

Editorial: Social Entrepreneurship and Socio–Economic Development

Socio-economic development can be understood in a number of ways. Jaffee (1998, p. 3) defines this term by saying that it “*refers to the ability to produce an adequate and growing supply of goods and services productively and efficiently, to accumulate capital, and to distribute the fruits of production in a relatively equitable manner*”. This definition seems to be the most accurate because it combines both leading and sometimes competing approaches to socio-economic development: economic (production, accumulation, efficiency) and sociological (social transition and change and relatively equal distribution of welfare).

At the same time we can observe a growing number of situations when governments fail in their redistributive and stabilizing role, in many cases because of the lack of tools that would prove effective in a globalised world. Most, if not all, of such measures at national level prove to have a limited outreach because of the international character of economic occurrences that bear influence on local environments. Therefore an urgent need arises for the creation of new instruments or regulatory mechanisms that would provide social stability without harming economic growth. More and more economists see such potential in social entrepreneurship. E.g. Koch (2010, p. 17) states that “*social entrepreneurship can be viewed as a bottom-up model of socio-economic development that seeks to overcome government and market failures*”.

Social entrepreneurship in the shortest possible way can be described as an attempt on solving societal issues through entrepreneurial means. Abu-Saifan (2012) discusses the origins of this term by deriving it from the traditional understanding of entrepreneurship (in the views of Schumpeter, McClelland, Kirzner, Shapero, Carland & others, Kao & Stevenson and Timmons & Spinelli) and enriching it further with social perspective. Additionally, this author provides a critical analysis of existing definitions of social entrepreneurship itself (quoting Bornstein, Thompson & others, Dees, Brinckerhoff, Leadbeater, Zahra & others and Ashoka) and finally proposes his own definition of a social entrepreneur. It states that “*The social entrepreneur is a mission-driven individual who uses a set of entrepreneurial behaviours to deliver a social value to the less privileged, all through an entrepreneurially oriented entity that is financially independent, self-sufficient, or sustainable*” (Abu-Saifan, 2012, p. 25).

Every analysis of social occurrences and entrepreneurial attitudes has to be rooted in morality, an issue discussed by Geoff Goldman and Maria Bounds in their piece on ethical conduct in business organisations in the eyes of management students of the South African Gauteng Province.

Wahibur Rokhman and Forbis Ahamed describe the role of social and psychological factors on entrepreneurial attitudes and intentions between Islamic Indonesian students.

The significance of social welfare attitudes in entrepreneurial intentions of the youth has been addressed by Teemu Rantanen, Agnieszka Pawlak and Timo Toikko.

Paweł Ulman and Erik Šoltés show the monetary and non-monetary perspective on poverty using the example of Poland and Slovakia.

As socio-economic development is subject to a strong regional differentiation, Agnieszka Witoń focuses on spatial diversity of the issue in question in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The success stories of Tanzanian women entrepreneurship programs in alleviating poverty are presented by Mwajabu Mbaruku and Darlene Mutalemwa, with a deeper insight into the WORTH program.

Małgorzata Adamska-Chudzińska uncovers the link between work-related prosocial orientation and its influence on professional capability of employees.

Maria Urbaniec analyses the system of indicators measuring sustainable development in Poland in order to provide an external evaluation leading towards growth of its efficiency.

Jolanta Zombirt searches for innovative sources of financing in order to allow the participation of the banking sector into new modes of entrepreneurial activities.

Finally, Sławomir Dorocki, Anna Irena Szymańska and Małgorzata Zdon-Korzeniowska analyse the role of Polish family agritourist enterprises as one of potential pillars of a balanced socio-economic growth.

As the editor of this issue of *Entrepreneurial Business and Economics Review* I am deeply convinced that the scientific papers included here do contribute to a bigger goal: restoring the Science of Economics to the service of humanity and therefore provide stable ground for a sustainable and socio-economically balanced development of individuals and societies.

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