



GLOBAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
RESEARCH
NETWORK

2016
**MEMBERSHIP
PACKET**

The Global Entrepreneurship Research Network is a collaboration of the leading organizations globally that fund and conduct entrepreneurship research. GERN is dedicated to providing and aligning more robust evidence and research to inform smarter policies and programs to advance entrepreneurial activity and new firm formation.

Global Entrepreneurship Research Network Membership Packet

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What is GERN?

The Global Entrepreneurship Research Network (GERN) is a community of organizations that fund and conduct entrepreneurship research. GERN is dedicated to enabling evidence-based policy and programs that advance entrepreneurial activity.

GERN seeks answers to fundamental questions about the role of entrepreneurship in building economies and expanding human welfare. By aligning research agendas and leveraging the collective knowledge, methodologies, know-how, and intellectual and financial resources of its members, GERN contributes to defining and addressing the most important research questions regarding entrepreneurship.

There are currently GERN members in Sub-Saharan Africa, North and South East Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North, South and Central America. For a list of current GERN members, please see www.gern.co/members.

GERN is part of the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN), a collection of entrepreneurial support programs and initiatives operating in 160 countries comprised of policymakers, entrepreneurs, investors, and researchers intent upon setting their economies on different trajectories through entrepreneurship.

Academic research on entrepreneurship has not kept pace with the recent explosion of interest in entrepreneurial activity as a strategy for job creation, innovation and global economic stability. There remains a paucity of data around successful policies and programs that increase rates of new firm formation. Further, there are now an increasing number of new actors on the stage eager for more robust evidence about what policies and interventions make a demonstrated difference in helping entrepreneurs.

GERN's founding funder is the [Kauffman Foundation](#) in the United States, which has sought to elevate the quality of academic entrepreneurship research and to set higher standards for organizations conducting such research around the world.

GERN's vision of success is improved quality and quantity of rigorous research in entrepreneurship and the development of more robust global analysis of the most effective strategies for supporting entrepreneurial growth. The state of global entrepreneurship data will be much improved, policymakers will have a better source of knowledge regarding how to shape and enhance entrepreneurial environments, and entrepreneurship support program funders and implementers will have access to more rigorous research and impact evaluations to help them achieve their goals.

Why Become A Member?

Engaging with GERN creates value for your organization by:

- Raising the quality of the entrepreneurship research you conduct and support;
- Improving the scope and impact of your current research when other research communities from around the world contribute their thinking and data;
- Aligning your current research agendas and investments with others for deeper global analysis and impact;
- Connecting with the [Kauffman Foundation](#)'s research resources, including methodologies, data collections, libraries, and archives;
- Creating opportunities for you and your peers to think through and define the most important research questions and the best research methods for unlocking new ways to advance entrepreneurship;
- Addressing entrepreneurship research questions through collective efforts that multiply effectiveness, insight, and understanding. GERN strives to be bigger than the sum of its parts;
- Becoming connected to GEN, a broader global network of policymakers, entrepreneurship support program leaders, and entrepreneurs. GEN offers many opportunities to test the relevance of research findings and recommendations and provides insights as to gaps in knowledge and understanding where there is demand for more research;
- Receiving input and feedback from GERN members, which will help you take a more strategic and deliberative approach in defining your own future research agenda and investments.

GERN Principles

GERN members share the following principles:

- Defining tomorrow's big unanswered questions and inspiring clusters of institutions and funders to pursue them;
- Aligning current research agendas and investments;
- Fostering research and data collaboration across national borders;
- Curating research resources both internally, among members, and externally, to broader communities on a global scale; and
- Providing feedback to GERN members on their methodologies and other research matters.

GERN members follow through on these principles through active engagement in the network. New members receive an invitation to join GERN's exclusive communications platform on Basecamp – a secure, restricted-access networking and collaboration platform – which allows

them to receive updates, share information and connect with other members. Basecamp also facilitates member comment on other research agendas and planning of joint projects and partnerships.

Most GERN members also participate in GERN's monthly conference calls that discuss current research in the field, on-going joint projects and new collaborations. Members propose ideas that they would like to discuss during these monthly member calls to Phil Auerswald (auerswald@gern.co), GERN's executive director. Members are also encouraged to publicize information about their research developments on GERN's website (www.gern.co), content from which is pushed throughout GEN's wider global community.

GERN members have an opportunity to participate in the GERN Annual Meeting which occurs each March as part of GEN's Global Entrepreneurship Congress ([GEC](#)). There, members meet in person with fellow GERN members and engage with entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship program leaders, writers, investors and other experts on starting and scaling new enterprises.

Throughout the year, GERN members receive invitations to convene at other GEN-affiliated events, such as the Startup Nations Summit, a gathering of entrepreneurship-savvy policymakers from across the globe held at the end of November. In addition, many GERN members host national and regional conferences, research meetings, and other events that provide opportunities for interaction and collaboration.

For further information on GERN's scheduled online and live meetings, please contact Cristina Fernandez at cristina@gern.co.

GERN Membership

Types of GERN Membership:

- **Executive Committee:** GERN members who support the network financially with a one-time contribution of at least \$50,000. The Executive Committee guides GERN's strategy and direction.
- **Funding Members:** Public or private sector institutions that finance entrepreneurship research.
- **Research Members:** Academic research community and researchers, including universities, think tanks, research institutes, and other institutions that conduct and disseminate entrepreneurship research.
- **Program Members:** Entrepreneurship support programs provide data or formally engage in entrepreneurship research projects.
- **Community Members:** a wider community of individuals and commentators interested in entrepreneurship research. Community members receive updates on GERN projects and may comment and observe GERN activities and discussions, but do not receive all the benefits of full membership.

All GERN members commit to:

- Contributing content to GERN meetings, conference calls, and the gern.co website;
- Bringing technical resources and human capital to the network to help build and maintain the necessary framework and support mechanisms that facilitate its on-going activities; and
- Attending one in-person meeting per year – either the GERN Annual Meeting in March, one meeting hosted by a GERN member organization or the GERN gathering at the Startup Nations Summit in late November.

All GERN members are invited to submit written summaries of specific research contributions during the GERN Annual Meeting.

Membership Application

Membership applications are considered on a case-by-case basis by the GERN co-Chairs and Executive Committee. To apply for membership, please complete the electronic membership form available via this link: <http://goo.gl/forms/b9H1Ywdfxj> (see sample questions in Annex I, below.)

GERN Research Projects

Some of GERN's current research projects include:

- Mapping entrepreneurial ecosystems using a standardized, GERN-validated, methodology. A visualization tool allows researchers and practitioners to discover large-scale patterns, identify interactions among specific actors, such as entrepreneurs, investors, and mentors, and examine the data along multiple analytical dimensions.
 - Three members – **Endeavor Insight**, **MaRS** and **Nesta** – have mapped entrepreneur support systems in [Cairo](#) and [New York City](#).
 - Three other members – the **Inter-American Development Bank**, **Mercy Corps**, and the **World Bank** – are in the processes of mapping eight more cities.
 - Endeavor Insight and Nesta have taken the lead in developing a GERN open methodology guide so that a target of 100 cities can be mapped over the next five years.
- The South Africa-based **Allan Gray Orbis Foundation** is leading a GERN-member collaboration into key questions around the entrepreneurial mindset and how to strengthen a country's culture of entrepreneurship.

- The **OECD**, **UNCTAD**, and the **Kauffman Foundation** have joined together in an initiative to identify the most useful government data sets for gauging entrepreneurial growth and the infrastructure required to collect, track and analyze the numbers.
- GERN members **ANDE** (Aspen Network for Development Entrepreneurs), **Emory University**, and **USAID** are undertaking an in-depth examination into the key determinates of successful startup accelerators.
- GERN is supporting **Nesta's Innovation Growth Lab** (IGL) initiative by facilitating member engagement in research that involves experimentation, particularly randomized trials on innovation, entrepreneurship and growth.

All of these projects were made possible by GERN, with several emerging from GERN's Annual Meeting in Milan in March 2015. Each benefits from feedback among a trusted group of peers and the opportunity for real world experimentation.

Annex I: GERN Membership Form

To apply for GERN membership, please submit an application via this link:

<http://goo.gl/forms/b9H1Ywdfxj>.

Application questions are looking for the following information:

1. GERN has four membership types. Please be careful to apply for the appropriate type of membership that you believe best suits your organization.
[If your organization both funds research with your own money and conducts research, please select "Funding Member".]
 - **Funding Member:** Public or private sector institutions that fund entrepreneurship research
 - **Research Member:** Academic research community and researchers directly involved in conducting entrepreneurship research
 - **Program Member:** Entrepreneur support programs that currently actively supply data for entrepreneurship research projects
 - **Community Member:** please choose this option if you are interested in being part of the community but do not fit one of the main membership categories above but wish to receive updates on GERN research collaborations
2. Sector in which the applicant organization operates (public, private, non-profit)
3. Please list and briefly describe or link to three successful entrepreneurship research or data projects funded or conducted by your organization.
4. Describe or link to the main goals of the organization.
5. If not an entrepreneurship research organization, why is your organization interested in GERN?
6. Please list the organization's primary funding sources and note how much do you invest annually in funding or conducting entrepreneurship research?
7. What kinds of stakeholders have benefitted the most from your organization's initiatives?
8. Has your organization collaborated with other entrepreneurship-related organizations or activities in the past? If so, please describe?
9. How might your organization contribute to the Global Entrepreneurship Research Network?
10. Please mark if your organization's current research agenda covers any of the following areas:
 - Entrepreneurship Data Infrastructure
 - Ecosystem Mapping
 - Accelerators' Performance Measurement
 - Randomized Controlled Trials
 - Entrepreneurship Mindset/Education
11. How can GERN help you or contribute to the goals of your organization?
12. Please submit a 200 - 300 word statement about a research question around which you would like to see collaboration among GERN members.
13. Please provide an approximately 300-word externally focused member profile for inclusion on the GERN website which will help our audience better understand the mission and work of your organization. See, for example. <http://gern.co/gern-member-profile-center-for-international-private-enterprise-cipe/>