ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN TRANSITIONAL ECONOMIES: REVIEW AND INTEGRATION OF NEARLY TWO DECADES OF RESEARCH (SUMMARY)

Ivan M. Manev  
*University of Maine, USA, imanev@maine.edu*

Tatiana S. Manolova  
*Bentley College, USA*

---

Recommended Citation  

This Summary is brought to you for free and open access by the Entrepreneurship at Babson at Digital Knowledge at Babson. It has been accepted for inclusion in Frontiers of Entrepreneurship Research by an authorized administrator of Digital Knowledge at Babson. For more information, please contact digitalknowledge@babson.edu.
SUMMARY

ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN TRANSITIONAL ECONOMIES:
REVIEW AND INTEGRATION OF NEARLY TWO DECADES OF RESEARCH

Ivan M. Manev, University of Maine, USA
Tatiana S. Manolova, Bentley College, USA

Principal Topic

The objective of this review is to systematically map research on entrepreneurship in transitional economies since the start of institutional reforms. We build on Smallbone & Welter’s (2001) conceptual arguments on the distinctiveness of entrepreneurship in transitional economies and extend two recent surveys (Yang & Li, 2007 and Meyer & Peng, 2005) of empirical research in this context. We address three research questions: How has research on entrepreneurship in transitional economies progressed over the last two decades? At the macro-level, what findings about the impact of institutional context, level of economic development, and speed of reforms can be generalized? At the firm level, what new knowledge about entrepreneurs (antecedents, process, and outcomes) has been discovered?

Method

Data came from a systematic search of academic journals published in English for the period 1990-2007 for articles on entrepreneurship in the former USSR, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), China, and Vietnam. We found 109 articles, of which 42 were survey-based. We coded for country studied, underlying theory, research questions, methods, sample, and findings. We next classified the articles by level of analysis, clustered around topics, and employed vote counting, a weak form of meta-analysis (Hedges & Olkin, 1980) as a method of statistical inference.

Results and Implications

Eighty (73%) of the articles were published in four journals: Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice, Journal of Business Venturing, Journal of Small Business Management, and Small Business Economics. They represented merely 3.2% of the articles published over the 18-year period in these journals. Given that transitional economies account for 27.4% of the world’s population and boast vigorous entrepreneurship activity (GEM, 2007), more research attention is well warranted. Fifty articles (19 of them on transitional economies in CEE) were on macro (country) level, discussing the nature and speed of reform, financing/credit constraints, targeted assistance programs, and the role of small business for economic development. Only eleven articles employed data analytical methods at the micro (firm) level, pointing to networking, industry experience, and entrepreneurial/strategic orientation as factors for survival and success. Future research can explore topics such as strategic agendas, opportunity identification, and entrepreneurial cognition, which have been rare to date.

CONTACT: Ivan Manev; imanev@maine.edu; (T): 207-581-1984; University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469.