

EXPLORING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTIONS OF VETERINARY STUDENTS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CURRICULUM

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Introduction: There is limited literature on entrepreneurship in the veterinary field. Recent studies (Feakes et al., 2023) have revealed that although final-year veterinary medicine students demonstrate high levels of entrepreneurial intention, they have low confidence in their financial skills. The authors emphasise the need for in-depth research into these students' entrepreneurial intentions and the influence of individual and group factors. Such research could contribute significantly to optimising the curriculum content.

Aims: To address this gap in the literature, this study examined the entrepreneurial intentions of veterinary students in Romania, Croatia, Moldova, and North Macedonia. A comparative analysis was conducted by country and year of study.

Materials and Methods: A sociological survey based on a questionnaire was used as the research method. Data were collected in 2024 from veterinary medicine students of different nationalities enrolled in faculties in the aforementioned countries.

Results: Following an analysis of the data, significant differences in students' entrepreneurial intentions were found between countries. Students in the Republic of Moldova have the highest rate of entrepreneurial intention, followed by those in North Macedonia, Romania and Croatia. While there are considerable variations between countries, the year of study does not appear to have a significant influence on entrepreneurial intentions in any of the analysed countries. This suggests that the determinants of entrepreneurial intention are more likely to be individual or related to the socio-economic context.

Conclusion: The results of the study could be used as a valuable starting point for adapting educational programmes to encourage entrepreneurship among future veterinarians.

Keywords: entrepreneurship, veterinary students, intentions

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References:

1. Feakes, A., Lindsay, N., Palmer, E., & Petrovski, K. (2023). Business Intentions of Australian Veterinary Students—My Business or Yours? A Cluster Analysis. *Animals*, 13(7), 1225.