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SUMMARY

SURVIVAL FACTORS FOR FRENCH NEWLY FOUNDED FIRMS BETWEEN 2002 AND 2005: ARE THEY VARYING OVER THE TIME?

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Principal Topic

We examine key survival factors (KSF) and their evolution over the time since the start-up to the third year of existence of the newly founded firms. Our main objective in this work is to provide evidence to support the assumption that the key survival factors of a newly founded firm may change over the time. That statement would help to explain why so many researches have produced so many different results across the world and across the time.

Prior research on multidimensional analysis of newly founded firms' survival reveals clearly 4 dimensions that seem crucial and widely accepted in scientific community, for understanding the KSF:

- The Entrepreneur,
- The Firm,
- The “Entrepreneurial process,”
- The External Environment,

As a result, a four-dimension model has been built to understand the phenomena.

Method

Due to the nature of the dependant variables we opted to use a multivariate logistic regression model. 233 dichotomous variables have been categorized into 4 thematic blocs. We cross validate our logistic regression by forward and backward statistical selection. The fit of the model have been measured with, on one hand the Hosmer and Lemeshow and maximum likelihood test and on the other hand R square of Nagelkerke and Cox and Snell.

Results and Implications

The major contribution of this work comes from the evolution over the time of the KSF; the analysis shows clear differences between the two-steps analysis. This result confirms that KSF varies over the different development steps of the young firm. Another main result highlighted by this work is the positive impact of entrepreneurial processes on the third year of survival for all economic sectors analyzed.

This paper brings also results about KSF within the five economic sectors which are all different and specific, especially for entrepreneur, environment and firms. This results imply thereby that survival analysis have to take into consideration the sectorial dimensions to get specific and detailed results.