Conference Submission Track: *Education and Pedagogy*

Entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial intention of business students: New evidence from Greece and Oman

Purpose. Based on new directions for entrepreneurial intention research, this study focuses on entrepreneurship education to investigate final year business students in terms of their human capital and their stimuli to become entrepreneurs. More specifically, undergraduates who attend entrepreneurship courses are compared with others to understand their preferences for self-employment as an attractive career option. Beyond the need to assess the role of entrepreneurship education programmes in the configuration of entrepreneurial intentions, this study comments on the empirical evidence from two diverse countries, namely Greece and Oman.

Methodology. The sample consists of 140 final year business undergraduates studying in public Universities of Oman and Greece forming two groups, one of which has attended an entrepreneurship education course. Data are collected by a structured questionnaire offered in the classrooms along with instructions. This study performs one–way ANOVA to investigate differences in the human capital and entrepreneurial intentions among groups of business students in each University and across Universities.

Results and implications.

The present study has implications for both researchers and practitioners. This study advances the limited empirical research in terms of human capital and entrepreneurial intentions of students who take part in undergraduate entrepreneurship courses and those who do not. Consequently, policy-makers are advised to streamline education programs by taking into consideration the profiles of the participants. Policies and initiatives for fostering young entrepreneurship in Greece and Oman would be more than desirable for boosting economic growth.

Originality. Although Greece and Oman suggest diverse national entities, this comparative study could serve to draw context-specific conclusions. By sustaining a focus on entrepreneurial intent, this study allows a deeper understanding of how entrepreneurship education within Universities

should take into consideration the participants' human capital. Higher education institutions are expected to equip students with the knowledge and skills deemed necessary to become successful entrepreneurs.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial intent; entrepreneurship education; undergraduate business students; human capital; Greece; Oman

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