

Entrepreneurial Aspirations vs. Academic Aspirations Among Bio Researchers - Finnish Perspective

Kirsi Peura and Noora Mykkänen

Turku School of Economics

Contact: kirsi.peura@tse.fi

A new university act was enforced in 2005 formalizing the third mission of the universities in Finland. It advocates development of interactions between universities and the society, and shifts the role of universities towards the entrepreneurial university. The role of the Finnish universities has not until recently been important in terms of developing entrepreneurs; the graduates are underrepresented in the entrepreneurial population, and there is a negative correlation between education and entrepreneurship. In addition, it is assumed that universities will not be able to absorb the growing number of PhDs into an academic career but they will increasingly need to seek other career options, for instance entrepreneurship. This paper reports on career paths of bio-science researchers who participated in entrepreneurship training. Paper focuses on a small sample (N=6) of researcher interested in embarking both academic and entrepreneurial activities, and investigates how they combine entrepreneurship and academic aspirations. The study portrays challenges in combining academic and entrepreneurial activities in the Finnish university setting.

Track: 14. Other SME Related Issues