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Motivation

Entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs are attributed a number of characteristics, the development of which has been considered of **top importance by the public authorities in most different countries**. The purpose of this article is to contribute to add evidence to this reality, assessing, by means of a broad enquiry, addressed to the leaders of most Portuguese youth associations, in which way **these associations bring an effective contribution for the creation and improvement of skills connected to entrepreneurship**.

Objectives

To understand how far are youth associations a birth for the creation of those skills connected to entrepreneurship

Methodology

Based on a broad enquiry on some entrepreneurship characteristics, addressed to the leaders of most Portuguese youth associations, we created a multivariable model to assess if their participation on associativism was determinant on the formation of their enterprising profile.

Some results

	Sentences		Potential Entrepreneur		Kruskall-Wallis-H. test	
	My participation on youth associations has:	Sample (n=202)	Yes (n=133)	No (n=69)	Chi^2	Significance Level
		% of individuals that strongly agree with the sentence				
Q5.1	Developed my entrepreneurship abilities	80.2	87.2	66.7	12.0	***
Q5.2	Developed my organizational abilities	83.2	88.0	73.9	6.4	***
Q5.3	Made me more ambitious	54.4	64.7	34.8	16.3	***
Q5.4	Made me start my own business	12.4	14.3	8.7	1.3	
Q5.5	Made more likeable that I will start my own business	36.6	40.6	29.0	2.6	*
Q5.6	Increased my business management knowledge	80.7	86.5	69.6	8.3	***
Q5.7	Increased my knowledge of the legal system	74.3	80.5	62.3	7.8	***
Q5.8	Increased my perception on how the markets work	51.5	57.9	39.1	6.4	***
Q5.9	Increased my business network	63.9	72.2	47.8	11.6	***
Q5.10	Increased my entrepreneurship abilities more than any subject that I have attended at school or college.	69.80	73.7	62.3	2.8	*

Significance Level *** (**)[*] 1% (5%)[10%]

		Models								
Q.	**Variable Description**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Q1.2	Genre (Male=1; Female=2)	-0.652*	-0.712**	-0.562*	-0.748**	-0.665*	-0.685**	-0.703**	-0.765**	-0.835**
Q1.1	Age (ln)	-0.207	-0.253	-0.058	-0.341	-0.299	-0.403	-0.282	-0.215	-0.235
Q1.4	College Attendance	0.722**	0.707**	0.871***	0.737**	0.682**	0.654**	0.695**	0.657**	0.740**
Q1.8	Associative Experience	-0.197	-0.240	-0.158	-0.120	-0.134	-0.109	-0.174	-0.171	-0.174
Q1.9	Founder (Yes=1; No=2)	-0.468	-0.418	-0.339	-0.348	-0.337	-0.404	-0.282	-0.210	-0.267
Q1.7	Waged (Yes=1; No=2)	0.076	-0.024	-0.007	-0.035	-0.048	0.041	-0.010	0.122	0.031
Q5.1	Developed my entrepreneurship abilities	1.099***								
Q5.2	Developed my organizational abilities		0.814**							
Q5.3	Made me more ambitious			1.317***						
Q5.4	Made me start my own business	0.405	0.393	0.526	0.331	0.316	0.281	0.264	0.284	0.450
Q5.5	Made more likeable that I will start my own business				0.248					
Q5.6	Increased my business management knowledge					0.771**				
Q5.7	Increased my knowledge of the legal system						0.670*			
Q5.8	Increased my perception on how the markets work							0.554*		
Q5.9	Increased my business network								0.930**	
Q5.10	Increased my entrepreneurship abilities more than any subject that I have attended at school or college.									0.578*
	Constant	1.616	2.089	1.869	2.754	2.051	2.479	2.260	1.561	2.053
	N	198	198	198	198	198	198	198	198	198
	Entrepreneur	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
	Others	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68
	Goodness of Fitness									
	% correct	67.7	66.2	71.2	67.2	67.7	66.2	66.7	69.2	70.2

Significance Level *** (**)[*] 1% (5%)[10%]

Conclusions

From the analysis of our enquiry, in form of a questionnaire, to the leaders of Youth Associations, we concluded **that there is in fact a relation (statistically strong) between associative work and the development of an entrepreneur profile**. On the one side, associative leaders evidence a significant bent to entrepreneurship. This is proved by the fact that the **ratio of effective entrepreneurs of our sample stays above the Portuguese average**, according to the latest *Global Entrepreneurship Monitor*. Also to point out that there exists in our sample an expressive proportion of potential entrepreneurs, as we define them. On the other side, based on a multivariable model, **we proved that leaders consider their participation on associativism determinant in the formation of their entrepreneur profile**.

In terms of **implications of educational policy**, the conclusions strengthen the need of getting a larger integration between a formal and non-formal approach for the creation of theoretical and practical skills in the teaching of entrepreneurship on the most different levels. Additionally, the formal recognition of the experience on associative management as a way to get curricular enrichment seems to become relevant.

full paper at www.phormiga.net/associations

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