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Opponent's Dissertation Report

Edmond Ćera

Doctoral thesis

„The role of institutional, educational and family context for engagement in entrepreneurship: evidence from Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia “

Supervisor: prof. Ing. Jaroslav Belás, PhD.
Degree programme: P6208 - Economics and Management
Degree course: 6208V038 Management and economics
University and Faculty: Tomas Bata University in Zlín, Faculty of Management and Economics

Based on the request of Ing. Lubor Homolka, Ph.D., Vice-Dean for Doctoral Studies at the Faculty of Management and Economics, Tomas Bata University in Zlín, from 11.10.2022, I submit the following evaluation to the given doctoral thesis:

1. The up-to-datedness of a dissertation topic

The role of Business as a key driver of economic growth is widely recognized. Promoting entrepreneurship is therefore a strategic goal for many European countries, and policymakers are developing a range of measures to support it.

Business as it is done in today's world is dynamic. Several factors affect business. These factors can be internal to the company. These internal and external factors shape the business environment and the factors that affect the business.

From the above point of view, the topic of dissertation thesis can be considered as current and very significant.

2. Achieving the goals stated in the dissertation

The main goal of the thesis was: „ to shed light on the relationships and influences both personal and environment factors toward entrepreneurship intention”.

In order to achieve the main goal of the thesis, the author clearly defines four research questions (RQ) and 6 hypotheses are proposed too.

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Based on the presentation of the results of the thesis one might note that the author fulfils the main goal of the thesis.

3. Research methodology and dissertation outcomes, mentioned contributions and achievements made by the student

The chosen processing methods are adequate to the goal of the thesis and the subject matter of the research. The author has shown good orientation in the scientific methods of researching economic phenomena and the ability to use them actively in a given thematic area. The research is administered on an individual-level face-to-face data collection approach through a survey in three Western Balkan countries: Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia. An empirical quantitative-based research was done. In order to examine the topic, a questionnaire survey has been selected as a research instrument.

All data both pilot and main survey were conducted via face-to-face interviewing. The answers were stored in Google Drive platform and then exported into Microsoft Excel, which was imported into a SPSS file and Smart PLS software for data analysis. The sample ensured the appropriate proportion of interviews corresponding to the regional distribution of population in Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia. The interviews were carried out by survey local agencies in each country and the data collection phase started in September 2021 and was completed in October 2021.

The relationships are examined by using Partial Least Square within a Structural Equation Modelling per each country separately. I support the methodological approach to the given dissertation. The procedure is in accordance with the main goal of the dissertation work, as well.

The research design (explained in section three) with applied adequate statistic methods serves as solid foundations for the author to test hypothesis and to the research questions.

4. The importance for practice and development of the science itself

The dissertation makes significant contributions to the current level of knowledge by providing better understandings for the entrepreneurship and institution literature by adding value to the existing models. This offers the possibility to investigate the relationships between institutional, educational, and family contexts and the actual involvement of the individuals in start-up activity. Second, the research contributes to enrich the existing literature by investigating whether the environmental factors moderate the relationships of classic individual factors and motivation to start a business. It is important to highlight the fact that this research provides contribution to the literature by offering insights from three different Western Balkan countries, which all three have a common communist past and aspire to be part of European Union.

The results of this research may be useful for the governmental authorities and institutions. This means that, in addition to knowledge, the educational system should provide students with practical experiences that will help them develop their abilities and skills for a successful start-up.

The outcome of the dissertation would be useful for not only governmental authorities and institutions, but also businesses, decision-makers, academicians in pedagogical process. The presented results in the dissertation could be a solid base for further research.

5. Formal aspects and the language level of the dissertation

The dissertation is very clearly structured. Thesis are correctly written, 144 references and information sources were used. The work has a very good graphic layout. The dissertation is clearly elaborated and contains all prescribed requirements. Appropriate figures as well as tables accompany the text. The author also discusses limitations and further elaboration of the results.

6. Student's publishing

Publishing of doctoral student Edmond Çera correspond with the theme of the dissertation. I consider the number of titles and citation to be above average (12 scientific articles indexed in WoS and Scopus, 9 conference papers; 155 citation in Scopus, 121 in WoS).

I confirm that the author's publication activity is relevant to the study and meets requirements of a doctoral study programme.

7. Questions

1. Which factors of business intention do you consider important in designing a suitable strategy to reduce unemployment in Albania and why?
2. Could you compare your research results with secondary surveys and data (e.g. from other countries...)?
3. Where do you see the benefits of your work in terms of Albania?
4. Could you explain or specify, how the Covid 19 pandemic affected the results of your research?

Conclusion

The presented doctoral thesis fulfils the standards expected at a PhD level study. It has the potential to be used not only in practice for business or Western Balkan countries, but also in pedagogical and research activities. On this basis, I recommend the thesis to the final defence and after the successful defence, I recommend awarding the author with the academic degree "philosophiae doctor" (Ph.D.).

Banská Bystrica, 26. 10. 2022



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