

# **Implementing a survey model for the investigation of graduates' entrepreneurship: the case of TEI of Thessaloniki**

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## **Abstract**

The promotion and the support of entrepreneurship are nowadays among the main priorities of governments and employment policy makers. The reason for this phenomenon is a noticeable recognition of the relationship between entrepreneurship and economic growth. Moreover, increasing self-employment rates tend to bring subsequent decreases in unemployment rates.

This work is based on the results and deductions drawn from the conduct of an institutional survey concerning graduates' self-employment issues. A questionnaire specially designed for this aim was designed and distributed to a randomly selected, unbiased large sample of university recent graduates. This sample corresponded to 30% of their total respective population over a time period of five consecutive years. Regarding the research methodology the use of telephone interviews was selected to graduates of 20 departments belonging to 5 faculties. In this paper we report on the analysis of the responses of nearly 200 self-employed graduates.

Several relevant parameters have been examined through statistical analysis, such as the enterprise type, the number of employees, the sources of initial finance, as well as the satisfaction from self-employment. The existing large differentiations of the entrepreneurial activities among the graduates of the various departments and faculties are also discussed. Moreover the impact of factors, such as gender, place of residence, marital status, type of secondary education, degree grades and eventual postgraduate studies is thoroughly examined with the use of appropriate analysis. Finally, conclusions drawn and further work, presently elaborated, are discussed and commented.

**Keywords: Self-employment, Entrepreneurship, Survey, University graduates**