

RESEARCH OF STUDENT ENTREPRENEURIAL ABILITY

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In every sector of the Latvia's economy demand for professionals with advanced business skills in the last few year has significantly increased. In the society and government discussion is topical that universities must train not only highly skilled professionals, but also have to develop their entrepreneurial ability and entrepreneurial skills, so graduates could be more competitive in the labor market and could also be able to make a significant contribution to national economic development by creating new businesses and places of work.

Entrepreneurial ability contains many different individual traits, skills and abilities which are needed to become a successful entrepreneur. «Innovativeness, achievement motivation, risk-taking propensity, creative personality, internal locus of control, need for independence and for power, economic motivation, equanimity, self efficacy, etc., are the significant competencies that have been studied in relation to entrepreneurial ability in earlier research» (Jain, 2011).

The Latvia University of Agriculture educates a lot of new specialists in different industries, so the aim of the research was to study the Latvia University of Agriculture students' entrepreneurial ability. In the research the hypothesis was put forward: the Latvia University of Agriculture full-time undergraduate students' entrepreneurial ability is not developed. The object of the research — the Latvia University of Agriculture full time bachelor students. The subject of the research was the Latvia University of Agriculture full time bachelor students' entrepreneurial ability.

The research was based on quantitative data sociological research methods. There was a special electronic questionnaire made and 423 students from all nine faculties of the Latvia University of Agriculture filled in this questionnaire form. To measure the students'

entrepreneurial ability in the research the Entrepreneurial Attitude Orientation scale (Robinson P.B., 1991) was used which was created by Peter Robinson and other scientists. The results obtained from the questionnaire were analyzed with the program «Statistical Package for Social Sciences».

Information got from the questionnaires showed that, in the students' opinion, studies in the Latvia University of Agriculture have developed the ability to work in group, to plan the time and personal finances and the ability to make decisions without assistance. The results also proved that studies have not evolved the students' ability to create business ideas and to undertake entrepreneurial risks and also have not given enough knowledge in economic and management theories. Studies in the Latvia University of Agriculture also have not motivated the students to become entrepreneurs.

The research showed that the majority of the Latvia University of Agriculture students at study time have not developed their entrepreneurial ability, but instead of this they have not lost their wish to become entrepreneurs. The students and the author of the research recommend the Directors of the study programs to include in the Latvia University of Agriculture study programs more lectures delivered by experienced entrepreneurs, visits to successful enterprises and opportunities for students in special study courses to establish their experimental enterprises. The author also came to a conclusion that active student social life during the study time has a positive and important influence on the students' entrepreneurial ability development.

References

1. Jain K.R. (2011) Entrepreneurial Competencies: A Meta-analysis and Comprehensive Conceptualization for Future Research. SAGE Publications. Vision 15 (2), 152pp;
2. Robinson P.B., Stimpson D.V., Huefner J., Hunt H.K. (1991) An attitude approach to the prediction of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practice, Vol. 15(4).