Entrepreneurship as Alternative for Young Bulgarians: Social and Economic Influencing Factors

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Abstract
The paper is aimed to discussion of entrepreneurship as viable alternative for young Bulgarians in a time of changing employment opportunities with the EU accession of Bulgaria. Both theoretical and methodological bases of entrepreneurial process and empirical evidence of Bulgarian youth’s realisations are presented. The problem with youth employment is refracted through the changing labour market conditions, opportunities for starting up own businesses in the country and abroad, and the changing values of the young generation. The aim is to assess the entrepreneurial orientation of the young Bulgarians on the background of the enlarging economic stage of Europe. Part of the discussion topics are those about the economic reality in the country and the other EU countries, the national business culture, entrepreneurial values of young people, and the new opportunities for youth realisation. The experience of the ten new EU members is reviewed in respect to the possible consequences to Bulgaria when joining EU. The paper is based on author’s experience in training and consulting of young people, analyses of demographic, economic and social statistics, as well as on recent studies on the different issues related to the paper’s topic.

Key words: young entrepreneurs, entrepreneurial orientation, EU enlargement