

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*

JEL codes: L26, L53, K29

Introduction

The entrepreneurial ecosystem is a relatively young concept. Being introduced by James F. Moore in 1993 (Moore, 1993) and subsequently developed by many researchers (Cohen, 2006; Stam and Spigel, 2006; Isenberg, 2011; Vogel, 2013; Mason and Brown, 2014), this concept brings together entrepreneurs and all elements of the environment that interact to develop entrepreneurship and ensure economic growth. Based on an analysis of existing definitions of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, the following definition of the entrepreneurial ecosystem can be proposed for this paper: “Entrepreneurial ecosystem is a totality of participants in the business environment (legal entities and individuals from various sectors, different in the nature of their activities), who interact with

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each other, and conditions that ensure the creation of enterprises and the development of entrepreneurial activity”.

The empirical data, on which most of the existing studies of entrepreneurial ecosystems is based, comes from countries with developed market economies. The nature, structure and trends of entrepreneurial ecosystems in transition economies, including Moldova, remain relatively poorly studied. Thus, the results of our empirical study of the entrepreneurial ecosystem assessment of the Republic of Moldova are of scientific and practical novelty.

Literature review

The issue of assessing the development of an entrepreneurial ecosystem is rather difficult, since today there is no single approach even to determining its key components and indicators. Thus, there is no single methodology for assessing the impact of individual components on the ecosystem as a whole, and various researchers offer their own specific metrics.

Existing approaches to assessing entrepreneurial ecosystems are aimed at achieving two goals. First of all, such an analysis helps to determine what constitutes an entrepreneurial ecosystem in a particular region or country. Second, the analysis of the assessment of the entrepreneurial ecosystem helps to identify those components of the ecosystem that are more conducive to the development of entrepreneurship, or slow it down. The data obtained during the assessment can serve as a good basis for revising and changing the regulatory framework, regional or state policy in relation to the development of entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises, in order to strengthen their effectiveness.

Today, there are a large number of methods developed abroad that make it possible to determine the level of development of entrepreneurship and the entrepreneurial ecosystem as a whole.

Thus, Dane Stangler and Jordan Bell-Masterson with support of the Kauffman Foundation in their article „Measuring an entrepreneurial ecosystem” (Stangler and Bell-Masterson, 2015) highlight four indicators of entrepreneurial ecosystem vibrancy, which make it possible to carry out a comprehensive analysis of ecosystem development: Density, Fluidity, Connectivity and Diversity. Each of these indicators is determined by a set of sub-indices.

Daniel Isenberg, founder of the Babson Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Project (BEEP), identifies six key elements of the entrepreneurial ecosystem: Policy; Finance; Culture; Supports; Human Capital (including education); Markets. He suggests evaluating it on the basis of an expert assessment of these indicators (Isenberg, 2011).

Bjoern Lasse Herrmann and Max Marmer, founders of the Startup Genome project, proposed the concept of the Global Startup Ecosystem Index, which is calculated based on a weighted score of eight components: Performance index; Funding index; Market Reach index; Connectedness index; Talent index; Experience index; Knowledge index; Growth index. Based on the assessment of these indices, the rank of the global index is determined. A number of authors use similar indicators to assess the entrepreneurial ecosystem. However, Herrmann and Marmer's approach is broader: their scoring system additionally takes into account entrepreneurial activity and startup performance (Startup Genome, 2019).

Organizations like the Council on Competitiveness in the United States, the GSM Association, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, and the World Economic Forum have developed comprehensive diagnostic tools for assessing and tracking the development of the ecosystem. Additionally, there have been similar evaluative frameworks developed by successful venture capitalists, development consultants, and universities (ANDE, 2013).

The analysis of existing methodological approaches allows us to conclude that the most often identified are such types of factors for the development of entrepreneurship as external, internal, and personal. The main methods for assessing the factors of entrepreneurship development

include methods of strategic analysis (Internal and External Factors Evaluation Matrix (EFEM / IFEM), PEST analysis and SWOT analysis), survey methods, in-depth interviews, expert assessments, calculation of integral indices and ranking.

So, the authors used an entrepreneurs' survey method to make an assessment of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Moldova.

Research design and methodology

The assessment of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Republic of Moldova was carried out based on the survey of entrepreneurs, which was intended to address two assigned tasks:

- 1) To assess the impact of certain indicators of the entrepreneurial ecosystem on the development of entrepreneurship in the Republic of Moldova;
- 2) To assess the trends in these indicators over two years (in 2021 compared to 2019).

To solve the first task, the variation of the 5-point Likert-style scale was used, which includes five possible points for evaluating the factors (“Significant obstacle”=-2; “Insignificant obstacle”=-1; “Not an obstacle”=0; “Insignificant incentive (advantage)”=+1; “Significant incentive (advantage)”=+2).

To solve the second task, the 3-point scale was used to assess the change of factors: “The situation has not changed” (=0); “The situation has worsened” (=1); “The situation has improved” (=2).

In total, 136 indicators were proposed to entrepreneurs for evaluation within seven components of the entrepreneurial ecosystem:

1. Access to finance,
2. Human capital,
3. Infrastructure,
4. Innovations,
5. Entrepreneurial culture,
6. Markets,
7. Legal framework and regulation.

Within three evaluated components („Entrepreneurial culture”, „Markets” and „Legal framework and regulation”) indicators were combined into three or four groups – consolidated factors, which were evaluated and analyzed as well.

Based on the generalized results obtained for each assessed indicator/ factor/ component of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, two following indicators were calculated:

(i) **Entrepreneurial ecosystem assessment coefficient (Kea)**, which shows the weighted average assessment of the entrepreneurial ecosystem by component, factor or indicator, as well as the generalized assessment of the ecosystem as a whole.

Entrepreneurial ecosystem assessment coefficient is calculated according to the formula (1):

$$Kea = \frac{(-2) * \% \text{ sign.obst.} + (-1) * \% \text{ ins.obst.} + (+1) * \% \text{ ins.adv.} + (+2) * \% \text{ sign.adv.}}{100\%} \quad (1)$$

where:

- Kea - the entrepreneurial ecosystem assessment coefficient;
- % sign.obst. - the share of responses, which indicated the significant obstacle;
- % ins.obst. - the share of responses, which indicated the insignificant obstacle;
- % ins.adv. - the share of responses, which indicated the insignificant advantage;
- % sign.adv. - the share of responses, which indicated the significant advantage.

The Entrepreneurial ecosystem assessment coefficient can change from „-2” (minimum, if absolutely all respondents who evaluated the component (factor, indicator) indicate on its

significant negative impact on the development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem) to „+2” (maximum - if absolutely all respondents who assessed the component (factor, indicator) indicate on its significant positive impact on the development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem). „0”, if the number of positive evaluations is equal to the number of negative ones, characterizing the neutral impact of the component (factor, indicator) on the development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

(ii) **The perception index of the change of the entrepreneurial ecosystem (Iea)**, which reflects the percentage of surveyed entrepreneurs, who indicated on the positive changes of the entrepreneurial ecosystem indicator/ factor/ component (in relation to the total number of respondents, who indicated on the positive or negative trends of the entrepreneurial ecosystem indicator's change).

The perception index of the change of the entrepreneurial ecosystem is calculated according to the formula (2):

$$I_{ea} = \frac{I_{improved}}{I_{improved} + I_{worsened}} \times 100\% \quad (2)$$

where:

- I_{ea} - the perception index of the change of the entrepreneurial ecosystem,
- I_{improved} - the share of entrepreneurs, who indicated on the improvement of the situation,
- I_{worsened} - the share of entrepreneurs, who indicated on the worsening situation.

Theoretically the index can change from 0% (minimum - if absolutely all respondents indicated on the negative change of the components of the entrepreneurial ecosystem) to 100% (maximum - if absolutely all respondents indicate on the positive change of the components of the entrepreneurial ecosystem). 50%, if the number of positive evaluations is equal to the number of negative ones.

The questionnaire took place in April-May, 2021. There were 106 entrepreneurs from the small and medium-sized enterprises sector, participated in the survey.

Results and discussions

The analysis of responses of entrepreneurs regarding the assessment of influence and change of the components (factors, indicators) of the entrepreneurial ecosystem showed the following:

Within the component “*Access to Finance*”, the value of the entrepreneurial ecosystem assessment coefficient (K_{ea}=+0.58) reveals the weak positive assessments of the component's impact on the development of entrepreneurship and the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Within this component of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, the indicators most highly rated by entrepreneurs are „Access to funding within state programs, conducted by SME's Development Organization” (86.3% of respondents rated this factor positively) and „Access to credit and loans from microfinance organizations” (for 86.4% of respondents is an incentive) (fig. no. 1).

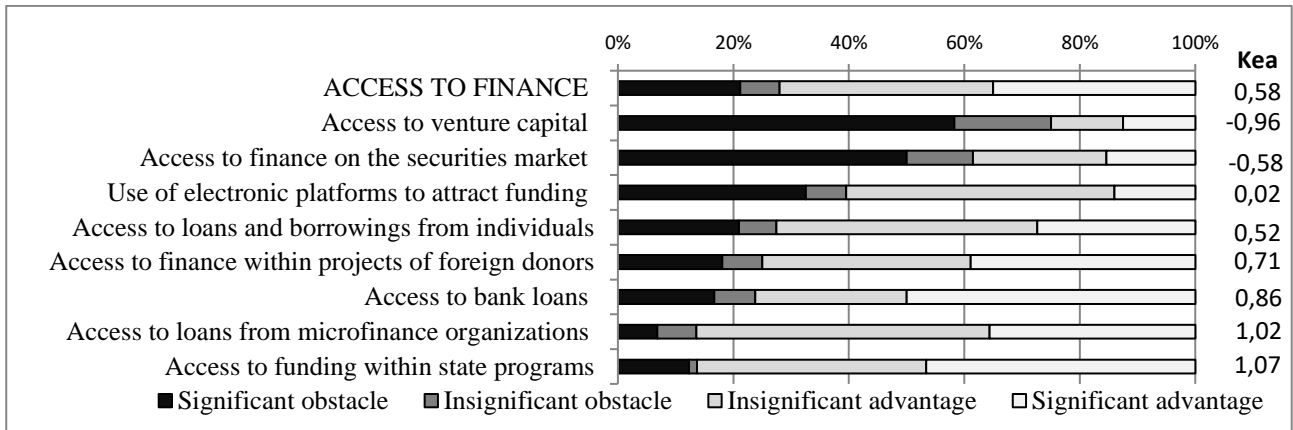


Fig. no.1 Assessment of the impact of indicators of the component „Access to Finance” on the development of entrepreneurship
 Source: own data

At the same time, access to venture capital and access to finance on the securities market remain key issues for Moldovan enterprise: the access to venture capital is evaluated negatively by 75.0% of the entrepreneurs, who evaluated the respective indicator, and the access to financing on the securities market - by 61.5%, which reflects the rather weak degree of development of these financing instruments.

In the last two years there is a relative improvement in access to finance (Iea = 61.2%) (fig. no. 2).

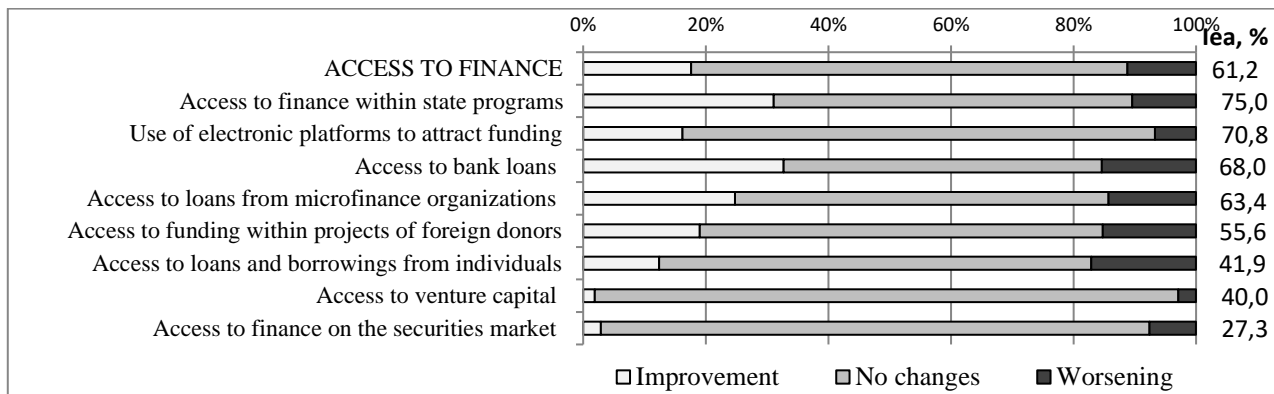


Fig. no. 2 Assessment of the change of indicators of the component „Access to Finance” over two last years
 Source: own data

Under the component „Access to Finance”, five of the analyzed indicators showed a relative improvement in the situation, which shows that the share of respondents who indicated improvement exceeds the share of those who indicated that the situation worsened (the perception index of the change of the entrepreneurial ecosystem Iea is much higher than 50%). The highest values of the Iea, which reflect the highest relative exceedance of positive evaluations regarding the change of the entrepreneurial ecosystem are registered in the indicators “Access to financing within the state programs” (Iea=75.0%) and “Use of electronic platforms to attract funding (crowdfunding, cryptocurrencies, etc.)” (Iea=70.8%). „Access to finance on the securities market” is the indicator with the lowest value of the Iea Index (27.3%), which reflects the largest relative exceeding of negative assessments, regarding the change of the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

of the given component, the worsening of the situation attested by the largest share of respondents refers to „Access to loans and borrowings from individuals” (Iea=41.9%). Another indicator, which reveals the relative worsening of the situation, is “Access to venture capital” (Iea=40.0%) (fig. no. 2).

In the component “*Human Capital*”, the value of the entrepreneurial ecosystem assessment coefficient (Kea=+0.4) reflects the insignificant exceeding of the positive evaluations of the respondents over the negative ones. However, for 36.3% of respondents, human capital issues are an obstacle (fig. no. 3). The importance of the problem, related to staff for most entrepreneurs is associated with labor migration and population emigration (obstacle for 82.8% of respondents, who assessed this indicator).

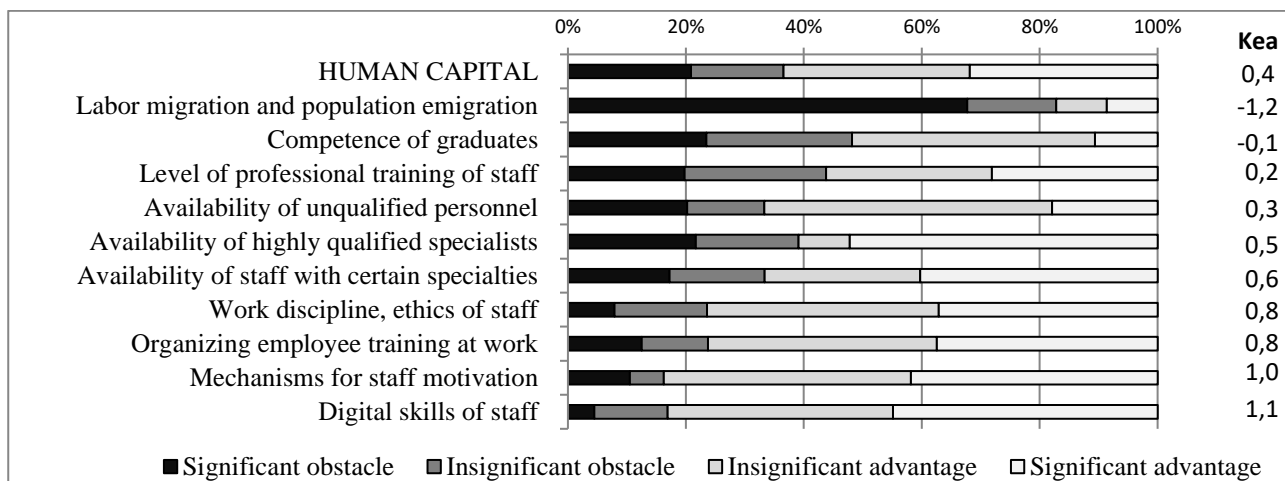


Fig. no. 3 Assessment of the impact of indicators of the component „Human Capital” on the development of entrepreneurship

Source: own data

The competence of graduates of educational institutions and the level of training of staff is also a rather significant obstacle for enterprises (48.2% and 43.8% of respondents were indicated as an obstacle, respectively), which reflects a rather low level of training and quality of human capital. In companies, the issue of staff is particularly important and refers to different categories of personnel. Quite often, entrepreneurs indicated that they face the lack of highly qualified specialists (obstacle for 39.1% of respondents who evaluated the given indicator), but also the lack of unqualified staff and staff with certain specialties.

In the component “*Human Capital*” the perception index of the change of the entrepreneurial ecosystem Iea is equal to 35.6%, which shows the predominance of negative evaluations over positive ones, regarding the change of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the last two years (fig. no. 4).

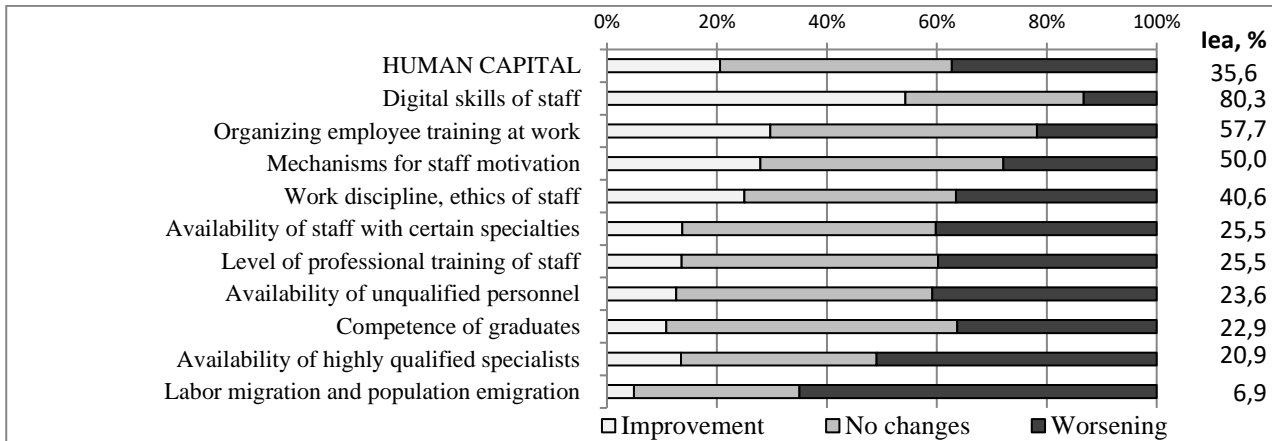


Fig no. 4 Assessment of the change of indicators of the component „Human Capital” over two last years

Source: own data

The relatively worsening trend refers to the indicators „Labor migration and population emigration” (Iea=6.9%), „The availability of highly qualified specialists” (Iea=20.9%), „The competence of graduates of educational institutions” (Iea=22.9%), „Availability of unqualified personnel” (Iea=23.6%), „Availability of staff with certain specialties and level of staff training” (Iea=25.5%) (fig. no. 4).

Within the „Infrastructure” component, 80.2% of evaluations show, mainly, the positive impact of indicators on entrepreneurship (Kea=+0.9). Overall in the component, access to IT resources and services was the highest rated by entrepreneurs. The indicator with the most negative impact on the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the “Infrastructure” component is the condition (quality) of the roads: over half of the respondents (54.3%) indicated the negative impact of this indicator on business. Also, access to crisis resolution and business insolvency services is a significant obstacle for over a quarter of respondents (25.9%), which reflects insufficient contribution from support organizations to overcome business insolvency issues (fig. no. 5).

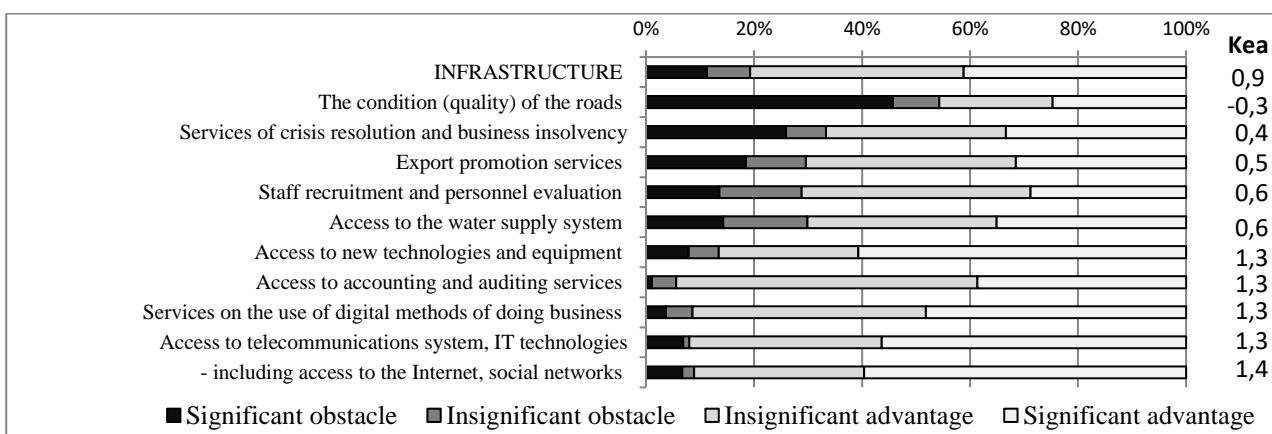


Fig. no. 5 Assessment of the impact of indicators of the component „Infrastructure” on the development of entrepreneurship

Source: own data

The share of respondents, who indicated the improvement of the situation in the last two years for the Infrastructure component by +12.8 p.p. exceeds the share of those who indicated on

the negative trend (Iea = 65.3%). The worst tendency also applies to the condition (quality) of roads (fig. no. 6).

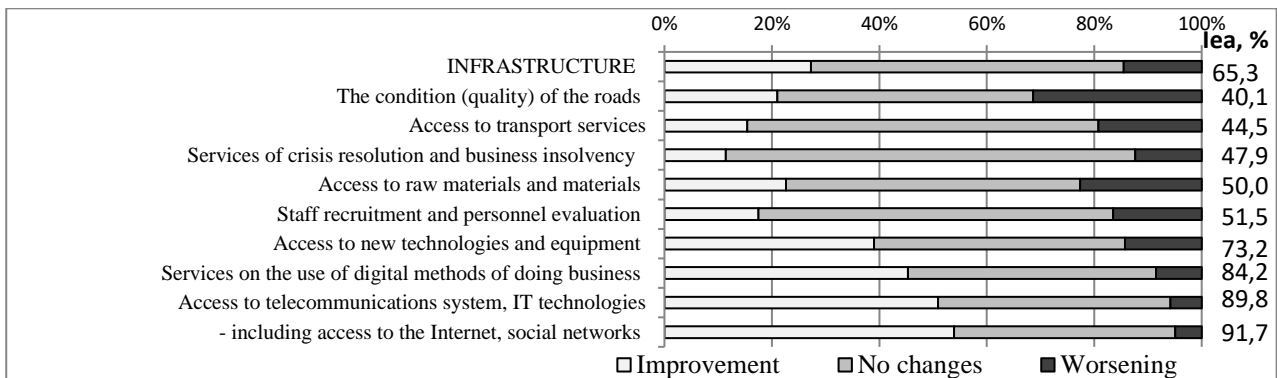


Fig. no. 6 Assessment of the change of indicators of the component „Infrastructure” over two last years

Source: own data

The evaluation by entrepreneurs of the “*Innovations*” component showed that although they still face many problems in the process of developing and implementing innovations, they consider that innovations are an incentive for the successful development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, rather than an obstacle (Kea=+0.5). „The need to implement IT technologies (digital tools) in the enterprise”, „The need to implement business processes in the enterprise”; „Existence of infrastructure to help enterprises to develop and implement innovations (universities, research institutions, regional development agencies, business hubs, etc.)”; „Cooperation of business with research institutions, universities, regional development agencies, business hubs” - all are elements, which entrepreneurs have rated the highest and consider necessary for the success of the development and implementation of innovations (fig. no. 7).

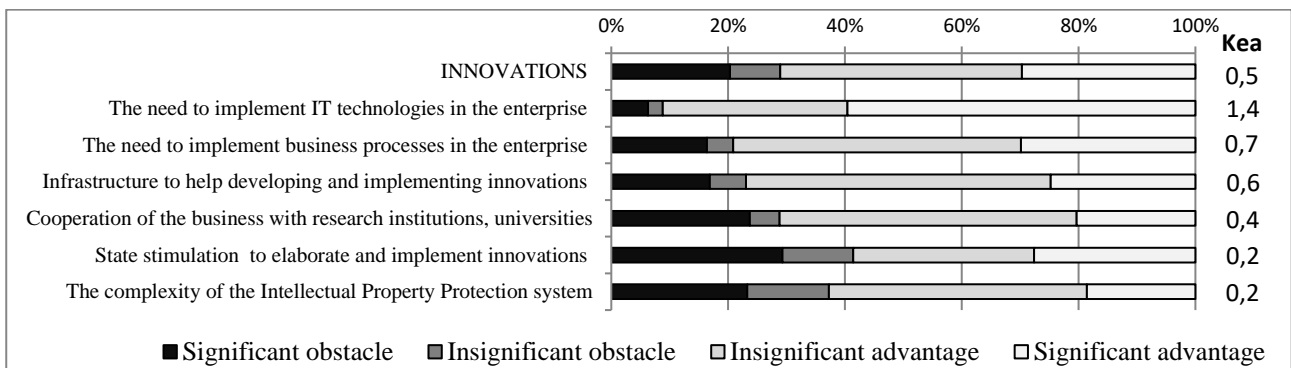


Fig. no. 7 Assessment of the impact of indicators of the component „Innovations” on the development of entrepreneurship

Source: own data

At the same time, entrepreneurs face problems in terms of the complexity of obtaining intellectual property protection titles; stimulation by the state of the elaboration and implementation of innovations (fig. no. 7).

Evaluating the change in the situation in 2021 compared to 2019, the majority of respondents (76.3%) indicated that the situation has not changed. Approximately the same share of respondents indicated that the situation improved (12.9%) and the situation worsened (10.8%) (Iea=54.4%) (fig. no. 8).

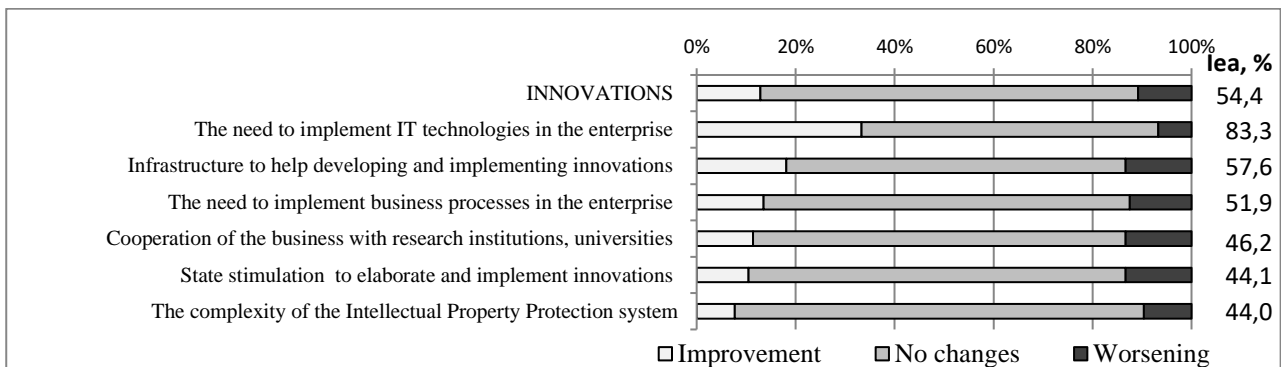


Fig. no. 8 Assessment of the change of indicators of the component „Innovations” over two last years
Source: own data

In the component “*Entrepreneurial Culture*”, the value of the entrepreneurial ecosystem assessment coefficient proved to be insignificantly positive ($Kea=+0.6$), which reflects the insignificant exceeding of the positive evaluations of the respondents over the negative ones (fig. no. 9).

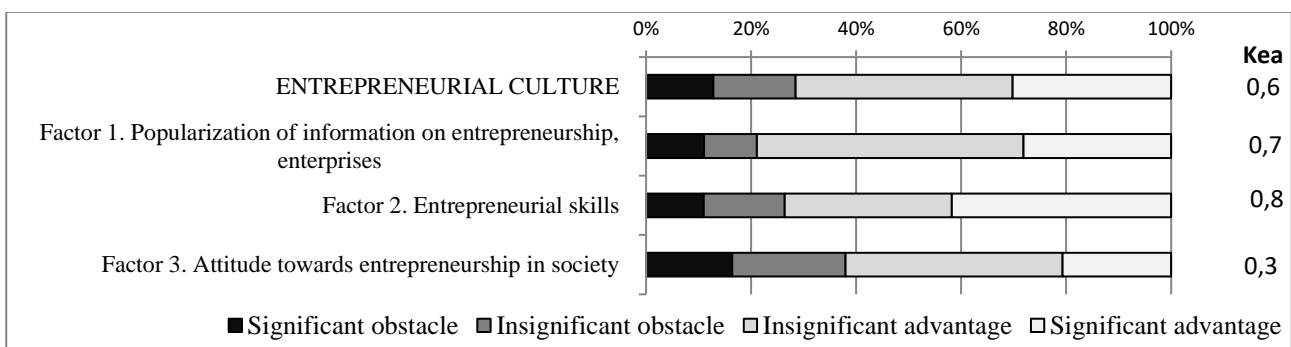


Fig. no. 9 Assessment of the impact of factors of the component „Entrepreneurial Culture” on the development of entrepreneurship
Source: own data

The indicators characterizing this component were combined into three groups of factors: 1. Popularization of information on entrepreneurship, enterprises, 2. Entrepreneurial skills, 3. Attitude towards entrepreneurship in society.

Among the indicators, characteristics of the entrepreneurial culture, which were evaluated relatively more positively, the respondents mentioned the existence of information provided by the media, conferences with the participation and interest of entrepreneurs, as well as other elements on popularizing information on entrepreneurship.

The importance of the problem, related to the entrepreneurial culture for most entrepreneurs, is largely associated with the negative attitude of entrepreneurs towards failure, bankruptcy and possibilities to overcome (obstacle for 40% of respondents, who assessed this indicator) and attitude in society. towards entrepreneurs, who suffered a business failure / bankruptcy (obstacle for 50.0% of respondents). At the same time, a fairly large share of entrepreneurs notice the existence of a negative perception of society towards entrepreneurship, which is an obstacle in the development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

In the last 2 years (2019-2021), in the opinion of the majority of entrepreneurs, the situation regarding the entrepreneurial culture has worsened (Iea=49.1%). The most negative worsening trends in the last 2 years marked the indicators „Meetings of entrepreneurs with students, civil servants, etc.” (Iea=43.3%) (within Factor 1), “Entrepreneurs' attitude towards failure, bankruptcy and the possibilities to overcome them” (Iea=34.1%) (within Factor 2) and “Attitude in society towards entrepreneurs, who suffered a failure in business / bankruptcy „(Iea=29.4%) (within Factor 3) (fig. no. 10).

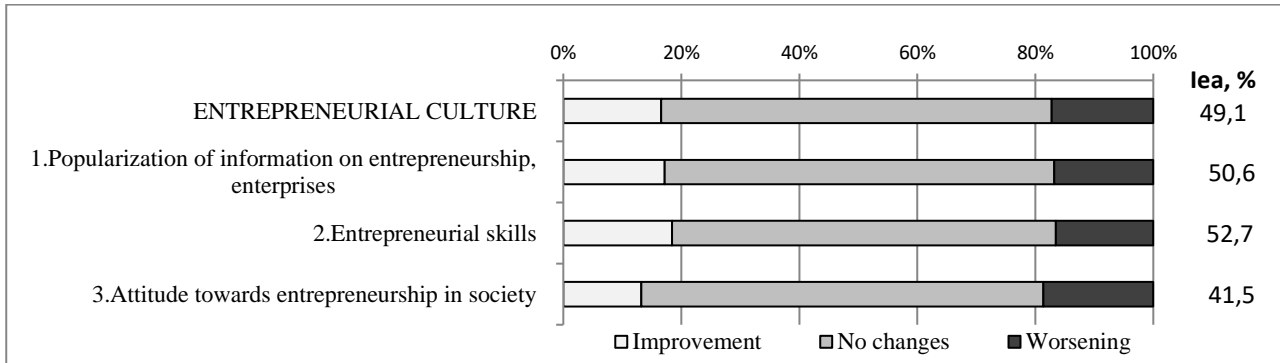


Fig. no. 10 Assessment of the change of factors of the component „Entrepreneurial Culture” over two last years
Source: own data

The “Markets” component is characterized by the insignificant exceeding of the positive evaluations of the respondents over the negative ones (Kea=+0.2).

The indicators characterizing this component were grouped into three combined factors: 1.Cooperation between entrepreneurs (networks), 2.Sales markets, 3.Attractiveness of the district for living and business investments (fig. no. 11).

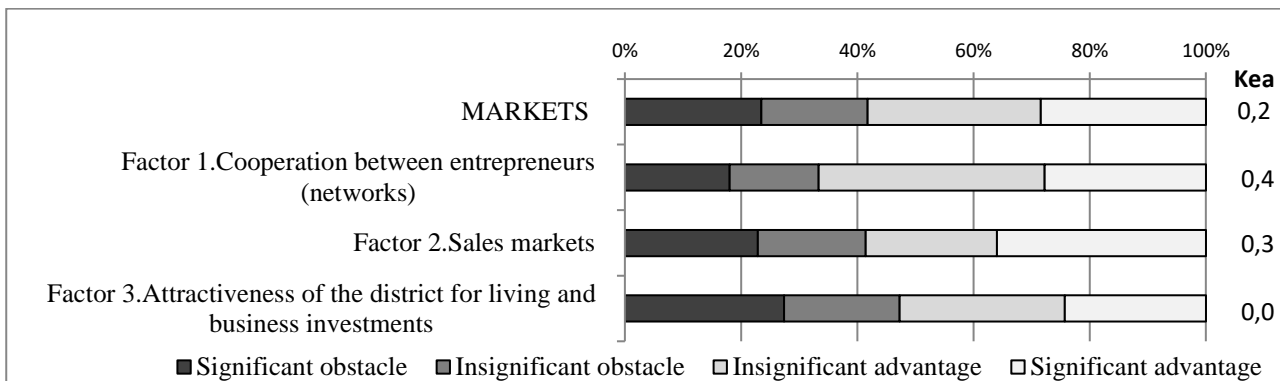


Fig. no. 11 Assessment of the impact of factors of the component „Markets” on the development of entrepreneurship
Source: own data

The indicators with the most negative impact on the entrepreneurial ecosystem, in the opinion of entrepreneurs, are: „The state of investment attractiveness of the Republic of Moldova compared to neighboring countries” (negatively assessed by 65.2% of entrepreneurs, Kea=-0.55); „Existing situation with state guarantees for protection of foreign investment” (Kea=-0.34) (within Factor 3), „Number of competing enterprises in the domestic market” (Kea=-0.08) (within Factor 1), „Access to state procurement” (Kea=-0.04) (within Factor 2).

At the same time, a relatively higher share of entrepreneurs consider cooperation with partner companies as a potential advantage for their company, as well as sufficient opportunities to replace suppliers / customers (within Factor 1).

When assessing the change in the situation in the “Markets” component as a whole, the majority of respondents (60.1%) indicated that the situation has not changed; 25.4% indicated on the worsening of the situation and 14.6% - on the improvement. Such a representation of the responses was reflected on the general value of the perception index of the change of the entrepreneurial ecosystem (Iea=36.4%), which shows the predominance of negative assessments over positive ones, regarding the change of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the last two years (fig. no. 12). This applies to most of the assessed indicators: within Factor 1 - „Number of competing enterprises in the internal market” (Iea=39.6%) and „Cooperation between large enterprises and the SME sector” (Iea=36.5%); within Factor 2 „Access to state procurement” (Iea=40%), „Level of demand for goods/ services manufactured in the domestic market” (Iea=34.4%) and „Access to CIS markets” (Iea=30.7%); within Factor 3 - „Existence of objects / projects, attractive for investments” (Iea=47.9%), „Stimulation by the state of attracting investments into business” (Iea=34.1%), „State guarantees for the protection of foreign investments” (Iea=30.6%), „Investment attractiveness of the Republic of Moldova compared to neighboring countries” (Iea=22.2%), „Ecology” (Iea=20.0%) and „Cost of living (of the person, family)” (Iea=14.0%).

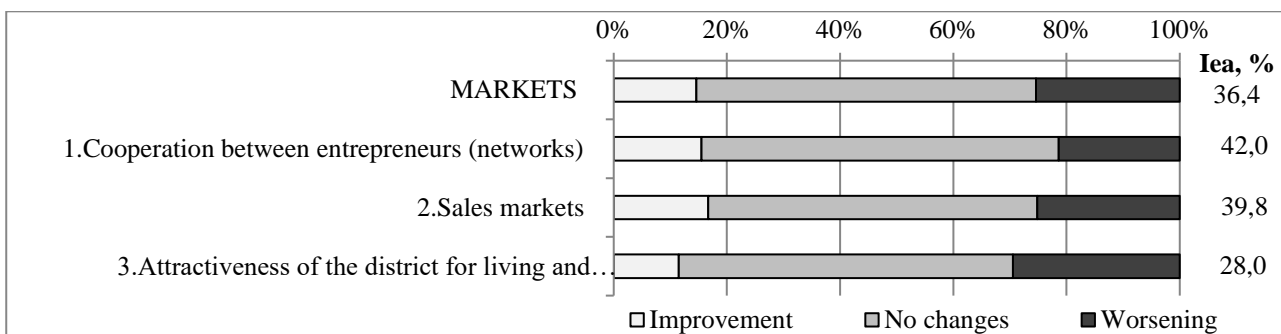


Fig. no. 12 Assessment of the change of factors of the component „Markets” over two last years
Source: own data

In only a few indicators, entrepreneurs have noted a slight improvement in the situation over the past two years.

The component “*Legal Framework and Regulation*” is the only component of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, in which overall evaluation of entrepreneurs proved to be negative (Kea=-0.36). Indicators characterizing this component were grouped into four factors: 1.Regulation of the main stages of entrepreneurial activity; 2.Laws and normative acts, regulating entrepreneurship; 3.Judicial system; 4.Activity of state officials, involved in the regulation of entrepreneurship (fig. no. 13).

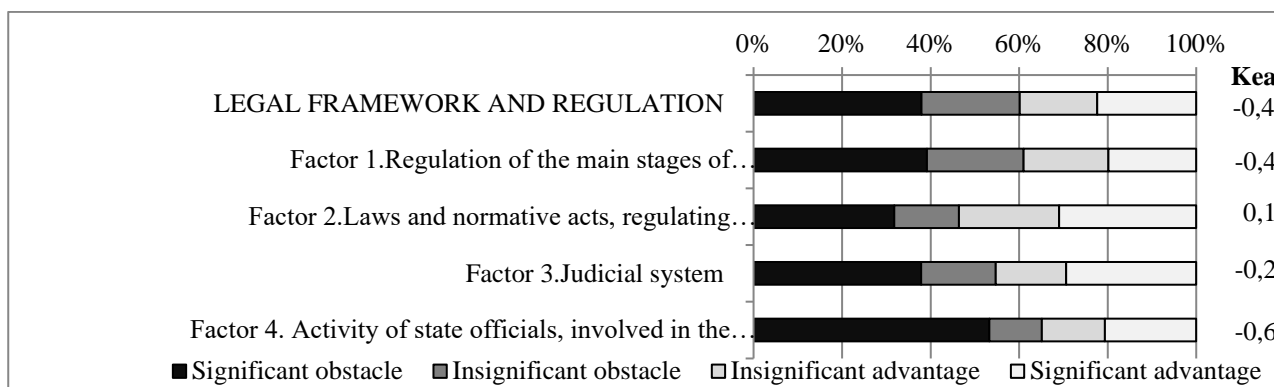


Fig. no. 13 Assessment of the impact of factors of the component „Legal Framework and Regulation” on the development of entrepreneurship
Source: own data

The analysis of the indicators of the respective component showed that so far it remains complex the procedure of liquidation of enterprises (negatively evaluated by 75.0% of entrepreneurs, $Kea=-0.92$); accounting and completion of reports (assessed negatively by 68.1% of entrepreneurs, $Kea=-0.60$); expenses, related to state control and inspections (negatively assessed by 75.3% of entrepreneurs, $Kea=-0.80$) within Factors 1 and 2. Significant obstacles for enterprises remain bureaucracy ($Kea=-1.31$), corruption ($Kea=-1.29$) and dependence of the business environment on the change of state officials ($Kea=-0.69$) (within Factor 4).

Among the procedures, which entrepreneurs face in the process of activity, the most positive were evaluated the process of Registration of enterprises (positively evaluated by 73.9% of entrepreneurs, $Kea=+0.74$) and access of entrepreneurs to legislation ($Kea=+0.37$).

Also, for this component of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, most entrepreneurs spoke about the deterioration of the situation over the past two years (fig. no. 14).

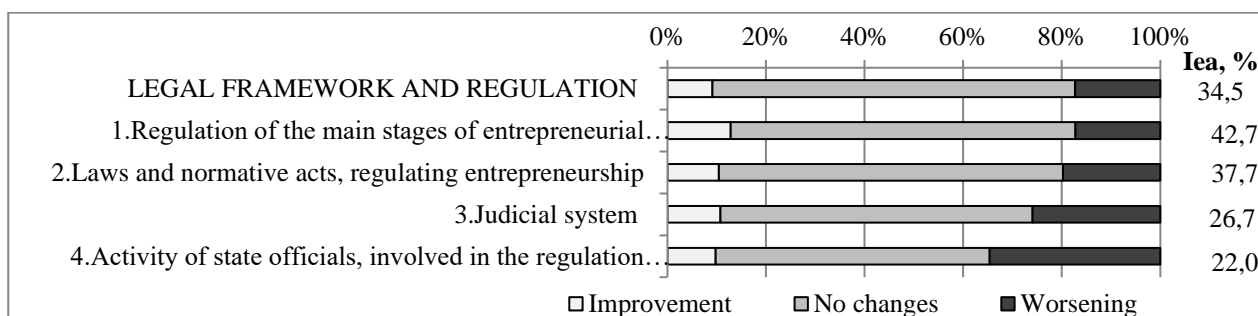


Fig. no. 14 Assessment of the change of factors of the component „Legal Framework and Regulation” over two last years
Source: own data

At the same time, only two indicators show a positive trend: „Registration of the enterprise” and “Entrepreneurs’ access to legislation”. For the rest of the indicators, the answers of the respondents indicate a significant deterioration of the situation.

Conclusions

The generalized results of the assessment of the seven components of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, as well as their changes over the past two years, revealed the following:

- As for all assessed components, there is a large share of entrepreneurs who face problems in the development of their business. Components such as „Infrastructure”, „Entrepreneurial Culture”, „Access to Finance”, and „Innovation” were rated relatively more favorably by entrepreneurs. The greatest problems for the development of entrepreneurship in Moldova are associated with such a component as the „Legal framework and regulation”.

- As for the trends in the components over the past two years, a relative improvement in the situation was noted only for three components: „Infrastructure”, „Access to finance” and „Innovation” (the perception index of the change of the entrepreneurial ecosystem for them is more than 50%). For the rest of the components, the share of negative assessments of the trend of change exceeds the share of positive assessments.

- Thus, the general state of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Republic of Moldova, according to the survey of entrepreneurs, is far from ideal. Entrepreneurs face significant challenges and problems from each of the components of the entrepreneurial ecosystem; many of these problems have only gotten worse in recent years.

- For the component „Access to Finance”, access to venture capital and access to finance on the securities market remain some of the issues for Moldovan enterprises.

- The importance of the problem, related to „Human Capital” for most entrepreneurs is associated with labor migration and population emigration, as well as low competence of graduates of educational institutions and the level of professional training of staff.

- As to the „Infrastructure” component, physical infrastructure needs improvements in the condition (quality) of roads. For support organizations it is important to develop services in order to overcome the problems of business insolvency.

- In order to accelerate the process of elaboration and implementation of innovations, it is necessary to pay attention to the process of obtaining the titles of protection of intellectual property objects and the stimulation by the state of the elaboration and implementation of innovations.

- The importance of the problem, related to the entrepreneurial culture for most entrepreneurs is associated with the negative attitude of entrepreneurs towards failure, bankruptcy and opportunities to overcome them and the attitude in society towards entrepreneurs, who have suffered a business failure/ bankruptcy. At the same time, a fairly large share of entrepreneurs notice the existence of a negative perception of society towards entrepreneurship, which is an obstacle in the development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

- „Markets” as a component of entrepreneurial infrastructure is characterized by such challenges for entrepreneurs, as low investment attractiveness of the Republic of Moldova in relation to neighboring countries; insufficient state guarantees for the protection of foreign investment, hindered access to state procurement.

- The worst marks of entrepreneurs were given to the indicators of the component „Legal Framework and Regulation”. Central public authorities need to continue to work to facilitate procedures such as liquidation of enterprises, accounting and completion of reports; state control and inspections. Also, the fight against corruption continues to be one of the important tasks of the current policy.

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