

Diversity of Migrant Entrepreneurship in Varieties of European Capitalism

Sanja Tepavcevic

Diversity of Migrant Entrepreneurship in Varieties of European Capitalism

Post-Soviet Entrepreneurship in Austria, Spain
and Hungary

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To the memory of Dragan Tepavcevic; to Emma and Biljana

PREFACE

Being a fresh migrant meant being different from the majority. This was my first impression as a teenage migrant from collapsing Yugoslavia in Moscow in the 1990s. It was much harder for me to study compared to my local peers, because I had to start from scratch by learning the language and customs. Similarly, in the absence of stable employment and clear immigrant regulations in the turbulent post-Soviet labor market, my parents founded a small engineering company. The business secured our chances for regular income and legal and economic integration into the chaotic early post-Soviet community. As a student, I also worked part-time as a journalist and helped my parents with the administration of our family business. This constituted my first experience as an entrepreneur. Later on, when I moved to Hungary for my postgraduate studies, I founded another family business with my partner. This entrepreneurship allowed me to continue balancing my academic work with parenting.

As a newly minted PhD, female migrant, and mother, I faced challenges in finding a sustainable income in academia. This led to seeking stability through family entrepreneurship. I utilized my academic background in international and comparative political economy as a guide in my entrepreneurial endeavors as a researcher and consultant. Some results of these efforts were published in peer-review journals, and these publications served as valuable references for the present book. Among other positions, I also worked as a researcher for a Budapest-based entrepreneurship incubator, where I observed with disappointment that these disciplines were entirely unnoticed in courses offered to entrepreneurs. This short book highlights my combined academic and migrant entrepreneurial journey

through various economic and social systems in the European Union. It is also an attempt in building the theoretical and empirical bridges between studies in comparative political economy, entrepreneurship, and migrations. I hope that both scholars and entrepreneurs will benefit from this book.

Kőszeg, Hungary

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ABBREVIATIONS

CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CME	Coordinated Market Economy
DME	Investment Dependent Market Economy
EU	European Union
FSU	Former Soviet Union
LME	Liberal Market Economy
MME	Mediterranean or Mixed Market Economy
MNC	Multinational Corporation
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
VoC	Varieties of Capitalism
VoIR	Varieties of Immigration Regimes

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