Track: Entrepreneurial and Alternative Finance

Track Chairs:
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Description of the track

Addressing challenges in our dynamic economies such as the sustainability and energy transition and digital and biotech revolution, requires entrepreneurs and small firms that commercialise novel and disruptive technologies. Start-ups and small- and medium-sized firms (SMEs) are, however, often highly capital-constrained. Especially in during the COVID and post-COVID period entrepreneurs require funding to pivot their business models and tap into new markets.

Recent developments in technology and regulation gave rise to new forms of entrepreneurial finance. Some financial instruments like crowdfunding in its various forms are maturing, whilst others like initial coin offerings (ICOs) and security token offerings (STOs) are only now becoming available. In addition, ‘classical’ forms of entrepreneurial finance continue to exist in the financial ecosystem for entrepreneurship increasing the entrepreneur’s potential choice.

This IECER track therefore focuses on the interplay of traditional and new forms of (alternative) finance for entrepreneurship and their potential contribution to financing entrepreneurship in transition.

Key topics and research questions of the track

• Types of entrepreneurial finance:
  o ‘Classical’ entrepreneurial finance: Bank and debt financing, Bootstrap financing, Business angels, Venture capital, Family offices, Incubators and accelerators, Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), Private equity and buyouts
- New forms and alternative finance: Crowdfunding and crowdinvesting, Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs), Blockchain and smart contracts
- Green entrepreneurial finance: Social/sustainable venture capital, social impact investing

- Relationships between new and traditional entrepreneurial finance providers
- Role of regulation, types of regulatory framework and other formal or informal institutions
- Psychology, motivations and behaviour of professional and retail investors
- Advisors that select and/or combine new and traditional forms of entrepreneurial finance
- Ecosystems for alternative finance as part of Entrepreneurial Ecosystems
- Impact of entrepreneurial finance on innovation, entrepreneurship, employment and sustainable development
- Alternative finance for sustainable start-ups and SMEs and in the arts and culture industry
- Civic crowdfunding and match-funding for public and non-profit projects

The purpose of this track is to attract research on entrepreneurial finance that extends, develops, and/or tests theory in ways that will have important academic outcomes as well as vital practical and policy implications. We welcome research that uses a variety of empirical methods and encourage interdisciplinary research.

**The deadline for submissions is 15 June, 2021.**
All submissions must use the submission template and use the submission procedure on the webpage otherwise they will not be considered for review.
Submit your paper here

The registration for the IECER – Virtual Community Conversation Vol. II will be open from 01 July, 2021.
Register here