
Editorial

Simona Mihai-Yiannaki*

Department of Accounting, Economics and Finance,
European University Cyprus,
6 Diogenes, Engomi, Nicosia 1516, Cyprus
Email: S.Mihai@euc.ac.cy
*Corresponding author

Elisa Giacosa

Department of Management,
University of Turin,
Corso Unione 218 bis, 10134 Turin, Italy
Email: elisa.giacosa@unito.it

Biographical notes: Simona Mihai-Yiannaki is an Associate Professor in Finance at Deputy Dean School of Business at EUC, international consultant in banking, finance, economics and a trainer. Her research fields are finance, banking, hedge funds, risk management, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation in higher education. She was awarded several outstanding performance awards from international research institutes and conducted E.U. funded research projects. She is a Fulbright finalist, World Bank project expert and expert reviewer for various ministries and research agencies in Israel and Poland, member the CISI U.K. and Associate Editor of GBER.

Elisa Giacosa obtained her PhD in Business Administration. She is an Assistant Professor of Business Administration at the Department of Management, University of Turin, Italy. Her research interests focuses on agribusinesses models and innovation strategy of SMEs, and on crisis management and financing models. She is an author and/or co-author of more than 150 scientific publications and editorial board member in several international journals. She is an Associate Fellow in EuoroMed Business Institute.

Our special issue focuses especially on the theoretical and practical aspects regarding SMEs. As *Global Business and Economics Review* is multidisciplinary in nature, this special issue covers several topics providing stimulus for future research on management perspectives. In particular, it focuses new challenges of business management related to innovation and entrepreneurship in small and medium enterprises.

Our team has selected ten relevant best fit papers, focusing on different aspects on SMEs and their economic and managerial challenges.

The first paper co-authored by Giacosa, Ferraris, Mazzoleni and Vrontis aims at verifying whether companies' size in terms of production value could become relevant to company's performance, under predetermined country variable. Following quantitative analysis, it emerged that the country factor is of primary relevance in determining the differences in companies' performance. Additionally, the study found that on the

contrary, there is a weak relationship between the companies' performance (in terms of profitability, growth and debt repayment capacity) and their size.

The main objective of the second paper by Tsoukatos, Tabouratzi, Vassakis and Lemonakis is to investigate the drivers of both technological and non-technological innovation on evidence from a sample of manufacturing SMEs in the region of Crete (Greece) during a period of economic turbulence. Using an empirical analysis, it emerged that SMEs innovation activity is driven primarily by firm-specific features such as marketing, financial performance, exporting activity and R&D.

The third paper by Laskowska-Rutkowska is a conceptual paper, based on a strong, recent and relevant literature review. Moreover, it provides a methodology for measuring the efficiency of the innovation diffusion within the supply chain. This is a new original methodology, which includes a measurement matrix and a synthetic indicator, has been developed.

The main goal of the fourth paper by Bollani, Pellicelli and Van Dyck is a description of certain international features and trends focusing on the importance of innovation for preserving the respect of the environment within the food sector. Following an empirical analysis, it emerged that an entrepreneurial vision is necessary to be linked to theoretical backgrounds.

The fifth paper by Al Khoury, Thrassou and Kaufmann aims to create a preliminary model of emotional intelligence (EI), fitting Lebanese retail banking sector. Thanks to a combination of existing models, interviews, theoretical research and secondary data, the authors found that EI has been the subject of much controversy due to its relevance and widespread utilisation in business.

The sixth paper by Crovini, Ossola and Giovando focuses on the role of Italian credit cooperative banks in supporting the entrepreneurship and the development of SMEs and family businesses. Following an empirical analysis, the research is the first step of a far deeper analysis, giving evidence to the support of credit cooperative banks for SMEs and family businesses, when it comes to business expansion.

Thanks to an empirical analysis, the seventh paper by Shuv-Ami, Papasolomou and Vrontis shows that commitment and sport spectator identity impact on the relationship between Lovemarks and fans intentions, fans willingness in paying premium prices for football tickets favourable word-of-mouth communication, and the favourable word-of-mouth communication.

The eighth paper, by Papasolomou, Kountouros and Melanthiou focuses on a recent study of four domains of internal corporate social responsibility in small and medium sized companies in Cyprus, drawing on existing literature on internal corporate social responsibility practices. The findings reveal a low level of employee satisfaction with their work-life balance and insufficiently developed practices within the context.

Then, the paper by Iscaro, Castaldi, Sepe and Turi aims at boosting entrepreneurship education through the study of the virtual platform ExperimentalLab, in the support of universities' activities. In this research, the authors use the structural equation model PLS-path modelling approach.

Our last paper is co-authored by Rua and França, who focus on the relationship between entrepreneurial orientation and company performance. Using the resource-based approach, the research provides original insights into entrepreneurial orientation and reputational resources literature.

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