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GENDER RELATED DIFFERENCES IN THE FOUNDING INTENTION (SUMMARY)

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SUMMARY

GENDER RELATED DIFFERENCES IN THE FOUNDING INTENTION

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Principal Topic

In contradiction to previous research, which focuses on entrepreneurs during their professional activity, this study concentrates on an earlier point in time and that is before the working life begins. The micro-social environment (family background), entrepreneurial education and specific cognitions (fostering and hindering perceptions) towards self employment that influence the professional choice are examined in this study. Attention is also given to gender similarities or differences and to catching a glimpse of entrepreneurial related variables as they occur over time.

Method

To examine those aspects two surveys were conducted between winter term 2006/2007 and winter term 2007/2008 at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. For this paper only data from 243 bachelor students, who have started their study in the winter term 2006/2007, were used to conduct a cohort study. In the follow-up survey 195 participants' could be allocated to this group. From this sample 58 respondents could be used for a longitudinal study while the data of the remaining participants of the study cohort were used for comparing reasons of the cross-sectional findings of the panel group

Results and implications

Concerning the panel results, the intention towards entrepreneurship shows no significant difference. Both gender take self-employment into consideration. Within the female sub-sample, however, a significant development occurred over time as they start to think about self-employment. With respect to motives towards self-employment no significant differences between the female and male panel participants could be identified even if women and men changed in few aspects significantly over time. Within the hindering factors towards becoming self-employed only "bad economic climate", "missing social appreciation" and "bound to the own company" were perceived differently by male and female students in the panel.

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