

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

Program:	MIB
Student:	Maria Balobanova
Title of thesis:	Parallel entrepreneurship strategy: the evidence of Global Entrepreneurship Monitor Project

<p>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.</p>
<p>The research is devoted to identification of unique features of Russian and Brazil parallel entrepreneurs. The Global entrepreneurship monitor (GEM) project data base served as empirical foundation for the research. Using the results of the GEM project makes it possible to come up with the hypotheses concerning the driving forces encouraging Russian parallel entrepreneurs to take a decision to start-up businesses. Using a data base gives us an opportunity to compare motives of Russian parallel entrepreneurs with foreign ones.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>The research paper is well structured. The paper is structured in three parts: literature review and hypothesis, methods and data description, and results and discussions. The parts of the chapters are logically interconnected and their content contributes to the achievement of the research goal.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>The hypotheses were put forward after the analyses of the relevant theoretical approaches and the observation of Russian and Brazil parallel entrepreneurs. The analysis is carried out using recent studies in this field.</p>
<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>The main source of data was GEM. In the context of our research, GEM database allows investigating parallel entrepreneurs across variety of characteristics, such as attitudes, activity and aspirations. GEM also provides grounds for comparison of parallel entrepreneurs with their first-time counterparts and for comparison across world economies and regions. Prior research of parallel entrepreneurs was focused mainly on measuring the phenomenon in developed countries. The author has chosen Russia and Brazil data to validate the hypothesis. According to GEM economies classification, both Russia and Brazil are defined as efficiency-driven countries.</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 research questions are targeted at understanding motives, processes and aspirations some entrepreneurs chose to run several ventures at a time.</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>Discovering what drives entrepreneurs to employ parallel entrepreneurship strategy, exploring how the strategy of managing the multiple-business portfolios is realized, defining the factors which influence the levels of parallel entrepreneurship strategy could be helpful for traditional entrepreneurs, as well as for policy makers in order to increase overall entrepreneurial activity in the country.</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>The layout of tables, figures in third chapter can be improved.</p>

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

18/06/11

Associate professor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'O. Verkhovskaya', written in a cursive style.

Olga Verkhovskaya