

**CALL FOR CHAPTER PROPOSALS**  
**Proposal Submission Deadline: January, 2024**

**Current Developments and Challenges in the  
Management of SMEs and Startups**

An edited volume to be published with Springer as part of the  
*FGF Studies in Small Business and Entrepreneurship*

Scopus indexed

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### **Introduction**

Today it is widely recognized that the management of SMEs and startups differs from that of larger enterprises due to their particularities such as their liability of smallness and newness, lack of resources, ownership structures and often higher failure rates (Todorov & Smallbone, 2014; Wang et al., 2007). Ongoing trends including shortened innovation cycles, globalization and increased competitive pressure and demographic changes have been recognized to pose critical challenges in the management of these companies. However, more recent developments such as the increased speed in digitization, regulations regarding sustainability and crisis situations due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in the Ukraine exponentiate those challenges (Belitski et al., 2022; Kuckertz & Brändle, 2022). More specifically, disruptions in the supply chains, changes in consumer demands, the pressure to adopt sustainable business practices and the requirement to reduce their environmental impact as well as the constant struggle to find skilled workers and keep pace with digital advancements require a need for financial assistance, training and education, best practices and tailored management tools. Overall, more insights and research is required to address these aspects of SME and startup management and find innovative ways on how to manage those challenges and even turn specific challenges into entrepreneurial opportunities (Salvato et al. 2020; Newman et al., 2022).

### **Objective of the Book and Topic Areas**

The edited volume aims to provide an overview of ongoing and more recent challenges SMEs and startups are faced with and provide possible solutions to address these challenges. In light of this, we welcome submissions addressing these aspects from different institutional and cultural backgrounds. Moreover, the volume will be multi- and interdisciplinary spanning fields such as management, economics, financing, social sciences and information systems. Both academic and practitioner contributions are welcome. Contributions can be conceptual or empirical. Topics can address, but are not limited to, the following topic areas and should focus on the impact on SMEs and startups:

#### **Challenges through political and legal changes**

- Regulatory changes (e.g., related to sustainability, crisis management)
- Geopolitical and international developments
- Developments and changes on the European level (EU)

#### **Management and leadership challenges**

- New trends in strategic management for SMEs and startups
- Governance challenges, notably for family owned enterprises
- Competitive changes through innovation
- Influences through new types of work (e.g., home office, flexible workspaces)
- Sustainability

### Operational and funding challenges

- Developments in the entrepreneurial finance landscape
- Managing and controlling costs (i.e., energy price changes, prices of raw materials)
- Challenges in supply chain management
- Developments and impact of digitalization and AI
- Cybersecurity

### Target audience

This book will be a timely reference and essential reading for students, scholars, policy makers and practitioners.

### Submission procedure

Researchers are invited to submit, on or before **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**, a 1-page chapter proposal clearly explaining the goals and concerns of their proposed chapter. Authors of accepted proposals will be notified latest by the end of **March 2024** about the status of their proposals and sent chapter guidelines. Full chapters are expected to be submitted until **August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**. All submitted chapters will be reviewed on a double-blind basis. Contributors may also be requested to serve as reviewers for this project. The final publication of the volume is scheduled for **Summer 2025**.

### Part of the Springer series “FGF Studies in Small Business and Entrepreneurship”

The book will be published with Springer as part of the FGF Studies in Small Business and Entrepreneurship. This Scopus-indexed book series serves as a vehicle to help academics, professionals, researchers, and policymakers to disseminate and obtain high quality knowledge. For additional information regarding the publisher and the book series, please visit <http://www.springer.com/series/13382>.

(Informal) inquiries and submissions can be forwarded **electronically** (Word document) to:

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### References

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- Wang, C., Walker, E., & Redmond, J. (2007). Explaining the Lack of Strategic Planning in SMEs: The Importance of Owner Motivation. *International Journal of Organizational Behavior*, 12(121), 1–16.