THE DIFFERENCES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP BETWEEN POLAND AND SPAIN

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ABSTRACT

The main goal of the paper is to explore the situation of the business activity in Poland and Spain in recent years. Entrepreneurship is an important factor for economic growth and competitiveness. The changing socio-economic reality forces entrepreneurs to search for new solutions in order to maintain its position on the market. The implementation of new policies or programmes by local or national authorities also remains the key instrument to stabilize the business environment.

The methods of desk research analysis from the literature of the subject and data statistics were mainly used in this paper. The transformation of Polish economy in 1990s, then joining the European Union in 2004 allowed to increase the potential of this country, what has been significant for business opportunities. The growing activity was compared with the survivability and the frequency of suspensions of Polish business entities. Given that entrepreneurship in Poland has been developing faster over recent decades despite the shorter period of market economy, the authors attempt to indicate the factors of lower entrepreneurial activity in Spain. The results showed the great importance of non-economic matters like education or motivation together with economic ones that stimulate the business development.

Key words: Poland, Spain, entrepreneurship, business, development.

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1. Introduction

At the beginning, it is worth noting the meaning of entrepreneurship in the literature, as it has changed through centuries. While in the past entrepreneurial activity referred to economic aspect exclusively, it was later extended to human

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resources. The benchmarks that were shown in the literature of the subject could refer to psychological, economic or socio-cultural aspect. Even though the word "entrepreneurship" has been widely used since about two centuries, the interest in it has been observed for many more centuries (Zięba, 2016). Such phenomenon we could find in religious teaching in Judaism, where shaped attitudes towards obtaining money provided a basis for entrepreneurial activity as well (Fel, Zdun, 2020). Richard Cantillon, who is known as the first economic theorist, regarded an entrepreneur as an inseparable element of management, taking risks in uncertain conditions (Augustyńczyk, 2020). The theorist created new issues of growing wealthy through his observations. Although purchasing a product by merchants in order to sell it at a higher price had existed much earlier, Cantillon was the first to create so-called the arbitrage theory. It said that one of the sources of profit were prices differences for the same products between different markets (Piecuch, 2013).

One of the economy theorists in psychological reference was Joseph Schumpeter, who paid attention to internal factors having an impact on economic development. According to Schumpeter, an entrepreneurship is associated with creating "new combinations" of the factors of production (Kaliszczak, 2011). In that case, the attitudes showing entrepreneurship reflect in implementing innovative solutions that stimulate the economic growth. Apart from the exclusive profit maximization that was taken into account by the sciences of classical economics, the role of entrepreneurs was extended with initiatives and creativity (Jurczuk, Pysz, 2018). Brian Tracy (2021) analysing the entrepreneurial qualities directs an attention to unlimited human needs. He described an entrepreneur as a person who recognizes the possibilities to serve people someway through delivered goods or services, when they need it at cheaper prices than they are willing to pay. Such statement could be explained by economic science. Customers choose the best combination of goods that will let them feel the maximum utility with budget constraints (Begg et al., 2003).

The socio-cultural aspect of an entrepreneurship was described by Max Weber. In his theory, he based on the ideals of the Protestant faith and he invoked the argument that a successful entrepreneurship comes from the work cult, getting richer and savings (Korpysa, 2017). Despite doubts about Weber's theory, it was provided that the society and its culture are an integral part of entrepreneurial quality in a particular unit. Religion, common social norms, education or experiences may form the ways of entrepreneurial activity that are eventually reflected in progress and economic development (Zięba, 2016). The motivation for a business activity could also have an impact on entrepreneurial effort. Anna Lemańska-Majdzik (2013) distinguishes two motives for the entrepreneurial activity, where the first is voluntary and the another one is forced, which we could refer to losing current job and fears of unemployment.

After a brief literature review, we could state that an entrepreneurship is a set of skills and behaviours of particular unit that allow to use opportunities to develop its own initiatives in the way it generates desired results. Expanding such considerations, we could also mention the reaction to constant changes, evaluation and the management in the risk or satisfying personal and environmental needs.

Entrepreneurship has gone through many changes within last decades in both countries. Poland was under Soviet influence before economic transformation in late 1980s and early 1990s, when Poland became a market economy from a centrally planned economy. There was a time when the entrepreneurial activity was developed and Polish citizens learnt to run a business. The number of active businesses has been systematically decreasing and the structure has changed from state-owned to private companies since 1990s in Poland. In the case of Spain, the economy remained underperformed until 1950s, but the years 1960 Graph 1974 are described as outstanding. Between 1975 and 1985, there was a period of the transition to democracy and Spain caught up with developed countries until 2007 before the financial crisis in 2008-2009 (Prados de la Escosura, Sanchez-Alonso, 2020). After that, Spanish economy had a lower economic growth than Poland in recent years. That is why the implementation of a new approach is recommended in order to allow Spanish business environment to be developed at the European level, while the meaning of Polish entrepreneurship could still increase.

In order to have a better view at changes over last decade in both countries, the authors used graphs and tables.

2. The comparison of entrepreneurial activity in Poland and Spain

The entrepreneurial activity in Poland and Spain was measured with total business entities. The indicator was calculated per 10,000 population in the years 2002–2021. Later, the attention was paid to the share of new business entities and the dissolved ones in Poland and Spain in the years 2013–2021. The authors also analyzed the situation of the SME sector.

As we can see in the graph, Polish entrepreneurial activity per 10.000 population was on average almost 50% higher than Spanish in the years 2002–2021. It has been an upward tendency in entrepreneurial activity in Poland, while there have been fluctuations in Spain since 2002. The biggest increase in entrepreneurial activity in Poland was in 2021, when the number of business entities rose by 4.25% in comparison with the previous year. In 2020, the number of Polish business entities increased by 4.17% as compared to the previous year and it went up by 3.43% in 2019. However, an increase in business activity in Spain remains considerably lower than in Poland. The number of business entities declined by 1.1% in Spain in comparison with the previous year, whereas in 2020 it went up by 1.1%. In 2019 the number of enterprises increased by 0.8% in Spain as compared to 2018.

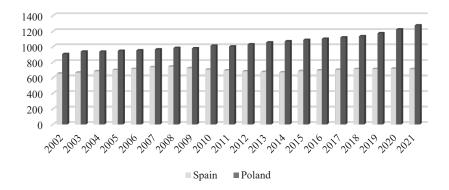


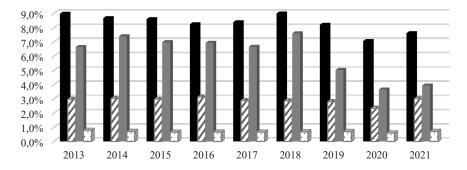
Figure 1. The number of business entities per 10,000 population in Poland and Spain between 2002 and 2021.

Sources: own study & own calculations, based on the data of BDL (Local Data Bank) and INE (Instituto Nacional de Estadística).

The main reason of such difference is low productivity growth and innovation that have characterized Spain over recent decades. Moreover, many studies show that judicial inefficacy, the regulatory form of taxation or limited access to credit and related liquidity constraints holds back the improvement of the entrepreneurial activity in Spain (García-Posada, Mora-Sanguinetti, 2014).

The SME sector accounts for 99.8% of all enterprises in Poland. The share of Polish microenterprises is 97%, small enterprises-2.2%, medium-0.6% and large-0.2% (PARP, 2022). The share of microenterprises also has a growing tendency in total business entities in Poland and amounted to almost 49% in 2021. The number of microenterprises was more than 2.35 million in 2021 in Poland and it increased by 4.2% in comparison with the previous year. The number of people employed in microenterprises in 2021 was about 4.45 million and there was an increase by 3.7% as compared to the previous year (GUS, 2022). It is worth noting that microenterprises play an important role in a local development. They are supplied with materials, sell their goods or services and use the local labour force as well. When business entities create new jobs, unemployment decreases, which allows to satisfy needs of the population and increase the local budget with revenues from taxes and fees (Bragiel, Dykiel, 2016). Such situation could be a chance to reduce socio-economic inequalities and increase competitiveness on the market. Looking at the history, when Poland became a market economy in 1990s, the main impulse to start a business was meeting basic needs of the society and lack of competition on the market. That is why 1990s are characterized by the most dynamic increase in business activity. As Polish economy started to grow systematically, it became necessary to search for competitive advantage and ways of adaptation to changing conditions (Pandel, Soloducho-Pelc, 2018).

Nowadays, we could claim that enterprises can satisfy almost all needs of Polish society with their goods and services, so it is more difficult to succeed and maintain their position on the market. Moreover, Polish economy has opened up to foreign markets, especially after the accession to the European Union in 2004, which enabled the exchange of knowledge, transfer of goods and services, finance or technology. The EU financial support assisted Polish enterprises, some unemployed people started running a business and companies have got research and development support (Czernecki et al., 2019).



- The share of new business entities in total in Poland
- ☐ The share of new business entities in total in Spain
- The share of business entities that were dissolved in total in Poland
- ☐ The share of business entities that were dissolved in total in Spain

Figure 2. The share of new business entities and the dissolved ones in Poland and Spain in the years 2013-2021.

Sources: own study & own calculations, based on the data of GUS (Statistics Poland) and INE (Instituto Nacional de Estadística).

As we can see in Figure 2, Polish society started their businesses about three times more often as compared to Spanish each year, whereas Spanish businesses were dissolved a few times less. The lower share of dissolved business entities in Spain could be explained by established position on the market. But regarding the lower share of new Spanish businesses in total, Polish entrepreneurs seem to be more confident in their ideas or ready to gain new experience.

The level of Spanish business entities that leave market is almost equal over the years and the average of dissolved businesses between 2013 and 2021 was about 22.2 thousand. From January to November 2022, 22,972 companies were dissolved in Spain, mainly in the province of Madrid, where 7,803 (almost 34%) companies were shut down. In the same period, 17,927 businesses were dissolved

voluntarily, whereas 2,731 as a result of a merge and 2,314 for other unspecified reasons (INE, 2022). At the end of 2022, Spain had a total of 2,931,108 PYMES (micro, small and medium-sized). They suffered a negative annual variation of 0.42%. It is worth noting that 54.71% of PYMES did not have employees. These companies employed almost 17 million people in 2022 and there was an increase of 2.5% as compared to the previous year (PYME, access: 2023). According to PARP (2022), about 6.8 million people were employed in the SME sector in Poland. It means that an employment in the Spanish SME sector was 2.5 times higher than Polish.

In addition, data provided by the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor can be used for entrepreneurship. This is an institution that studies the state of entrepreneurship in different economies. It lists the Entrepreneurial Framework Conditions (EFCs).

GEM data collection is coordinated centrally. GEM data experts work closely with country teams and survey providers to ensure the highest possible data quality. All surveys undergo a series of checks before data collection begins. The resulting data is checked multiple times before it is published. The opinions collected are well weighted for quality. The data collection mechanism driving the GEM survey consists of two complementary tools-the Adult Population Survey (APS) and the National Expert Survey (NES). The APS examines the role of the individual in the life cycle of the entrepreneurial process. The focus is not only on the characteristics of entrepreneurial activity, but also on people's motivation to start a business, actions taken to start and run a business, and attitudes related to entrepreneurship. The APS survey is conducted on a sample of at least 2,000 adults in each country, ensuring that it is representative of the sample collected. Some countries have much larger samples, providing insights at different levels, including regional and municipal levels. The core section of the APS has remained constant over the years, providing a valuable long-term perspective. However, there is a "Special Topic" section that changes every year and explores aspects of entrepreneurship not yet covered in the core APS. Country teams can also add questions to their survey to explore issues of special interest to their country.

GEM says entrepreneurial dynamics can be linked to conditions that enhance (or hinder) new business creation. It identifies nine factors that are considered to have a significant impact on entrepreneurship, known as entrepreneurial framework conditions (EFCs). Another method used by GEM is the National Expert Survey (NES). The purpose of the NES is to assess the status of EFCs in each economy at any given time. The survey is conducted on a minimum of 36 selected experts, who are asked to respond to a series of statements on a Likert scale, rating them from completely false to completely true. On this basis, it is possible to develop a set of Entrepreneurial Framework Condition EFC. Each is assigned a score so that it is possible to compare individual EFCs.

Table 1 shows the Entrepreneurship Framework Conditions (EFCs) for Poland and Spain in 2013, 2017 and 2021. Analysis of these conditions will allow a comparison of the different conditions for entrepreneurship development in the countries studied. EFCs are the nine conditions identified by GEM that enhance (or hinder) new business creation in a country and form the basis of the NES. These are nine factors that influence the development of entrepreneurship. The listed are: Entrepreneurial Finance. Governmental Entrepreneurial Education at School Stage, R&D Transfer, Commercial and Legal Infrastructure, Internal Market Dynamics, Internal Market Burdens or Entry Regulation, Physical Infrastructure, Cultural and Social Norms. These factors were assessed using the National Expert Survey (NES) method. In Tables 1 and 2 the EFCs for Poland and Spain in 2013, 2027 and 2021 are shown.

Table 1. Entrepreneurial Framework Conditions for Poland in years 2013, 2017, 2021

·	EFC in Poland							
EFC	2013	Point change between 2017 and 2013	2017	Point change between 2021 and 2017	2021	Point change between 2021 and 2013		
Financing For								
Entrepreneurs	5.38	-1.78	3.60	1.12	4.72	-0.66		
Governmental Support And								
Policies	4.33	0.17	4.50	-0.96	3.54	-0.79		
Taxes And Bureaucracy	3.45	-0.37	3.08	1.08	4.16	0.71		
Governmental Programs	4.42	-0.39	4.03	0.25	4.28	-0.14		
Basic School Entrepreneurial Education								
And Training	3.07	-0.59	2.48	-0.75	1.73	-1.34		
Post School Entrepreneurial Education And Training	3.97	0.53	4.50	-1.64	2.86	-1.11		
R&D Transfer	3.58	-0.06	3.52	-0.22	3.30	-0.28		
Commercial And Professional Infrastructure	4.95	-0.02	4.93	0.13	5.06	0.11		
Internal Market Dynamics	6.38	0.24	6.62	-0.27	6.35	-0.03		
Internal Market Openness	4.73	-0.25	4.48	-0.60	3.88	-0.85		
Physical And Services								
Infrastructure	6.07	0.83	6.90	-0.15	6.75	0.68		
Cultural And Social Norms	4.72	-0.19	4.53	-0.57	3.96	-0.76		
Average	4.59	-0.16	4.43	-0.22	4.22	-0.37		

Sources: own study, based on the data of GEM; https://www.gemconsortium.org/data/key-nes#

Analysing the data in Table 1, it can be seen that the average EFC score for Poland is getting progressively lower. The largest and most unfavourable changes have been recorded in Basic School Entrepreneurial Education And Training and

Post School Entrepreneurial Education And Training. The level of entrepreneurship education is rated progressively worse.

Table 2 shows the EFC for Spain in the same range as previously for Poland. The average EFC in Spain is getting higher every year. It increased from 3.96 in 2013 to 5.47 in 2021, with a very large increase in Post School Entrepreneurial Education And Training and Commercial And Professional Infrastructure. The rating for each of the listed EFCs in 2021 is higher than in 2013. In comparison, in Poland the rating for most EFCs in 2021 is lower than in 2011.

Table 2. Entrepreneurial Framework Conditions for Spain in years 2013, 2017, 2021

	EFC in Spain							
EFC	2013	Point change between 2017 and 2013	2017	Point change between 2021 and 2017	2021	Point change between 2021 and 2013		
Financing For								
Entrepreneurs	3.82	0.15	3.97	0.90	4.87	1.05		
Governmental Support And Policies	3.90	-0.10	3.80	1.61	5.41	1.51		
Taxes And Bureaucracy	3.35	-0.27	3.08	2.04	5.12	1.77		
Governmental Programs	5.08	-0.16	4.92	1.36	6.28	1.20		
Basic School Entrepreneurial Education	2.20	0.75	2.02	0.44	2.47	1.10		
And Training	2.28	0.75	3.03	0.44	3.47	1.19		
Post School Entrepreneurial Education And Training	3.75	0.90	4.65	1.41	6.06	2.31		
R&D Transfer	3.65	0.15	3.80	1.84	5.64	1.99		
Commercial And Professional Infrastructure	4.22	0.60	4.82	1.88	6.70	2.48		
Internal Market Dynamics	3.57	0.41	3.98	1.05	5.03	1.46		
Internal Market Openness	3.80	-0.17	3.63	1.41	5.04	1.24		
Physical And Services					-			
Infrastructure	6.52	-0.62	5.90	0.86	6.76	0.24		
Cultural And Social Norms	3.52	0.36	3.88	1.34	5.22	1.70		
Average	3.96	0.17	4.12	1.35	5.47	1.51		

Sources: own study, based on the data of GEM; https://www.gemconsortium.org/data/key-nes#

Based on a comparison of averages in Poland in 2011 and 2017, it was higher than in Spain. This changed in 2021. It can be concluded that the period 2017–2021 was very fruitful in terms of entrepreneurial development for Spain. In Poland, negative changes occurred throughout the period studied.

Data on entrepreneurial behavior and attitudes can be used to supplement the information contained in the EFC. The data is collected using the Adult Population

Survey (APS) method, which analyzes the characteristics, motivations and ambitions of start-ups, as well as social attitudes toward entrepreneurship. Data are presented for Poland and Spain in 2013, 2017 and 2021, with the following attitudes and behaviors assumed in the table: Perceived Opportunity, is the percentage of people aged 18–64 who perceive an opportunity to start a business where they live. Perceived capabilities indicate the percentage of people aged 18–64 who say they have the skills needed to start a business. Fear of failure, on the other hand, refers to the percentage of people aged 18 Graph 64 who, although they perceive an opportunity to start a business, do not do so through fear of failure.

Table 3. Entrepreneurial behavior and attitudes in Poland and Spain in years 2013, 2017, 2021

	Perceived opportunities		Perceived ca	apabilities	Fear of failiure rate		
	Poland	oland Spain		Spain	Poland	Spain	
2021	75.54	30.02	60.13	49.75	43.48	51.03	
2017	68.83	31.86	52.36	44.8	34.35	39.16	
2013	26.06	16.01	51.77	48.39	46.27	36.3	

Sources: own study, based on the data of GEM; https://www.gemconsortium.org/data/key-aps

As can be seen in Table 3, in every year examined, Poles rated the possibilities of the environment higher than Spaniards. Year after year, a higher percentage of people in Poland perceived good business opportunities. Also, in terms of their own opportunities in Poland they were rated higher than in Spain. Year after year, the percentage of people who said they had the skills to run their own business in Poland was higher and higher. In Spain, there was a decrease in this percentage in 2017, but in 2021 there was an increase. Fear of failure is at a similar level in both countries. In 2013, it was lower in Spain than in Poland, at 36.3%, while in Poland it was 46.27%. It then declined in Poland to rise again in 2021 to a level similar to that in 2013. In Spain in 2021 the level was higher. This indicates that the fear of failure, despite the perception of development opportunities in Spain, is higher.

3. Analysis of Polish entrepreneurial activity

As it has been mentioned before, the favourable economic growth in Poland in recent years could be reflected in higher tendency to start new businesses than in Spain. However, it is known that difficulties in running a business do not avoid other countries, including Poland. In order to evaluate the Polish entrepreneurial activity over recent years, the authors analyzed the number of business entities that started their activity, were closed down or suspended according to the REGON register. Then, the attention was directed to the survivability in the Polish SME sector within first year according to the data of PARP.

then detivity in the National Official Business Register [REGOT1] (in thous.).									
Specification	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Entered	365.5	357.4	360	349.3	361.1	392.7	370	329.1	368.3
Expunged	269.9	304.7	292.4	294	286.6	331.6	226.9	170.1	190.2
Suspended	N/A	270	331.6	331.6	330.9	382.8	448.3	510.3	558.7

Table 4. The number of Polish business entities that entered, expunged and suspended their activity in the National Official Business Register [REGON] (in thous.).

Source: own study based on the data of GUS "Zmiany strukturalne grup podmiotów gospodarki narodowej w rejestrze REGON" for years lata 2013–2021.

Table 5. The survivability of Polish entities in SME sector within first year of activity.

Specification	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
The number of							
new business entities	N/A	N/A	254 572	256 479	271 813	283 914	278 583
Those business							
entites running in the following							
year	N/A	N/A	c. 175 400	c. 179 279	180 123	191 818	199 173
The percentage							
of dissolved	260/	27/4	21.100/	21.100/	22.720/	22 440/	20 (00/
entites	c. 26%	N/A	c. 31.10%	c. 31.10%	33.73%	32.44%	30.60%

Source: own study, based on the data of PARP "Raport o stanie sektora MŚP w Polsce" (pl. "The report on the condition of the SME sector in Poland") for years: 2016–2021.

As we can see in Table 4, the number of Polish business entities that start their activity on the market remains stable. The largest number of new business entities was in 2018 and it reached 392.7 thousand. It means that there was an increase by about 8.75% as compared to 2017. Between 2019 and 2020, there was the biggest decline-by about 11%. It could be explained the COVID-19 outbreak that hampered the entrepreneurial development. In the following year, the number of business entities rose again and reached almost 12% as compared to 2020. On the other hand, the information from REGON shows the growing tendency in Polish businesses that leave market. The highest level of business entities that were shut down was in 2018 and it amounted to approximately 331.6 thousand. However, in the same year we could observe the largest number of new businesses. The similar situation appeared in 2021, when there was an increase in the number of new business entities with the rise of the ones closed. Then, it is worth looking at a phenomenon of suspended activity. The number of suspended business entities has had a growing tendency since 2014. In 2018, there was an increase by about 15.7% in comparison with the previous year. The biggest increase was in 2019, when it went up by 17.1% as compared to 2018. In the year 2020 in which the COVID-19 pandemic started, the number of suspended businesses rose by over 13.8% and it grew by almost 9.5% in 2021. The observed increase in the number of suspended business entities in Poland may indicate growing difficulties in entrepreneurial activity.

Later, the attention was paid to the survivability of Polish entities in the SME sector. As we can see in Table 5, about 30% of new Polish enterprises go out of market within a year. According to PARP (2021), 279,573 SME companies started their activity in 2019 and 193,173 were working in 2020. Thus, it is known that about 31% of established entities in Polish SME sector in 2019 did not survive within a year. It proves that the market with the environment relatively quickly verify the condition of enterprises and entrepreneur's management skills of business owners.

4. The reasons for lower entrepreneurial activity in Spain

Lower level of the entrepreneurship than in Poland and the European Union has become the object of interest for politicians and scientist to conduct research and analysis. The knowledge about the key points in a social and economic field could help to find solutions for the future strategies of the development. As it is known, the financial crisis in the years 2008-09 was particularly harmful to Spain, which led to economic slowdown. It is worth noting that GDP growth in Poland was 4.2% in 2008 and 2.8% in 2009, whereas it reached only 0.9% in 2008 and it decreased by 3.8% in 2009 in Spain (The World Bank, access: 2023). Such situation leads to growing disproportion in business and development opportunities between both countries. Despite an increase of self-employed population since 2011, it has been mainly an alternative to high unemployment (Romero-Martínez, Milone, 2016). That motive of entrepreneurship may deliver less added value due to limited possibilities to grow and lack of interest in creating new jobs. Another important obstacle is being afraid to fail, which is 9 points over Europe in Spain. It also depends on some factors like financial charges that people must to afford in the case of business failure and economic crisis. Education seems to be a key role in fears of failure. More educated people are less afraid than people without it, same for economic crisis. Besides, most people think that the country is not favorable for entrepreneurship (Romero-Martínez, Milone, 2016).

As it has been mentioned before, education is the key factor when it comes to growing productivity and competitiveness. Spain has been characterized by higher proportion of self-employed workers with low educational attainments with the result of 38.5% than the EU average with 20.1% (The European Commission, 2018). By contrast, only 1% of Polish entrepreneurs have a basic level of education (Kariera w finansach, access: 2022). Moreover, high number of different taxes with bureaucratic processes still hamper the creation of business opportunities despite serval implemented initiatives (Barrachina, 2022). If increased costs threaten financial stability of business entities, they can spend less money on innovation and their development afterwards. The attention is also paid to the cultural aspect. According to the European Commission (2018),

successful entrepreneurs have a good public perception less often than in other EU countries. On the other hand, the EC claim that the proportion of high-growth companies has performed above the EU average in the recent years. However, the negative attitude towards entrepreneurship could still discourage the realization of own initiatives and the growth of business activity in the market. That is why the implementation and promotion of entrepreneurship policy seems to be essential.

5. Discussion and conclusions

Spain is the fifth biggest economy in Europe and the fourth in the EU, while Poland is the ninth biggest economy in Europe and sixth in the EU (Statista, access: 2023). Both economies have grown rapidly as compared to the last century. As the entrepreneurial activity remains the key component that stimulates the socio-economic growth, the reduction of the barriers becomes essential as well. But the differences in business development between Spain and other European countries like Poland induce an attempt to compare the situation and complete the solutions in a changing reality.

Steadily growing economy has been conducive to the development of entrepreneurship in Poland for recent years. The number of set up businesses has increased each year. At the same time, about 30% of SME enterprises have existed less than a year, whereas 4–7% of total business entities have been dissolved each year since 2013. It is a natural process in market economies, where businesses cannot manage to maintain their activity, they disappear. However, the increasing number of suspended business entities over recent years demonstrate that Polish entrepreneurs have to deal with a considerable uncertainty about success of their businesses. That is why, the implementation of new facilities in order to stabilize the Polish business environment is recommended.

In the case of Spain, we could observe lower entrepreneurial activity and weaker tendency to start new businesses. The literature describes complex barriers including economic, social or psychological aspects. Spain has had a slower annual economic growth than Poland in recent years, which has increased the disparities. Moreover, the consequences of the economic-financial crisis in Spain directed more attention to the motive of forced entrepreneurship. It proves the need for creating new attitude that would encourage to take the more active initiatives of business. In Spain, a more proactive approach is necessary for entrepreneurship through policy, education or promotion towards the society. Such solution could result in active development of new or already existing business entities and increase the competitiveness of the economy.

Regarding the importance of discussed problem, further research seems to be necessary. Even though the situation changes in both countries, continuous analysis could be a chance to find the best from possible solutions and provide a favourable growth.

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