



I P R E G



Innovative Policy Research for
Economic Growth



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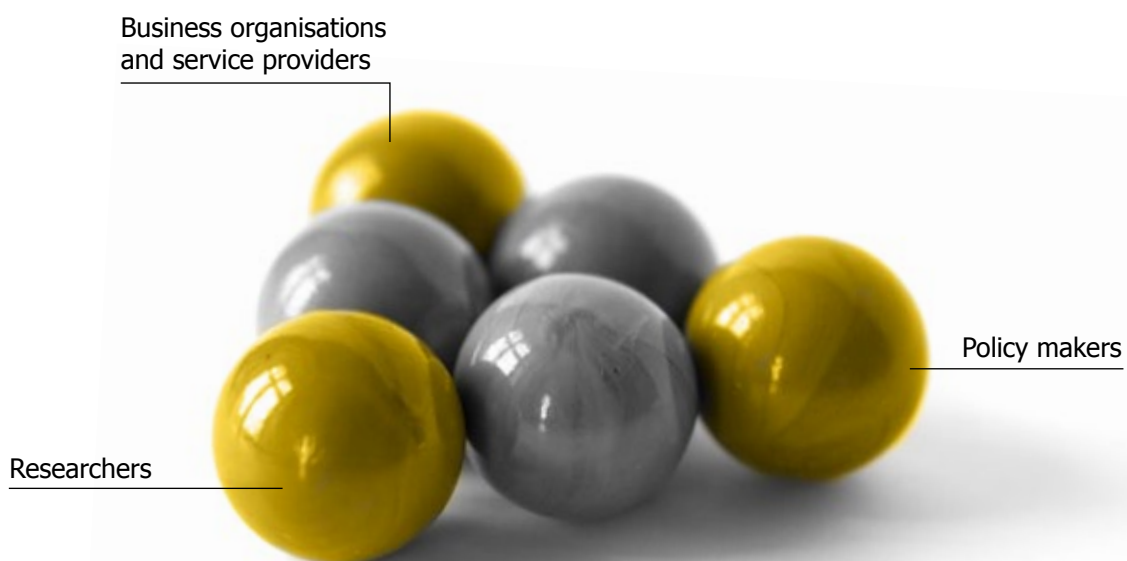
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Vision and purposes

Europe currently has clear worldwide excellence in research and development, in its entrepreneurial traditions and in several advanced modern advanced sectors. However to maintain and enhance its global competitiveness it has to continue to develop and improve policies to protect these advantages and so stimulate economic growth.

Such policies are currently present in all EU countries and, as IPREG research shows, their costs are considerable. Nevertheless the topic has stimulated comparatively little empirical research. So, after decades of local, regional, national and EU-wide initiatives, a public support “industry” has emerged that facilitates start-ups, mitigates market failures and seeks to commercialise innovation and research. The scale and impact of this “industry” requires a deeper understanding and assessment than has taken place to date.

IPREG (Innovative Policy Research for Economic Growth) seeks to undertake research on efficient entrepreneurship and innovation policies leading to sustainable economic growth in Europe as a whole, and in its constituent regions. IPREG aims to bridge the current gap between research and policy through its “network of networks” of researchers working closely with policy makers, service providers and entrepreneurs – the IPREG triangle shown below.



Organisation and partnership

IPREG is a network organisation coordinated by Growth Analysis, the Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis. Its partners in EU countries act as national nodes for IPREG, fusing partnerships between policy, business and academia.

The full list of IPREG partners is given below:

- Austria:** Associate Prof. Matthias Fink, Matthias.Fink@wu.ac.at WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, Institute for Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship, www.wu.ac.at
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The Analysis of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Policy in European countries

Two major IPREG-projects have been completed. The first assessed the comprehensiveness of entrepreneurship and innovation policies at a national and regional level in 12 European countries. It measured the intensity of individual entrepreneurship and innovation policy measures in each country, distinguishing between policies targeted at start-up enterprises and those facilitating growth in existing enterprises.

The findings pointed towards policy-making and implementation in this area lacking both explicit strategies and reliable evidence of effectiveness. Secondly, it emphasised the need to consider the total impact of policy measures - rather than developing each individually- because of their close interdependence. Finally, it highlighted the almost total absence of reliable data on the costs of these policies.

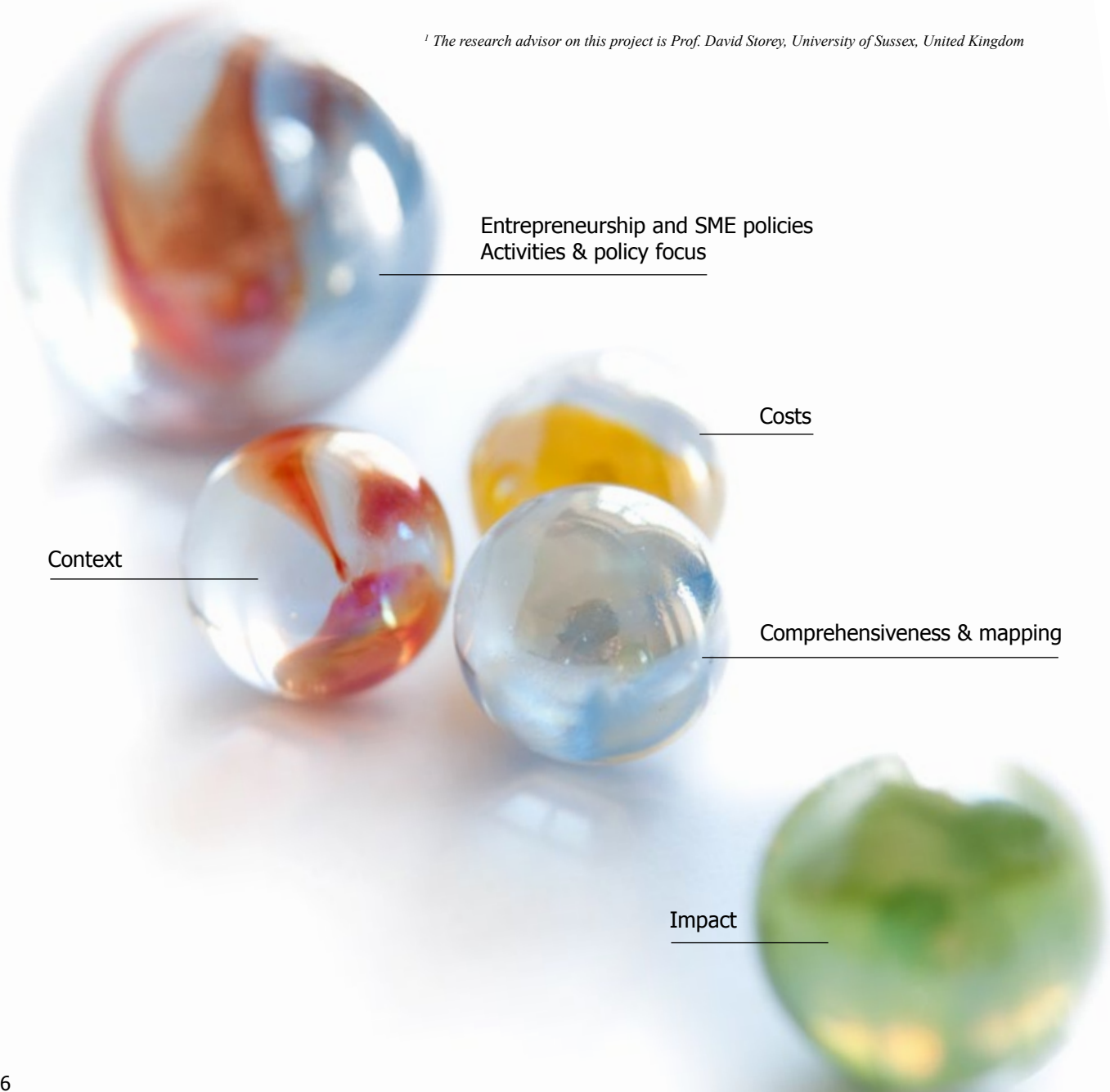
Entrepreneurship and SME policies across Europe¹

The second IPREG project addressed the final finding of the first project. For the first time it developed a methodology to quantify the costs of entrepreneurship and SME policy in European countries, map the expenditure and disaggregate it between different activities and firm types. The data are then used to assess impact in terms of enhancing entrepreneurial vitality. Five countries/ regions participated: Austria, Belgium [Flanders], Poland, Sweden and Spain.

The research found that, for Sweden, the annual direct cost of Entrepreneurship and SME policy was € 362 millions. However, in addition, SMEs “share” of more general business support measures was estimated to be € 4 022 million.

The per capita scale of expenditure on Entrepreneurship and SME policies in Sweden and Flanders appears broadly similar. In Poland per capita costs were much lower and more heavily EU-funded than in Sweden or Belgium. The full project report, together with full methodological documentation and technical appendices, are available.

¹ The research advisor on this project is Prof. David Storey, University of Sussex, United Kingdom



Contact

If you are interested in joining IPREG or in obtaining our reports please contact Dr Peter Vikström, Growth Analysis (+46 10 447 44 30) or use our website www.ipreg.org

IPREG in short

- Initiated by professor Anders Lundström, the Swedish Foundation for Small Business Research (FSF) in 2005.
- IPREG contributes to more efficient entrepreneurship and innovation policies as a basis for economic growth.
- Its contribution derives from a detailed understanding of the components of innovation and entrepreneurship policy.
- Currently it has partners in 11 countries.
- Each country links three groups: policy makers, researchers and business organisations, the so-called IPREG-triangle.
- It creates arenas to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience between actors in the triangle.
- It bridges the gap between politics and research and between entrepreneurship and innovation as well as between theory and practice
- It undertakes cross-country joint research projects
- It has leading researchers as members in each country.
- Each country covers the costs of mapping, analysing and disseminating its activities.
- Reports and seminars are presented on key research findings.



Growth Analysis in short

- National authority under the direction of the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications.
- Worldwide, cross-border organisation.
- Head office in Östersund, Sweden.
- Cooperates with other authorities and engage external experts in order to attain the best possible results.

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