
Book Review

Reviewed by Veland Ramadani

Email: v.ramadani@seeu.edu.mk

Entrepreneurship in Western Europe: A Contextual Perspective

by: Léo-Paul Dana

Published 2017

by Imperial College Press

South Kensington Campus, London SW7 2AZ, UK, 450pp

ISBN-13: 978-1783267934

ISBN-10: 1783267933

Millions of people, based on their creativity, the ability to bring innovations to the market and the willingness to face risk, every day open their own businesses, which provide existence for themselves and their families, open new jobs and actively participate in the overall economic development of the respective countries (OECD, 2011; Ramadani and Schneider, 2013). This has increased the interest among researchers in the field of business and economics and state policymakers about entrepreneurship (Dana and Light, 2011; Ramadani et al., 2013, 2014).

Fayolle (2013, pp.9–10) noted that “entrepreneurship is a complex and multidimensional research object, and in this regard context should be considered as a key variable... The notion of context encompasses spatial (geographical location, country, community, etc.) and temporal dimensions, business dimensions (industry, market), and social (networks, family and friends, etc.) and institutional dimensions (culture, society, economic system, etc.)”. Dana (1995a) emphasised the importance of understanding entrepreneurship in its context. In this line, Dana’s *Entrepreneurship in Western Europe: A Contextual Perspective* represents a precious contribution to the field.

Léo-Paul Dana, a distinguished and unique author, editor, and keynote speaker, has done a stunning work by bringing to the academic world such a great book. This book offers an unswerving viewpoint of Western European entrepreneurship and the challenges it faces. This book discusses issues, such as culture, traditions, networks, gender, family entrepreneurship, policies, internationalisation, ethnic and migrant entrepreneurship, and more – comprehensively, in specific Western European contexts.

The book *Entrepreneurship in Western Europe: A Contextual Perspective* represents a state-of-the-art portrait of entrepreneurship and small business issues and beside theoretical background, is richly illustrated that is very likely to offer a brighter view of these fields from the perspective of European countries. This book consists of 23 chapters about 21 economies of Western Europe.

The introductory chapter introduces Europe, its history, and economy.

The last chapter includes future perspectives of Europe in terms of entrepreneurship development.

The others are specific to political entities, from Andorra to the UK. Each follows the structure:

- historical overview
- the actual state of the economy
- actual state and promoting activities of entrepreneurship development
- future perspectives.

Included in this book are: Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

As a person who follows the Dana's works these last 15 years, I would like to accentuate that his thirst for European entrepreneurship does not began with this book. An earlier book, *Entrepreneurship and SMEs in the Euro-Zone: Towards a Theory of Symbiotic Entrepreneurship* that focuses on European countries entrepreneurship was published in 2006 by Imperial College Press (Dana, 2006). Among well-cited papers, which treat entrepreneurship in different European countries, are Austria (Dana, 1992; Rezaei et al., 2014), Denmark (Rezaei et al., 2013), France (Dana, 1999), Germany (Dana, 1994), Gibraltar (Dana, 2002), Liechtenstein and Luxembourg (Dana and Dana, 2003), The Netherlands (Dana et al., 2005), Norway (Dana, 2008), and Spain (Dana, 1995b).

I deeply believe that this book would be very welcomed by students, scholars, practitioners, policy-makers and others, who are interested to know more about entrepreneurship issues in Western European countries.

References

- Dana, L-P. (1992) 'A look at small business in Austria', *Journal of Small Business Management*, Vol. 30, No. 4, pp.126–130.
- Dana, L-P. (1994) 'Entrepreneurship innovation and change in former East Germany: an ethnographic account', *Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Change*, Vol. 3, No. 4, pp.393–401.
- Dana, L-P. (1995a) 'Entrepreneurship in a remote Sub-Arctic community: Nome, Alaska', *Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practice*, Vol. 20, No. 1, pp.55–72.
- Dana, L-P. (1995b) 'Entrepreneurship in the Basque country: an ethnographic account', *Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Change*, March, Vol. 4, No. 1, pp.69–76.
- Dana, L-P. (1999) 'Le Boulanger de Strasbourg', *British Food Journal*, Vol. 101, Nos. 5/6, pp.425–428
- Dana, L-P. (2002) 'Entrepreneurship and public policy in Gibraltar', *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management*, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp.38–42.
- Dana, L-P. (2006) *Entrepreneurship and SMEs in the Euro-Zone: Towards a Theory of Symbiotic Entrepreneurship*, Imperial College Press, London.
- Dana, L-P. (2008) 'Community-based entrepreneurship in Norway', *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation*, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp.77–92.
- Dana, L-P. and Dana, T.E. (2003) 'Innovative policies for entrepreneurship: the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg', *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management*, Vol. 3, No. 3, pp.295–302.

- Dana, L-P. and Light, I. (2011) 'Two forms of community entrepreneurship in Finland: are there differences between Finnish and Sámi reindeer husbandry entrepreneurs?', *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*, Vol. 23, Nos. 5–6, pp.331–352.
- Dana, L-P., Korot, L. and Tovstiga, G. (2005) 'A cross-national comparison of knowledge management practices', *International Journal of Manpower*, Vol. 26, No. 1, pp.10–22.
- Fayolle, A. (2013) 'Foreword', in Ramadani, V. and Schneider, R.C. (Eds.): *Entrepreneurship in the Balkans*, Springer, Heidelberg.
- OECD (2011) *Entrepreneurship at a Glance 2010*, Paris.
- Ramadani, V. and Schneider, C.R. (Eds.) (2013) *Entrepreneurship in the Balkans*, Springer, Heidelberg.
- Ramadani, V., Gërguri, S., Dana, L-P. and Tašaminova, T. (2013) 'Women entrepreneurs in the Republic of Macedonia: waiting for directions', *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business*, Vol. 19, No. 1, pp.95–121.
- Ramadani, V., Rexhepi, G., Gerguri-Rashiti, S., Ibraimi, S. and Dana, L.P. (2014) 'Ethnic entrepreneurship in Macedonia: the case of Albanian entrepreneurs', *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business*, Vol. 23, No. 3, pp.313–335.
- Rezaei, S., Goli, M. and Dana, L-P. (2013) 'Informal opportunity among SMEs: an empirical study of Denmark's underground economy', *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business*, Vol. 19, No. 1, pp.64–76.
- Rezaei, S., Goli, M. and Dana, L-P. (2014) 'Beyond legal entrepreneurship: the case of Austria', *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business*, Vol. 21, No. 2, pp.202–215.