with outlining the current research agenda in the field. The workshop continued with the presentation from Dr Domagoj Račić (Mreža znanja), talking about the constrains on the development of the knowledge-based economy in Croatia, and Prof Slavo Radosevic, giving an overview of entrepreneurship as a systemic phenomenon. The following two sessions proceeded with focusing on the discussion of measurement issues and looking at its application to the analysis of the state of entrepreneurship developments in Croatia, using Global Entrepreneurship Monitor data; the notion of entrepreneurial ecosystem and how it shapes the entrepreneurial dynamism, drawing on the GEM and

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OECD conceptual frameworks. High-quality presentation from academic scholars and practitioners in the field allowed for some fruitful discussions of the current key issues pertaining to entrepreneurship. Overall, the first day of the workshop has set a good basis to continue the discussion of thematic topics in the second day.

- In the second day, the workshop began with focusing on topics that have become subjects for more recent research agenda in the field, including high-growth entrepreneurship and the role entrepreneurs' strategic orientation and knowledge-intensive environment play in facilitating it; cultural diversity and knowledge intensity of the industrial context and how they influence start-up entry, survival and growth; social entrepreneurship and whether there is a gender gap in entrepreneurship. The discussion has continued with a round table bringing together the participants representing the private sector of the economy, the Croatian government, academia and the Centre for innovation policy in Croatia. The discussion was set around the issues related to the current constraints on SMEs and innovation development in Croatia, and how such constraints can be mitigated. The issues to what extent Croatia has been embracing the notion of a knowledge-based economy and, whether this has any noticeable impact on the economy were also raised. The panel discussion was followed by looking into the policy issues surrounding entrepreneurship development in Croatia. The workshop was concluded, drawing summary points on the state of entrepreneurship development as a field of research, constraints on SMEs' development and setting future agenda for policy-making in mitigating some of such constraints.

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