

Digital Entrepreneurship in Science, Technology and Innovation

SCIENCE, INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Series Editors: Elias G. Carayannis, *Professor of Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, School of Business, George Washington University, USA* and Aris Kaloudis, *NIFU STEP Studies in Innovation, Research and Education, Oslo, Norway*

There is ample and growing evidence that intangible resources such as knowledge, know-how and social capital will prove to be the coal, oil, and diamonds of the twenty-first century for developed, developing, and emerging economies alike. Moreover, there are strong indications and emerging trends that there are qualitative and quantitative differences between the drivers of economic growth in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

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Digital Entrepreneurship in Science, Technology and Innovation

Challenges and Prospects

Edited by

Marina Dabić

*Professor of International Entrepreneurship and International
Business, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of
Zagreb, University of Dubrovnik, Croatia, School of Economics
and Business, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Jadranka Švarc

Scientist Emeritus, Institute Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia

Tugrul U. Daim

*Professor and Associate Director, Mark O. Hatfield
Cybersecurity & Cyber Defence Policy Center, Portland State
University, USA*

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Contents

<i>About the editors and contributors</i>	vii
<i>Foreword</i>	xiv
<i>Preface</i>	xv
Introduction: navigating the digital horizon in science, technology and innovation <i>Marina Dabić, Jadranka Švarc and Tugrul U. Daim</i>	1
1 Science, technology and innovation policies in the European Union: paradigm shifts <i>Marina Dabić</i>	20
2 The diffusion and acceptance of electric vehicles: a policy perspective comparing California and Texas <i>Basel Hammada and Jan Sandoval</i>	44
3 Digital business models: an evolutionary perspective on how digital technologies shape ecosystems <i>Marco Balzano, Andrea Ciacci and Giacomo Marzi</i>	66
4 Theoretical underpinnings and patterns of digital business models <i>Magdalena Marczewska and Marzenna Anna Weresa</i>	91
5 Value creation processes in digital entrepreneurship for medical innovations and healthcare transformation <i>Beata Glinka, Przemysław Dubel and Roman Batko</i>	127
6 Entrepreneurship education in a virtual context <i>Marie Löwegren and Jasna Poček</i>	158
7 The contribution of digital technologies to the achievement of SDGs: the state of the art <i>Antonello Cammarano, Vincenzo Varriale, Francesca Michelino and Mauro Caputo</i>	173

8	The moderating effect of a humane orientation on entrepreneurs' ICT use intentions <i>Gökhan Önder, José Fernández-Serrano and Francisco Liñán</i>	194
9	Digital innovation towards the Sustainable Development Goals: a mass media analysis <i>Cristina Blanco-González-Tejero, Enrique Caño-Marín and Belen Ribeiro</i>	221
10	How do digital entrepreneurial ecosystems impact on achieving the SDGs? A country-level analysis <i>Ana Joana C. Fernandes, João J. Ferreira and Luís Farinha</i>	243
11	Do physical spaces foster creative performance? Insights from an ideation field experiment with creativity workshops <i>Helen Hofmann, Dominik Hoerauf and Alexander Brem</i>	263
12	From innovation spaces to digital innovation labs: a conceptual framework for spaces to foster innovation <i>Dominik Hoerauf, Ferran Giones, Tiantian Li, Kari Kleine and Alexander Brem</i>	290
13	Conquering the dark side of digitalization: humanizing innovation in digitally mediated work <i>Matej Černe, Darija Aleksić and Amadeja Lamovšek</i>	303
14	Applying an institutional approach to digital innovation <i>Lynn Martin, Asma Rezaei and Hamza Abdelrahim</i>	328
15	Controversies surrounding digitalization: discussions in four key domains <i>Jadranka Švarc, Marina Dabić and Metka Tekavčič</i>	349

About the editors and contributors

EDITORS

Marina Dabić received an MSc degree in economics, an MSc degree in marketing, and a PhD degree in economics from the University of Zagreb, Croatia, in 1983, 1990 and 2000, respectively. She is Full Professor of International Entrepreneurship and International Business with the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb, the School of Business and Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and University of Dubrovnik, Croatia. She has authored or coauthored articles in a wide variety of international journals, including *Journal of International Business Studies*, *Journal of World Business*, *Journal of Business Research*, *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, *Technovation*, *Small Business Economics*, *Small Business Management Journal*, *International Journal of Human Resource Management*, *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, and *Journal of Business Ethics*, among many others. Professor Dabić is an associate editor for *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, senior departmental editor of *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, and editor-in-chief for *Technology in Society*. She is among the top 2 per cent of scientists in the field of business and management according to Stanford/Elsevier Top 2% Scientist Rankings. She has been a grant holder of the TEMPUS project FoSentHE and participated as a partner in more than 15 projects granted by the European Commission. She is the Work Programme leader for Industry 4.0 in the Horizon 2020 RISE Open Innovation project, Interreg WOOL project, and ERASMUS KA2 VOIS project. Currently, she is partner with the Horizon Europe CUES project.

Jadranka Švarc, PhD, is Scientist Emeritus at the Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences in Zagreb, Croatia. She specializes in the scientific, technological, and innovation systems of transition countries and publishes extensively in the area of science, technology and innovation (STI) studies, with a particular focus on Croatian science and innovation systems. She obtained her doctorate in the sociology of science from the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Zagreb. Throughout her career, Dr Švarc has served as a researcher, innovation expert, and national correspondent on various national and EU projects. She

has held the position of editor-in-chief for the CC-indexed journal *Društvena Istraživanja* and served as a member of the editorial boards of other journals. Her academic contributions include over 100 scientific contributions, encompassing research papers in reputable journals such as *Research Policy*, *Technology in Society*, *Current Sociology*, and *The Journal of Technology Transfer*.

Tugrul U. Daim is a Professor and Associate Director at Mark O. Hatfield Cybersecurity & Cyber Defence Policy Center at Portland State University, USA. He is also director of the Doctorate in Technology Management programme at Portland State University. Dr Daim leads a research group on Technology Evaluations and Research Applications, which has attracted more than 20 PhD graduates. He is currently advising more than 15 PhD students, and more than 15 visiting scholars from around the world have joined his group in the last decade. Dr Daim is recognized worldwide for his research leadership in roadmapping and forecasting technologies. He has published over 200 refereed journal papers, more than 20 special issues and 20 books, and has given more than 200 conference presentations and several keynote lectures. He sits on the board of many academic institutions and industrial organizations. He is editor-in-chief of *IEEE Transaction on Engineering Management*, and is among the top 2 per cent of scientists in the field of business and management according to Stanford/Elsevier Top 2% Scientist Rankings.

CONTRIBUTORS

Hamza Abdelrahim holds the position of Academic Lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University, UK, where he specializes in the domains of entrepreneurship, innovation, and open innovation. His scholarly pursuits are dedicated to a nuanced exploration of entrepreneurial activities and innovation within diverse cultural contexts.

Darija Aleksić, PhD, is Associate Professor of Management and Organization at the School of Economics and Business, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. Her research interests include ethical behaviour, corporate social responsibility, remote work in management, job design, digitalization, and creativity.

Marco Balzano is a PhD candidate attending a Double PhD programme between the Department of Management, Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy) and KTO Research, SKEMA Business School (France).

Roman Batko is a Professor in Management Science at the AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow, Poland, and an expert in the Future

Industry Platform, a not-for-profit Polish governmental foundation. He is the founder and CEO of two companies, Energreen and Adminis.

Cristina Blanco-González-Tejero is an Assistant Professor at the University of Alcalá (Spain). She holds a PhD in Economics and Business Management from the University of Alcalá and has published widely on topics such as entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship, soft skills and social networks.

Alexander Brem is a Professor of Entrepreneurship in Technology and Digitalization and director of the Institute of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Science (ENI) at the University of Stuttgart, Germany. His professorship is endowed by the Mercedes-Benz Fund in the Stifterverband.

Antonello Cammarano is a researcher with the Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Salerno, Italy. His research interests comprise, among others, innovation and knowledge management, technological strategies, technology foresight, start-ups, emerging technologies, and sustainable development.

Enrique Caño-Marín is an industrial engineer who holds an MSc in robotics and automation. He is currently pursuing a PhD in information and knowledge engineering in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Alcalá, Spain, where he teaches as an assistant lecturer.

Mauro Caputo is a Professor of Innovation and Technology Management with the Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Salerno, Italy. He is the author and coauthor of more than 100 scientific studies.

Matej Černe, PhD, is a Professor of Management and Organization at the School of Economics and Business, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. His research interests include non-technological innovations, creativity, human resource management, leadership, bibliometrics, and digital work.

Andrea Ciacci is a PhD student in security, risk, and vulnerability, curriculum in management and security at the Department of Economics and Business Studies, University of Genoa, Italy. His main research interests focus on strategic management, business studies, entrepreneurship, and tourism management.

Przemysław Dubel, PhD Eng., is director of the Centre for Technology and Knowledge Transfer (University of Warsaw, Poland), and Assistant Professor, at the University of Warsaw, Rector's Plenipotentiary for Strategic Projects. He is an expert in process evaluation and technology transfer, management, and construction of innovative projects.

Luís Farinha holds a PhD in management. He is an Adjunct Professor and Vice-President at the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco (IPCB), Portugal.

He is a research associate at NECE-UBI, Research Centre for Business Sciences, Portugal. His research interests include entrepreneurial economics, economic geography, and business economics.

Ana Joana C. Fernandes is a PhD candidate in management at the University of Beira Interior (UBI) and a junior researcher at NECE-UBI, Research Centre for Business Sciences, Portugal. She was granted a PhD research studentship by Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT). Her research interests include entrepreneurship, innovation, strategy, and sustainability.

José Fernández-Serrano is an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Seville (Spain). He is head of the ‘SMEs and Economic Development’ (PYMED) research group at the University of Seville and of the European Union Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (EU-REAL).

João J. Ferreira is Associate Professor with Habilitation at the University of Beira Interior (UBI) and a Full Researcher at NECE-UBI, Research Centre for Business Sciences, Portugal and QUT Australian Centre for Entrepreneurship Research, Australia. He has edited or co-edited several books on innovation and entrepreneurship and published over 300 papers in premier international journals.

Ferran Giones is Deputy Head of the Institute of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Science (ENI) at the University of Stuttgart, Germany. He received a BBA and MBA from ESADE Business School and a PhD from La Salle–Ramon Llull University in Barcelona, Spain. His research areas are technology entrepreneurship, science commercialization, and industry emergence.

Beata Glinka is a full professor at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków and University of Warsaw, Poland. Her research interests are focused on entrepreneurship, immigrant entrepreneurship, and cultural context of management and entrepreneurship.

Basel Hammoda is a lecturer and PhD candidate in entrepreneurship in the Department of Business Administration at Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia. He focuses his research on innovative approaches to entrepreneurial learning and its intersections with other entrepreneurship and management subfields.

Dominik Hoerauf is a research associate at the Institute of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Science (ENI), University of Stuttgart (Germany). His main research areas include creativity, artificial intelligence, and innovation spaces.

Helen Hofmann is Chair of Technology Management at Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuernberg (FAU).

Kari Kleine is an Associate Professor in Sustainability and Innovation at the Department of Technology and Innovation at the University of Southern Denmark. His research covers various topics from sustainable entrepreneurship to business model innovation for sustainability.

Amadeja Lamovšek, MBS, is a Young Researcher and PhD student in the business/management track at the School of Economics and Business (SEB) in the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. Her research interests include (digital) work design, human resource management, organizational behaviour and psychology.

Tiantian Li is a research associate at the Institute of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Science (ENI) at the University of Stuttgart, Germany. She completed her bachelor's degree in business administration at Anhui University of Finance and Economics and her master's degree in management at Beijing University of Technology, China. Her research areas are entrepreneurship and maker spaces.

Francisco Liñán is Full Professor (Catedrático) at the University of Seville, Spain. From 2017 to 2020, he was Professor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Anglia Ruskin University, UK. He is a researcher in the field of entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial intentions, and entrepreneurship education, and coordinator of the GEM-Sevilla report.

Marie Löwegren is a Senior Lecturer in Entrepreneurship at the Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship, Lund University School of Economics and Management, Sweden. She is co-founder and former director of the Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship. Her research interests concern support systems for entrepreneurs, pedagogical challenges in teaching and learning entrepreneurship.

Magdalena Marczewska, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Management, University of Warsaw (Poland). She holds a PhD in economics from the University of Warsaw. Her research interests are focused on innovation management, innovation policy, green technologies, sustainability and new product development.

Lynn Martin is Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Anglia Ruskin University, UK. She is also director of the NCEE Entrepreneurial Leadership Programme, Institute of Small Business and Entrepreneurship Fellow and Chief Fellow of the Global Economic Committee.

Giacomo Marzi is Senior Assistant Professor (Tenured) of Management at IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca (Italy). Previously, he was Senior Lecturer in Strategy and Enterprise at the Department of Management,

University of Lincoln (UK), where he now holds a Visiting Fellow position. His primary research fields are innovation management, new product development, and bibliometrics.

Francesca Michelino is currently an Associate Professor of Marketing and New Product Development and a delegate to technology transfer with the Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Salerno, Italy. Her research interests include supply chain management, innovation and technology management, open innovation, emerging technologies, and sustainable development.

Gökhan Önder is currently working as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Business Administration of Anadolu University, Turkey. He holds a PhD in management and organization from Anadolu University. He conducts research on issues such as entrepreneurship, foreign direct investment, business clusters, and resource efficiency.

Jasna Poček, PhD is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Florence, Italy, and affiliated researcher at Blekinge Institute for Technology, Sweden. Her research interests gravitate around policy implications of innovation research, including the role of institutions for understanding of contextual conditions in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Asma Rezaei holds a PhD from Anglia Ruskin University, UK, focusing on collaboration patterns between high-tech SMEs and large firms with universities. Currently, she serves as a senior researcher at the Cambridge Silicon Age Centre for Innovation. Her research interests include green production of advanced materials, sustainability, innovation, technology transfer, and the contributions of women inventors to high-tech firms.

Belen Ribeiro is a distinguished professional with a solid academic background and a prolific contribution to the academic discourse. As a researcher, she is affiliated with IUDESCOOP-Universitat de València, Spain. Additionally, she possesses extensive experience in the private business sector.

Jan Sandoval holds a bachelor's degree in business administration, specialized in entrepreneurship and management from the Department of Business Administration at Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia. Currently, he works for Skeleton Technologies, a leading deep-tech company for a net-zero future through graphene-based supercapacitors and battery energy storage technologies.

Metka Tekavčič is a Professor at the School of Economic and Business, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. She was Dean of the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana (FELU) in 2013 until 2023 and Vice-Dean at the

FELU from 2001 to 2007. In 2014 she was awarded the Artemida award for Women's Excellence in Management.

Vincenzo Varriale received a PhD degree in industrial engineering from the University of Salerno, Italy, where he is currently working as a research fellow. His research mainly concerns information technology, supply chain management, open innovation, innovation management, and emerging technologies for Industry 4.0, such as blockchain technology.

Marzena Anna Weresa, PhD, is a Full Professor of Economics and director of the World Economy Research Institute at the SGH Warsaw School of Economics (Poland). Her PhD (1995) and habilitation (DSc) in economics (2002) were awarded at SGH Warsaw School of Economics. Her research focus is on innovation systems and policy, digital transformation, foreign direct investment, international trade and competitiveness.

Foreword

This very substantial book provides a synthesis and a set of insights across time, geographical and technological space to frame challenges and opportunities for the 21st century. In particular, the concept of cluster-driven technological paradigm shifts may prove very powerful in discerning and even predicting emerging policy and practice challenges, and help transform them into opportunities.

The book editors and the chapter authors combine many decades of scholarship, experience and expertise that become evident in the quantity and quality of insights helping the reader navigate the complex and challenging shoals of digitalization dynamics and its socio-economic, socio-technical and socio-political implications.

All in all, this could prove to become a very powerful tool for policymakers and practitioners alike in their quest for a more sustainable, resilient and remunerative tomorrow.

Elias G. Carayannis
Professor of Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Director of the European Union Research Center
School of Business
George Washington University, USA

Preface

In the rapidly evolving landscape of science, technology and innovation, we find ourselves at a pivotal juncture, pondering the prospects of a new era propelled by digitalization. The discourse surrounding this transformation oscillates between optimism and apprehension, reflecting the complexity of the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The seeds of doubt were sown by the tumultuous events of the 2008 financial crisis, and later the COVID-19 crisis, giving rise to discussions on earthly stagnation and the purported slowdown of technological advancements. Scholars voiced concerns about the implications of this stagnation on economic growth, educational achievements, and societal disparities. Yet, amidst these apprehensions, researchers advocating for the transformative potential of digital technologies emerged, championing their capacity to enrich lives, businesses, and economies.

As we navigate this digital horizon, it becomes imperative to examine its implications across various domains critically. This book delves into the intricate interplay between digital technologies, business models, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. Through 15 chapters, it endeavours to broaden our understanding of how digital innovations shape our economic and social landscapes.

From exploring the evolution of science, technology and innovation (STI) policies in the European Union to dissecting the impact of digital entrepreneurship on healthcare transformation, each chapter offers valuable insights into the multifaceted dynamics of the digital age. We delve into the nuances of digital business models, the contribution of digital technologies to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the challenges posed by the dark side of digitalization.

Moreover, this book transcends theoretical discourse, offering empirical analyses and case studies that illuminate practical implications. It underscores the importance of humane entrepreneurship, the role of virtual learning environments in fostering entrepreneurial skills, and the potential of digital innovation labs to drive transformative change.

As we embark on this journey through the realms of digitalization, entrepreneurship and sustainable development, it is crucial to acknowledge the complexities and nuances inherent in this landscape. This book aspires to

contribute to this ongoing dialogue, offering valuable perspectives and insights to scholars, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders alike.

In an era characterized by rapid technological advancements and societal transformations, we hope that the discourse presented within these pages serves as a part of compass, driving us towards a more nuanced insight of the digital horizon and its implications for the future of our world. Welcome to *Digital Entrepreneurship in Science, Technology and Innovation: Challenges and Prospects*.