

Abstract

Determinants of the development of social enterprises in Poland

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In the doctoral dissertation, stimulators and barriers relevant to the development of social enterprises in Poland were identified and analyzed. Based on the analysis of the literature on the subject, both domestic and foreign, an interpretation of the concept of a social enterprise was presented by describing the definitions provided by researchers in this area of the economy, the essence of social entrepreneurship shaped by social enterprises was outlined, the conditions for the development of social enterprises were described, the motives for starting a business in the form of social enterprises and their business models. The eco-system of social enterprises was characterized, the legal forms of activity of social enterprises were presented and the possibilities of systemic and financial assistance offered to social enterprises were described. This analysis allowed to formulate the main hypothesis and the detailed hypotheses of the dissertation.

An empirical study was conducted to confirm the hypotheses:

- 1) quantitative using the CAWI (*Computer-Assisted Web Interview*) technique using an online survey in the Google Forms environment - 173 representatives of social enterprises took part in the study;
- 2) qualitative with the use of the IDI (*Individual In-depth Interview*) technique, on the basis of which case studies were developed - 7 representatives of social enterprises took part in the study.

Based on the results obtained from the conducted quantitative and qualitative research, all hypotheses, both the main and the detailed ones, were confirmed and accepted.

Thanks to the answers obtained during the empirical study, the motives for starting a business in the form of a social enterprise were examined, to what extent social enterprises focus on activities related to, among others, the implementation of social goals, expansion of the conducted activity, focusing on the search for market opportunities and focus on introducing changes of an innovative nature, the level of competitiveness of social enterprises in relation to other companies operating on the market and the importance of individual factors for the level of competitive advantage of social enterprises, to what extent social enterprises agreed with some statements regarding the characteristics of their environment and the perception of their activities by society/environment, the importance of individual stimulators and barriers to

development enterprises, the importance of the various forms of public support offered to social enterprises, and to what extent and what kind of public support enterprises benefit from.

In the doctoral dissertation, it was indicated that the main research limitation was the limited source of data, as social enterprises are largely underestimated and unnoticed by traditional economic indicators and statistics. The lack of comprehensive data made it difficult to verify the hypotheses and accurately assess the impact of individual factors on the development of these enterprises. In order to better understand the determinants, more detailed empirical research is needed that takes into account a broad spectrum of social enterprises and collects more comprehensive data on their activities.

Given these limitations, future research should focus on the following directions:

- 1) data collection - it is necessary to develop more versatile and comprehensive data collection systems for social enterprises. To this end, efforts should be made to create tools that will allow the monitoring and assessment of economic, social and environmental indicators for these enterprises;
- 2) comparative analysis - future research should also focus on benchmarking social enterprises in Poland and other countries. Such a comparison would allow for the identification of unique features and determinants specific to the Polish context;
- 3) public policies - an important area for further research are public policies that have an impact on the development of social enterprises. Future research should focus on analyzing the effectiveness of existing policies, identifying gaps and challenges, and formulating recommendations for public policies that can support the development of social enterprises in Poland;
- 4) social innovations - the development of social enterprises is strongly related to social innovations. Future research should therefore focus on exploring social innovation as a key factor in determining the success of social enterprises.

The most important conclusion of the dissertation is the statement that social enterprises play an important role in creating socially responsible business and influencing positive changes in society. Continuing research into the determinants of their development is extremely important to support these enterprises and contribute to the creation of a more sustainable and fair economy. The findings presented in this dissertation are the starting point for further research that will help to better understand and influence the development of social enterprises in Poland.

Keywords: social entrepreneurship, social enterprises, stimulators of the development of social enterprises, barriers to the development of social enterprises, motives, public support.