

‘Cooperation of public and private organizations in the field of academic entrepreneurship’

Summary

This dissertation centres on the analysis of cooperation between the organizations representing the research and development (R&D), business and public administration sectors in Poland. It examines the issues related to the current trends in the R&D sector, including the quality and impact of social capital on the development of cooperation between the R&D and business sectors.

The analysis of cross-sectors partnerships in the field of academic entrepreneurship is at the heart of this dissertation. The research focuses mostly on the key factors that influence the quantity and quality of R&D projects, in which the representatives of private sector (enterprises) and public sector (R&D, government – on a regional government level) in Poland participate.

The primary goal of the dissertation was to identify the critical conditions of cooperation between organizations from three (3) different sectors (R&D, business and public administration). The secondary goal of the research was to identify the meaning of such factors as: a level of trust, openness and readiness of public and private organizations to cooperate with each other; or social capital and the impact of these factors have on the processes within academic entrepreneurship.

The author’s main hypothesis is as follows: a high level of social capital provides better understanding and more effective activities that lead to the development of cooperation between the R&D and business sectors. Furthermore, the author hypothesized that such cross-sector partnerships might be an effective tool supporting the development of academic entrepreneurship.

In order to explore this topic further, the following research questions were asked:

- 1) Which factors lead to the cooperation between public and private organizations?
- 2) What does the cooperation of public and private organizations look like in the R&D sector in Poland? What are the differences and similarities, in comparison, to the other EU member states?
- 3) What are the main factors that affect the cooperation between the R&D and business sector in Poland? What are the strongest and the weakest elements of this cooperation?
- 4) Does social capital play a role in this context, and if so what kind of a role?

- 5) What are the critical conditions that lead to cooperation between public and private organizations to effectively support the development of academic entrepreneurship?
- 6) What is the desirable direction of changes in the cooperation between public and private organizations in the field academic entrepreneurship? Is Poland dealing with morphogenesis or morphostasis?

Methodology:

The research process was based on a number of concepts and theories from Political Science, and included, public policy in the context of cooperation between the R&D and business sector, and also public management in the field of cross-sector partnerships. One of the particularly important aspects was the issue of cooperation, hence the most important theory on which the research was based is the Rational Choice theory, in particular the sociological approach represented by J.S. Coleman. Another important aspect is social capital, and the author based her research regarding this aspect on the concepts of R. Putnam, J.S. Coleman, P. Bourdieu. Another important methodological approach, which was used for the analysis in the dissertation, was the morphogenetic model of M. Archer. Additionally, the author located the research in the neoinstitutionalism theories.

Research tools: content analysis, statistical analysis and qualitative research – semi-structured in-depth interviews were used to deepen the understanding of the institutional and structural changes in the field.

The most important aspects of the dissertation are the critical conditions for cooperation, the identification of the key barriers for cooperation, the creation of cooperation models and the improvement of the sustainable impact of cross-sector partnerships.

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Signature:

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