

EXPANDED ABSTRACT

Role of the Social Economy and the University in order to a venture based on technological knowledge and values

Objectives

The present work aims to study the need for a more knowledge-intensive economy, especially technologically based, that allows to face the challenge of the so-called 4th technological revolution, contributing to the development of a more competitive society as well as with values. Thus, this work aims to do a revision of the reality of the Spanish university and its role facing the technological challenge. In addition, it aims to make an analysis of the presence and weight of the social economy in the sectors most identified with the so-called fourth industrial revolution, to establish if there are economic and financial differences that explain the higher presence of the investor owned firms versus social economy enterprises.

Design and methodology

In addition to the literature revision, we have used SABI database, in order to identify social economy companies that operate in technological sectors, specifically those related to digital economy and the fourth industrial revolution. Financial and economic variables of both have been analyzed and compared.

Results and conclusions

From the literature review and the analysis carried out, this work concludes that the presence of social economy companies in technological sectors related to the digital economy is smaller than the one of the investor owned companies, and in addition this presence is decreasing over the years. On the other hand, there are no differences in their economic and financial indicators that support a greater preference for investor owned enterprises capital compared to social economy enterprises.

We conclude that in order to advance in this competitive economy with values, the role of the university is crucial, fostering and developing an innovative, intelligent and with values entrepreneurship. In the last four decades the social economy has undergone significant progress in quantitative and qualitative terms, and so has entrepreneurship. However, it is still necessary to promote the use of social economy formulas in entrepreneurship derived from the university ecosystem, and with it, its presence in the most advanced technological sectors, and in particular those most closely linked to the so-called fourth industrial revolution.

KEYWORDS: Social economy, entrepreneurship, University, knowledge, technological revolution.