

# The influence of institutional context on women's entrepreneurship in the Baltics

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## **THE INFLUENCE OF INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT ON WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE BALTICS**

Sanita Rugina

1. Although the formal entrepreneurial environment is quite favourable in the Baltics, the informal post-transition context negatively impacts the development of female entrepreneurship (this dissertation).
2. One reason for the lower level of women entrepreneurs in the Baltics is gender stereotypes and gendered role expectations that influence women's intentions to pursue entrepreneurship (this dissertation).
3. Research texts on women's entrepreneurship from post-transition countries in Central and Eastern Europe reflect the traditionally gendered norms regarding women's role in society and women entrepreneurs (this dissertation).
4. Women entrepreneurs construct their identities drawing on a discourse in which womanhood is in conflict with entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship is seen as normatively masculine (this dissertation).
5. There are gender differences in entrepreneurial intentions among young adults in Latvia who do not have extensive entrepreneurial experience (this dissertation).
6. Despite 30 years of independence from Soviet power, the norms and standards from the Soviet period are still noticeable in the Baltic states.
7. Being liberated from a patriarchal family and the power of a father/husband, the Soviet socialist gender order of a "working mother" meant that women were supposed to work full-time and to do a "the double shift" in the household taking care of children and a husband (Zdravomyslova 2010).
8. Effective economic empowerment for women is when women enjoy the right to control, make decisions about and benefit from resources, assets, income, and their own time.
9. A transformation policy that disregards informal institutions will be incomplete and most probably be unsuccessful.
10. A change of the economic and political system can be introduced by a shock, but cognitive change requires time.
11. Research on entrepreneurship mostly uses quantitative, non-contextual methods limiting the in-depth understanding of the barriers to economic and social development.