

OPPONENT'S REPORT ON DISSERTATION THESIS

Title of the work:	The role of institutional, educational and family context for engagement in entrepreneurship: evidence from Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia
Author:	Edmond Çera
Supervisor:	prof. Ing. Jaroslav Belás, PhD.
Degree programme:	Economics and Management

The submitted dissertation consists of seven chapters and has 123 pages, including a list of references and annexes.

Topicality and scientific aim of the dissertation thesis

The dissertation is devoted to the current topic related to the role of contextual factors on entrepreneurial engagement in three Western Balkan countries. The role of contextual factors is incorporated in the research as potential moderators of the relationship between attitude, subjective norms and perceived behaviour control and the individual's involvement in entrepreneurship. The main aim of the thesis is to investigate the role of institutional, educational, and family context on the relationships between the antecedents of an individual's behaviour and engagement in entrepreneurship. Within the context of entrepreneurship as a key driver of economic growth, this is certainly an interesting goal, the need for research is clarified properly at the introduction of the thesis. In this section, a brief description of the background of selected countries (Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia) is also provided, which definitely helps the reader be more familiar with the overall framework of the study. Although the need for the research topic solution is clear, the research gap could have been more precisely defined in this section.

Overview of current knowledge on the topic

The literature review is presented in second chapter of the thesis with the focus on planned behaviour theory, human capital theory, entrepreneurial self-efficacy perspective and triple helix model. This chapter can be considered as very well prepared based on many current scientific studies and publications. The author critically presents the opinions of scholars on individual topics and then defines theoretical connections between them. Based on the research needs, the four research questions and six hypotheses are developed, and importantly, the relevant theoretical context is provided to support the basis for setting the research questions. I really appreciate the processing of the conceptual framework, which clearly illustrates the relevant variables for the study and maps out how they might relate to each other.

Research design and methodology

The author of the thesis approached its processing conceptually, and the entire solution procedure is divided into sub-topics with logical continuity. In this part of the work, hypotheses, research questions and goals are presented again. From my point of view, defining the research objectives at this stage is already unnecessary, as it is only a matter of rewriting the research questions in the form of objectives. The survey-based methodology is chosen to achieve the main aim and defined research questions. The variable measurement, data collection and sampling are properly designed. Moreover, the data analysis approach and techniques for hypothesis testing are clearly developed and executed. The only thing that is confusing is the use of interview and questionnaire as research instruments for the same purpose. An interview is a qualitative research method, used to gain an in-depth understanding of the research topic.

Within this research study, a quantitative approach is used using a questionnaire survey, carried out in the form of personal interviews. From a methodological point of view, this should be unequivocally distinguished in the work.

Results and Discussion

The results are presented very clearly with the help of tables and figures, as well as appropriately interpreted verbally. Relevant statistical methods are chosen for the analysis of direct and interactive effects of the factors on entrepreneurship intention. The discussion of the results is clearly organized by considering each hypothesis and the survey findings are compared with the results of scientific studies conducted on the same topic. However, I would have expected more synthesis of individual results and their generalization in the context of theoretical basis in the final part.

Theoretical and practical contributions

The sixth chapter defines the theoretical contributions, practical implications, and research limitation. One can agree with the author of the thesis that the combination of the investigated factors, their influence on the relationships between them and entrepreneurial intention provides a unique perspective on the issue. On the other hand, it is quite complicated to determine to what extent contextual factors really influence engagement in entrepreneurship, based on the conflicting results from the countries studied. The practical implications are clearly stated and can provide interesting inspiration for practice.

Based on a few minor comments made in this report, I ask the following questions for the defence.

Questions:


1. How is it possible to generalize the relatively contradictory results obtained from individual countries?
2. In this context, also indicate where you see novelty and originality in the knowledge gained from the results.

Overall Assessment

Based on a detailed assessment of dissertation, it can be stated that the thesis matches all requirements imposed on this type of work. From the formal, linguistic, and stylistic point of view, the dissertation is of a high standard. At the same time, the thesis demonstrated the successful transfer of the theoretical knowledge to the realization of the complex research study and ability of independent scientific work in the given field. In the end of the thesis the author includes the list of his publications that far exceeds the requirements for doctoral students.

Hence, I **recommend the submitted thesis for defence** and, after a successful pass of the defence, **award Edmond Čera the Ph.D.** degree in the field of Economics and Management.

Pardubice, October 31, 2022


Assoc. Prof. Michaela Kotková Štřiteská, Ph.D.
University of Pardubice
Faculty of Economics and Administration
Institute of Economy and Management