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## **Business incubators: the impact of their support**

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# **Business Incubators: The Impact of Their Support**

**Negin Samaeemofrad**



# **BUSINESS INCUBATORS: THE IMPACT OF THEIR SUPPORT**

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*To my mother for her support  
throughout my entire academic career*





## **Preface**

In my opinion, conducting a PhD thesis is a unique journey for each candidate. During such a journey all candidates experience different unique moments. I started my journey with participation in an EU project in 2014 as an external PhD candidate at the Centre of Technology and Innovation Management (CETIM) in the Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science (LIACS).

The project was in the context of crisis management. I studied a multidisciplinary topic, viz. the intersection of innovation, technology management, and crisis management. However, due to a variety of circumstances, I had to change this topic after only two years and moved to the field of entrepreneurship.

Meanwhile, I collaborated with business incubators as a startup trainer. In this new position, I was always curious to investigate the impacts of the different supports on the performance of the NTBFs. Hence, I saw and felt the void of a measurement tool for evaluating the incubator's performance. Thus, the idea of my second PhD topic started from this gap and I have found it fascinating to address the incubators' problem in my research scientifically.

During the first three years of my research project, I received support from the international graduate school on Networks, Information Technology & Innovation Management (NITIM). During the summer schools in Trondheim, Bergamo, Milan, Munster, Northern Island, and Leiden, the NITIM committee provided great feedback and support.

*Negin Samaeemofrad, Leiden, June 17, 2021*



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## List of Abbreviations

The list below contains the abbreviations that are used in this thesis. Normal lexical abbreviations, such as, ‘e.g.’ and ‘i.e.’, are not listed. The same applies for the names of corporations, such as SAP.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>AC</b>        | Absorptive Capacity                     |
| <b>AI</b>        | Artificial Intelligence                 |
| <b>BI</b>        | Business Incubator                      |
| <b>BIC</b>       | Business Innovation Centre              |
| <b>CBI</b>       | Corporate Business Incubator            |
| <b>CV</b>        | Control Variable                        |
| <b>FTE</b>       | Full-Time Equivalent                    |
| <b>IBI</b>       | Independent Business Incubator          |
| <b>KBV</b>       | Knowledge-Based View                    |
| <b>KMO</b>       | Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin                      |
| <b>NGO</b>       | Non-Governmental Organization           |
| <b>NTBF</b>      | New Technology-Based Firm               |
| <b>NITIM</b>     | Network of IT and Innovation Management |
| <b>LT</b>        | Log Transformation                      |
| <b>OLT</b>       | Organizational Learning Theory          |
| <b>PCA</b>       | Principal Component Analysis            |
| <b>PFA</b>       | Principal Factor Analysis               |
| <b>PS</b>        | Problem Statement                       |
| <b>RBV</b>       | Resource-Based View                     |
| <b>R &amp; D</b> | Research and Development                |
| <b>RQ</b>        | Research Question                       |
| <b>SA</b>        | Supportive Activity                     |

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>SCT</b>  | Social Capital Theory                             |
| <b>SPSS</b> | Statistical Package for Social Science            |
| <b>UBI</b>  | University Business Incubator                     |
| <b>VC</b>   | Venture Capitalist                                |
| <b>VRIN</b> | Valuable, Rare, Inimitable, and Non-substitutable |
| <b>VIF</b>  | Variance Inflation Factor                         |

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## List of Definitions

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