

ASSESSMENT OF THE ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: OPINION OF ENTREPRENEURS

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Abstract: *The purpose of this article is to assess the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Republic of Moldova based on a survey of entrepreneurs. A pilot survey of 106 entrepreneurs from the sector of small and medium-sized enterprises has been carried out and implemented with the participation of the authors, as part of the research project “Multidimensional assessment and development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem at national and regional level in order to boost the SME sector in the Republic of Moldova” (20.80009.0807.38). As a result of the study, two tasks were solved: (i) it has been assessed the impact of indicators and components of the entrepreneurial ecosystem on the entrepreneurship's development in the Republic of Moldova according to the opinion of entrepreneurs; (ii) there were determined tendencies of changes in these indicators/ components for two years (in 2021 compared to 2019). The findings of the empirical study reveal that infrastructure is the component of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, which, according to entrepreneurs, has the most positive impact on business development in Moldova. Conversely, the existing legal framework and regulations are considered by the entrepreneurs to be the biggest obstacle, exacerbating its negative impact on business in recent years.*

Keywords: *entrepreneurial ecosystem, entrepreneurship, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), business environment, Republic of Moldova*

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Pp. 81-94