

Ensayos sobre la actividad emprendedora de los jóvenes españoles desde una perspectiva territorial

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Abstract

The main subject of this thesis is the analysis of the entrepreneurial process of Spanish youth. Within this subject the focus lies on the differentiation of their entrepreneurial activity at a territorial level and the study of their contribution to the economy. Having in mind the different approaches to the study of entrepreneurship, this research uses a psychological and institutional approach; according to the first, this thesis studies individual personality traits as a condition of their process becoming an entrepreneur. In accordance to the institutional approach the study proposes that this same entrepreneurial process is determined by the socio-cultural environment. In particular, the thesis analyses the impact of certain socio-cultural traits over youth's entrepreneurial activity in Spain. The study is structured in three essays, each of whom focuses on one specific objective derived from the main subject. A sample was build using data from the GEM- Spain between 2004 and 2009 and some demographic and Spanish economy data from the National Institute of Statistics of Spain. The results indicate the following: in the first essay, through an adjusted model for rare events logit, the hypothesis found in the literature that in Spain young people are more entrepreneurial than non-young can be confirmed. Also, it was found that certain socio-cultural factors and self-confidence help explain why this segment of the population is more entrepreneurial than others. Thus, in the case of Spain, the positive impact of self-confidence on becoming an entrepreneur is higher in youth than in non-young, and the negative impact of fear of failure is lower in this population. Moreover, the second essay explains the differences in entrepreneurial activity between urban and rural youth. Applying a logit model the results show that role models have a more positive impact on urban youth than rural youth. In contrary the factor stigma of failure did not show any significant difference between rural and urban youth. Finally, the third essay develops a panel data model, which analyses whether entrepreneurship contributes to regional economic performance in Spain, and the contribution of young entrepreneurs within the same. The results indicate that entrepreneurial activity in Spain contributes to the growth of GDP per capita, but that the contribution of young entrepreneurs in the economy is less than the one of non-young entrepreneurs. This is explained by the existing regional differences in the impact of factors such as self-confidence, role models, and the social stigma of failure over the young and not-young entrepreneurs. Therefore, the essay indicates that the level of self-confidence and the proportion of entrepreneurial role models in a territory increases significantly the levels of entrepreneurial activity in the area, and consequently contributes to the growth of GDP per capita; unlike the social stigma of failure which impacts negatively on the entrepreneurial activity in a territory and thus their economic performance.