
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Veland Ramadani is an Associate Professor at South-East European University, Republic of Macedonia where he teaches both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in entrepreneurship and small business management. His research interests include entrepreneurship, small business management and venture capital investments. He authored or co-authored around 80 research articles and 17 books. He serves as a member of editorial and reviewer board of several international journals. Recently, he was named by the Government of Republic of Macedonia as a Member of Supervisory Board of Macedonian Bank for Development Promotion.

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The aim of this special issue is to broaden discussions on family business. The special issue focuses on succession, immigrant, and gender issues in family business. Some of the papers included in this special issue were presented at the Family Enterprise Research Conference, (FERC 2017), which were revised and substantially extended. The conference was held on 8–10 June 2017 in Ashville, North Carolina, USA.

Family businesses represent the majority of companies and are an important source of new jobs in most countries (Hacker and Dowling, 2012; Hoy and Sharma, 2010; Kellermanns et al., 2008; Ramadani and Hoy, 2015; Welsh et al., 2013). Their stability is critical to global economic growth. The importance of these businesses to a country's economy is substantial. Multiple research studies have recorded the predominance of

family firms in countries throughout the world (Caputo and Zarone, 2018; Palalic, 2017). Longevity is very important for family businesses and entire economy. Succession is one of the most difficult decisions for family business owners (Campbell et al., 2007; Lipman, 2010). When business leadership transitions are not well structured they may cause expensive legal issues leading to the sale or eventual loss of the business (Kamei and Dana, 2012; Morris et al., 1997).

Gender issues have attracted increasing attention and separate study among researchers (Ramadani, 2015; Ratten, 2014; Ratten et al., 2018). There are two main reasons why these issues need to be studied separately:

- a female entrepreneurs have been recognised as an important untapped source of economic growth, considering that they create new jobs for themselves and others, and provide different solutions to management, organisation and business problems and obstacles as well as to the exploitation of business opportunities
- b female entrepreneurs have been largely neglected both in society in general and in the social sciences in light of the fact that mainstream research, policies, and programmes tend to be ‘men streamed’ (Ramadani et al., 2013, 2015).

In recent decades, in many cities of the industrialised world, especially in metropolitan areas, there was a large influx of people from different socio-cultural or ethnic origins (Dana and Morris, 2007, 2011; Waldinger et al., 2006). With the growth and positioning of these ethnic groups in western societies, ethnic and immigrant family businesses are increasingly arousing interest for socio-economic studies (Ramadani et al., 2014).

In this special issue are included the following papers:

- *Mapping successors’ expectations: decoding factors responsible for effective succession in Indian family businesses* – by Shukla and Dwivedi.
- *Entrepreneurial leadership and performance of female-owned small and medium-sized enterprises in Ghana* – by Quaye and Mensah.
- *Family business and succession in developing economies: the Nigerian perspective* – by Akinbami et al.
- *Owner motivation in small size family farms: insights from an exploratory study on the ornamental plant industry* – by Di Vita et al.
- *Coopetition of small- and medium-sized family enterprises: insights from an IT business network* – by Gast et al.
- *Performance implications of the interrelationship between risk-taking and family support for women-owned businesses: evidence from South Africa* – by Neneh.
- *Women entrepreneurship enticed family prosperity – an empirical evaluation of performance of microenterprises under Kudumbashree mission in Kerala, India* – by Shehnaz and Kumar.
- *Entrepreneurs’ early stage anticipation of business transfer and succession processes* – by Römer-Paakkanen and Paakkanen.
- *Family business learning and performance* – by Pett et al.

- *How do female entrepreneurs experience and cope with role conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa: case study from Ethiopia* – by Hundera et al.
- *Effects of national culture on leadership succession planning in small-to-medium scale family enterprises* – by Menezes et al.
- *The Chinese are taking over: Chinese small entrepreneurs in the Cayo District of Belize* – by Vermeulen et al.

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