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## **SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION**

### ***Comparative Analysis of the Organization and Management of Business Incubator Centers in the USA and Poland***

The main goal of this dissertation is the utilitarian goal of the development of operational and financial models of a business incubator reflecting the needs and reality of the global economy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The dissertation also includes a proposed model of cooperation between a business incubator center and a local university. The form and benefits of this kind of cooperation between the business incubator center and local university is being analyzed and discussed.

The first chapter of the dissertation is an introductory chapter providing some historical background and the rationale for selecting the research topic. The second chapter focuses on economic growth in modern economies. It contains a literature analysis of the methods for measuring economic growth and the factors stimulating economic growth. Chapter 3 consists of an analysis of innovativeness as a factor stimulating economic growth. The literature analysis describes innovativeness from the nurture and nature perspectives. It also describes how innovativeness can be influenced by the educational process. Chapter 4 consists of a theoretical analysis of the business incubator center as a hub for innovativeness. It includes a literature analysis related to creating an ecosystem to nurture innovativeness. This theoretical literature analysis also discusses a business incubator from the perspective of being a “teaching laboratory” and “learning factory” for local university. Chapter 5 consists of a theoretical analysis of the different methods of assessment used in the dissertation with an emphasis on the quantitative, qualitative and mix methods of assessment. Those mixed methods include SWOT and PEST analysis. The quantitative methods used in the dissertation were surveys of companies in the business incubator centers and surveys of faculty, students, and volunteers cooperating with the business incubator center. The qualitative methods of assessment were conducted through interviews with client

companies and personnel of the business incubator centers. Chapter 6 of the dissertation consists of a detailed description and comparative analysis of the organizational and operational models of the business incubator centers in Gliwice, Poland and Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Chapter 7 consists of the analysis of the original research data on the impact of CAN-BE (Hazleton, Pennsylvania) and TECHNOPARK (Gliwice, Poland) on the economic development of their regions. To measure the impact of the business incubator center on the economic development of the regions, a list of indicators was developed and divided into four categories (social, organizational, technical/scientific, and financial). In addition, the dissertation also includes an analysis of direct comparison between the impact of CAN-BE and TECHNOPARK on the economic development of Hazleton, Pennsylvania and Gliwice, Poland. Chapter 7 also includes the analysis of the original research data assessing the satisfaction of the client companies with the services that they receive at the business incubator centers, CAN-BE and TECHNOPARK. Chapter 8 consists of recommendations based on the analysis of the best practices at CAN-BE and TECHNOPARK. The recommendations include the proposal of an organizational and operational model of a business incubator center as well as a model of financing for a business incubator center. Chapter 8 also consists of a proposed model of cooperation between a business incubator center and a local university based on the best practices. The benefits of this cooperation from the perspectives of the local university and business incubator center are being discussed. Chapter 9 consists of the final conclusions. It also provides answers to the six research questions and confirms the three research hypotheses.

The research part of this dissertation provides the background for further research by filling in a research gap related to

1. the effectiveness of business incubator center on stimulating economic growth,
2. the benefits of cooperation of business incubator centers and local universities,
3. the cost effectiveness of conducting a business incubator center.

The research gaps were determined while conducting the theoretical research analysis.