



Univerza v Mariboru

Ekonomsko-poslovna fakulteta



## The Missing Entrepreneurs 2021

### Policies for inclusive entrepreneurship and self-employment

**The Missing Entrepreneurs 2021 is the sixth edition in a series of biennial reports that examine how public policies at national, regional and local levels can support job creation, economic growth and social inclusion by overcoming obstacles to business start-ups and self-employment by people from disadvantaged or under-represented groups in entrepreneurship. The data for Slovenia were prepared by prof. dr. Katja Crnogaj from the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management at the University of Maribor.**

Not everyone has an equal opportunity to transform their ideas into a business. There could be an additional 9 million people starting and managing new business in the European Union (EU) – and 35 million across OECD countries – if everyone was as active in business creation as core age men (30-49 years old). This would be 50% more people engaged in early-stage entrepreneurship in the EU and 40% more in OECD countries.

About three-quarters of these “missing” entrepreneurs are women, half are over 50 years old and one-in-eight are under 30 years old. These missed opportunities are due to several factors, including greater difficulties accessing finance, skills gaps, under-developed networks and institutional barriers (e.g. lack of childcare, discouraging social attitudes). These obstacles are often inter-related and are greater, on average, for women, immigrants, youth, seniors and the unemployed. For example, women in both EU and OECD countries are 75% as likely as men to report having the skills to start a business.

The COVID-19 pandemic increased many of the gaps in entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurs from underrepresented and disadvantaged groups were more likely to work reduced hours or close their business. Inclusive entrepreneurship policy aims to open up opportunities in entrepreneurship to everyone with an idea for a sustainable business, regardless of their background and characteristics. Harnessing this untapped potential can uncover new ideas, create jobs and contribute to economic growth, which are central to plans for economic recovery.

#### Key trends for Slovenia:

The overall conditions for entrepreneurship are similar to most of the European Union (EU) Member States. The share of the population with entrepreneurship skills and the level of administrative burden on new start-ups are well-above average, while the share of the population of who intend to start a business and SME lending levels are on par with EU average. The overall early-stage entrepreneurship rate (7%) was slightly above the EU average (6%) between 2016 and 2020, largely due to higher activity rates among youth (18-30 years old). Almost a quarter of all new entrepreneurs reported starting their business out of necessity relative to 19% on average in the EU. This was true across all target population groups - women, youth and seniors. However, more early-stage entrepreneurs (7%) anticipated job creation than on average in the EU (6%), notably senior entrepreneurs (7%). There is a noticeable gender gap among the self-employed as women are more than half as likely to be self-employed than men (32% vs. 68% in 2020).



#### Dodatne informacije:

Izr. prof. dr. Katja Crnogaj  
tel.: 02 22 90 263  
e-mail: katja.crnogaj@um.si

#### Publikacija je dostopna na:

[https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/employment/the-missing-entrepreneurs-2021\\_71b7a9bb-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/employment/the-missing-entrepreneurs-2021_71b7a9bb-en)

