

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

Program:	MIB
Student:	Julia Rybalchenko
Title of thesis:	An empirical analysis of social entrepreneurial intentions formation among students: evidence from GUESSS project

Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis. Justification of the topic choice; accuracy in defining the aim and tasks of the thesis; originality of the topic and the extent to which it was covered; alignment of the thesis' topic, aim and objectives.

Master thesis by Julia Rybalchenko is devoted to the very topical problem in modern entrepreneurship research field – social entrepreneurship intentions among students around the world. Social entrepreneurship has become a global phenomenon that increasingly influences people lives and helps in resolving different social problems. The goal of the master thesis was to analyze the factors that form students' intentions to become social entrepreneurs. It should be noted that there is a lack of research on social entrepreneurship and particular on factors of social entrepreneurship intentions among students and Julia has set ambitious goal in her master thesis.

Structure and logic of the text flow. Logic of research; full scope of the thesis; alignment of thesis' structural parts, i.e. theoretical and empirical parts.

Structure of master thesis is designed to achieve the goal stated. There are three chapters in the paper besides introduction, conclusion and appendix. The introduction consists of justification of the research topic, goal statement and research question. The first chapter is dedicated to the analysis of the social entrepreneurship as a field of research. Julia categorizes the existing definitions of the concept of social entrepreneurship, systematizes the evolution of the theoretical papers devoted to this concept and set the domain of the social entrepreneurship. The second chapter concentrates on identification and grouping of existing antecedents of business entrepreneurial intentions, and reviewing of the most widely applied models of entrepreneurial intentions, which can also be relevant for social entrepreneurial intentions. Based on the integrated theoretical research Julia develops a model of social entrepreneurial intentions and formulates the hypotheses. The third chapter is an empirical study of social entrepreneurial intentions among students, where the developed model is tested on its relevance and validity as well as the significance of the factors. The chosen methodology allows the author to make relevant and reliable conclusions and provide very interesting results of the research in the discussion and conclusion parts of the thesis.

Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives. Adequacy of objectives coverage; ability to formulate and convey the research problem; ability to offer options for its solution; application of the latest trends in relevant research are for the set objectives.

Julia formulates research question and research hypotheses in the proper and accurate way. The main research question was formulated as: *How are the intentions of students to become social entrepreneurs formed?* Following this research question, Julia sets the objective of this work as is to identify specific factors that form social entrepreneurial intentions among students with an additional comparative analysis of differences in factors of formation of social intentions between developed and developing countries. As the main theoretical approach the Theory of Planned Behavior by Ajzen (1991) was used for predicting business entrepreneurial intentions and social entrepreneurship intentions among students. Based on the intensive literature review and analysis of theoretical foundations Julia develops theoretical model that is tested in empirical part of the master thesis.

<p>Quality of data gathering and description. Quality of selecting research tools and methods; data validity adequacy; adequacy of used data for chosen research tools and methods; completeness and relevance of the list of references.</p>
<p>Julia uses quantitative approach in the empirical part which includes development of the model and hypotheses which then were tested by statistical methods of analysis. The deductive approach is relevant for this particular type of study. The quality of data is proven by data collection procedure developed by GUESSS project organizers. Also the author provides the description of the data analysis procedure in the adequate way which allows trusting the results of the empirical analysis. References include recent publications on relevant topic; both foreign and Russian sources of information were used.</p>
<p>Scientific aspect of the thesis. Independent scientific thinking in solving the set problem/objectives; the extent to which the student contributed to selecting and justifying the research model (conceptual and/or quantitative), developing methodology/approach to set objectives.</p>
<p>The theoretical part includes the deep literature analysis and allows author to develop research question and research hypotheses in appropriate way. The methodological and empirical parts of the research include all necessary elements of the good scientific paper in business studies. Author demonstrates the ability to both analyses of the existing literature and synthesis main findings in order to provide her own ideas in this field.</p>
<p>Practical/applied nature of research. Extent to which the theoretical background is related to the international or Russian managerial practice; development of applied recommendations; justification and interpretation of the empirical/applied results.</p>
<p>The results of the study have both theoretical and practical implications. From the theoretical perspective, this study extends the growing body of both social entrepreneurship and student entrepreneurship literature by developing original theoretical model and examining this model on huge dataset and in two different settings — developed economies and emerging markets. As for practical implication, the results suggest which factors should be taken into account in developing special programs for stimulating entrepreneurial activity in social entrepreneurship area in different countries.</p>
<p>Quality of thesis layout. Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence, correct layout of tables, figures, references.</p>
<p>Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defense, all tables and figures are given in the appropriate way.</p>

The Master thesis of Julia Rybalchenko meets the requirements for master thesis of MIB program thus the author of the thesis can be awarded the required degree.

September 22, 2013.

Research advisor

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