

PREFACE

In October 2004, when Tartu University joined the international project BEPART – the Baltic Entrepreneurship Partners, the Tartu University Center for Entrepreneurship offered to review the situation in entrepreneurship studies in Estonia and thereafter publish the results jointly with its BEPART partner in Tallinn. Our colleagues in Tallinn University of Technology, Professor Ene Kolbre and Associate Professor Urve Venesaar, at once expressed readiness to contribute to the joint publication. PhD student Janita Andrijevskaia agreed to coordinate our joint activities. The writing and production process started in December 2004. Together with peer reviewing, it took eight months to prepare the book for international reviewing.

The book is due to be brought out for the Second BEPART conference “Towards Entrepreneurial Regions: Universities and Innovation Networks Challenged by the Knowledge Society” to be held on 26–27 October 2006 in Tartu, Estonia. The conference serves as a meeting point for representatives of universities, businesses and regions, but also signifies a very important process in which the traditional missions of universities – teaching and research – have been complemented with a third one – economic and social development of society. Adoption of the third mission by universities is called the second academic revolution.

One of the attributes of entrepreneurship is understood as a societal phenomenon which pursues the opportunities beyond the tangible resources. Enterprise as social capability is especially important for a small country with scarce natural resources, such

as Estonia. Universities' entrepreneurial spirit is a precondition for creating intangible resources for new opportunities. On our way towards an entrepreneurial university we have received kind support from all our eleven BEPARTners around the Baltic Sea.

The editors are very grateful to all the authors for their contributions and peer reviews, to the language editor, Eda Tammelo, and to the technical assistant, Merike Kaseorg, for their outstanding work.

A particular debt of gratitude goes to Professor Paula Kyrö from the University of Tampere, Professor Gerald Braun and Kerstin Wilde from the University of Rostock for reviewing the articles and making valuable comments and suggestions. Especially helpful was cooperation with Prof. Kyrö on the topic of scientific writing, which made it much easier for us to fulfill our role as editors.

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