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A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO STUDY AND ADDRESS THE GLOBAL ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF AUTISM

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Abstract

This paper includes several related parts: (1) An intellectual/normative framework that challenges the research and policy-making community to study and address the complex and poorly understood world of autism. (2A) A visualization or graphic road map of the relevant variables that comprise the autism realm: "The Autism Life Matrix." (2B) A longitudinal representation of "what" is involved (i.e., a guide for learning) and "how" to address autism challenges (i.e., a guide for doing or acting) for each stage of an individual's life-cycle. (3) A proposal to fund, regularly collect, analyze, and report quantitative and qualitative survey data from the United States and world-wide on specified parameters among those touched by autism through their family or vocation. (4) A description of the proposed development of an empirically based autism algorithm or equation using econometric analysis of survey data as well as case studies. (5) A plan to establish an international autism think tank or institute (as part of a consortium of universities reflecting an interdisciplinary orientation) to design, coordinate, carry out, and report research on the efficacy of various diagnostic and treatment modalities as well as study the individual and societal costs of autism over the life cycle, including case studies. This institution will maintain a museum, a library, and a repository or computerized data storage center of all of the world's data, research and reporting on autism as well as a world-wide registry of all those on the autism spectrum and their associated caregivers. It also will provide autism medical evaluation, treatment plans, and patient care as well as train doctors and nurses specializing in this area. It will maintain a web site, produce documentary/educational films and videos, and publish newsletters, curriculum guides, manuals, and specialized materials for educators, for those trained to serve the autistic community, and for the families of those with the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. It also will include a conference center that will host and broadcast periodic world-wide conferences, provide housing for those in residence, and feature a day-care facility with a professional staff. A brief account of the reality of living

with autism also is presented. (6) A summary of a proposal to design, research, write, publish, and distribute a medical school textbook on the autistic brain and its evaluation and treatment. (7) A plan to educate the general public around the world (through mass media such as film and television) so that society will embody a more compassionate understanding of autism and manifest a collective willingness to devote more resources to addressing the issues and needs of those in the autism community. (8) A brief summary of a separate, detailed proposal with a budget to obtain sufficient funding to implement all the steps needed to meet the goals and objectives of this comprehensive effort.

Economics of autism 2. Medical textbook mapping the autism brain 3. Repository of data

Topic Groups: policy, economics over the lifetime

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DOES EMPLOYABILITY MODERATE THE EFFECT OF WORK-RELATED STRESSORS ON SERVICE SABOTAGE BEHAVIORS? THE CASE OF HOTELS' FRONTLINE EMPLOYEES IN CAMEROON

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Abstract

As a result of work-related stressors and roles conflict, frontline employees find ways to leverage their burden by getting back at the organization. As a transferred aggression, frontline employees indulge in sabotage behaviors during service interactions. If frontline employees demonstrate such negative behaviors in the event of service dealings, the organization's image would be impaired and customers would be disappointed. However, employability could moderate the propensity to service sabotage. Actual data was retrieved from Cameroon, popularly known as "Africa in Miniature" and imputed on IBM SPSS 0.20, data analyses program. In consonant with the proposed hypotheses, the analyses revealed that frontline employees facing job insecurity and family-work conflict are apt to sabotage the service. But, this is not the case if their employability level is high. Implying, that human resource managers should pay attention to employees with high employability, since, today's employment situation is characterized by the salience of employability.

Keywords: Employability, Service Sabotage, Job Insecurity, Family-Work Conflict, Frontline Employees, Cameroon.

Topic Groups: Organizational Behavior, Human Resource Management and Career Development, Managerial and Organizational Cognition and Psychology

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PAPER

THE TECHNOLOGICAL CONVERGENCE IN SOUTH KOREA: FOCUSING ON THE GOVERNMENTAL BASIC R&D PROJECTS

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Abstract

The basic research has low economic feasibility in the short term, but it has critical value as fundamental research. As the complexity of science and technology has increased steadily, the convergence between different areas has become one of the major issues in academia, industry, or public administration. This study focused on the basic research and the scientific output in the view of convergence. This research utilized the Korean governmental R&D project data and empirically identifies the relationship between the technologies based on the concept of the convergence. The network analysis was used as an analysis tool. The degreeand betweenness centralities are the main indicators for the measures of a role of local centrality and a technological intermediary role. The results of the study showed the core technologies and the difference in the input and the output.

Keywords: convergence, R&D, government, technology

Topic Groups: Technology and innovation management, Research methods, Social sciences and business

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PAPER

CONSUMER INFLUENCES INTO WEATHER APPS USAGE ON SMARTPHONES: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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Abstract

Prior to the IT revolution, weather information was typical broadcast through non-electronic and electronic media. However, through the advent of technology, populations are now able to receive routine weather information through media other than the traditional sources of television and radio. These media channels include various forms of computing devices, such as personal computers, laptops, tablets, phablets and smartphones. In view of the growth, the ever-increasing penetration and adoption of smartphones, coupled with the mobility of societal lifestyle patterns, the 'smartphone' would seem to be well suited as a device for consumer acceptance of weather information by means of weather apps.

As part of a larger study into the acceptance, trust and value of weather apps by smartphone users, a number of key consumer-based insights are illustrated within this paper. These insights may have implications for both marketers of smartphones and developers of weather apps.

Keywords: Location Based Services, weather apps, usage, smartphones, consumers.

Topic Groups: Marketing and consumer behavior.

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PAPER

FINDING SYNERGY IN FASHION APPAREL DECESION-MAKING CONSTRUCTS: A GENERATION Y COHORT ANALYSIS IN AN EMERGING MARKET

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Abstract

This paper investigates the relationship between quality consciousness, product novelty, fashion consciousness, brand consciousness and brand loyalty in the purchase of fashion apparel within the Generation Y age cohort. A quantitative approach using the cross sectional survey design technique was used in which a six-section questionnaire was administered to a randomly selected sample consisting of 254 Generation Y individuals drawn a South African university of technology. Hypotheses were tested using a combination of non-parametric Spearman's correlation analysis and multiple regression analysis. The results indicate that quality consciousness, product novelty and fashion consciousness were positively related to and predicted brand consciousness. In turn, brand consciousness was positively related to and predicted brand loyalty. The study provides important implications for fashion apparel retailers and marketers regarding continuous need to give emphasis to factors such as product quality, product novelty and branding of fashion apparel in order to generate greater opportunities for sales amongst the Generation Y cohort of consumers.

Keywords: Quality consciousness, product novelty, fashion consciousness, brand consciousness and brand loyalty, Generation Y

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PAPER

BASICS PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD ECONOMY AND THE MOMTCHIL DOBREV'S "THEORY OF THE DEGREE OF TRUST" - THE BASIC PARADIGM IN THE HUMAN SOCIETY

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Abstracts

The theory of truth developed and published 2014 in a book by Lord Prof. PhD Momtchil Dobrev on the ground of his observations of many years on the society, market and formed respectively in theory and laws and practices to be applied in the contemporary life of every society, company or individuals, acting in the human society.

The theory give every human being, society, company and individuals concrete decisions to reach a better competitive power on the market in the globalization.

Keywords: Degree of truth, Human society

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THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE "MOMTCHIL DOBREV'S THEORDY OF DEGREE OF TRUST" AND "MOMTCHIL DOBREV; S LAW OF PROMOTION WITH PRIZE FUND" – THE MOST SUCCESFUL STRATEGY IN THE MARKETING BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

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Abstracts

Each company has to reopen different new methods and means in order to maintain high degree of competitive power on the market in the period of today economic crisis. The described and developed method and procedure by the author give every company concrete decisions to reach a better competitive power on the market in the globalization and mostly in the today economic worldwide crisis. The described below methodsand procedures was developed by the author 1993 as a president of consulting company "D&M Dobrev Consulting House" [10] for analysis, tradings..

Keywords: Degree of trust, Innovation, Europa and World Economy

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THE MODEL OF THE POLITICAL MAFIA IN EUROPA – RISK FOR EUROPA IN IT'S ECONOMY AND BUSINESS BASED ON MOMTCHIL DOBREV 'S "THEORY OF THE MAFIA" AND THE MOMTCHIL DOBREV 'S " DEGREE OF TRUST"

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Abstract

The developed by Lord Prof. PhD P\hD Momtchil Dobrev "Theory of corruption" and "Theory of the mafia" and its appearances – unstability factor in the social systems. In the paper is described the developed from Prof. Moomtchil Dobrev theory of mafia and developed Political model of the mafia.

Keywords: Political mode; of mafia, Theory of the Mafia ,Society.

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PAPER

VALUE CAPTURE AND APPROPRIATION: THE CONSTRUCT AND ITS OPERATIONALIZATION

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Abstract

There is no agreement in understanding and defining the value creation and appropriation mechanisms. Moreover, the construct is often analysed in isolation, without looking at its antecedents and outcomes. At the same time, literature calls for researching motives and possibilities of value capturing mechanisms, and particularly for extending the research models with entrepreneurial processes (Fischer 2011), contextual factors and performance (James, et. al. 2013). This paper seeks to address the cognitive gap by focusing on the need of analysing the relations between entrepreneurship as the source of value, value creation and appropriation mechanisms, linking them with organization's results. First, theoretical underpinnings of the value creation and value appropriation processes are presented. Then, basing on the literature review, we offer a list of action-based VCA issues, and provide a proposition of the measurement scale. Some implications for future research concerning the VCA are given, and the model is offered.

Keywords: Value creation, value appropriation, entrepreneurship, performance, questionnaire

Topic Groups: Business strategy, entrepreneurship, research methods

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PAPER

A MATHEMATICAL PROGRAMMING BASED APPROACH FOR OPTIMIZATION OF SYSTEMS WITH CATEGORICAL VARIABLES

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Abstract

Many of engineering, industrial, and service systems have multiple outputs, sometimes called responses. In multiple response optimizations, the aim is to select the best combination of factors considering all characteristics of the outputs. In this study, the existing methods of analysis and modeling such problems are reviewed, and a mathematical programming-based approach will be presented for optimization of systems with categorical variables. It is also assumed that both design factors and output characteristics are measurable in a categorical way. In order to describe the computational structure of the proposed method, a real case study on a welding process has been analyzed.

Keywords: response surface methodology; categorical variables; logit model; mathematical programming

Topic Groups: Industrial organization, Production and operations management

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PAPER

FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH CASE OF ALBANIA

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Abstract

Recent years have seen worldwide interest in fiscal decentralization. Developed countries are reshaping their intergovernmental fiscal structure to be more in tune with the realities of the "post - welfare state". In many countries (mainly in those centralized) Central Governments regardless of the number of reforms and expenses, have failed in providing quality services and sustainable for the improvement of living standards for their citizens, because they are far from needs and problems faced by citizens every day. There are many empirical studies that analyze the relationship between fiscal decentralization and economic growth. According to the argument by Oates (1993) and Bird (1993), there are studies that show a positive effect of fiscal decentralization on economic growth. However, although most of theoretical literature discusses the potential positive effect of decentralization, there are empirical studies which don't report any significant relationship between these variables.

This paper is a literature review and has on focus to determine what effect has had the reform of fiscal decentralization on economic growth in case of Albania. It will serve as the contribution on fiscal decentralization topic, same as for academics, as well as for local governments units in our country.

Keywords: fiscal decentralization, economic growth, local government units, Albania

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PAPER

INNOVATION MANAGEMENT AT UNIVERSITIES OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT

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Abstract

It is an understatement to note that the world has changed radically over the past decade. This is evident in the development of a multitude of new technologies, including new product development and the massive expansion of Information Communication Technology (ICT). Organisations that are innovative in their product and service offerings are the ones' that prosper and grow. Innovation has thus become a major part of organisational success. The notion of innovation and Innovation Management is just as important for universities that need to supply the so called 'knowledge workers' to business and industry. As Universities of Technology (UoT's) in the South African context focus on vocational and professional development they are perhaps more geared towards innovation than classical universities. The aim of this paper is to propose a seven step model to assist UoTs in implementing Innovation Management.

Keywords: Innovation Management, Universities of Technology (UoT's), South Africa

Topic Groups: Technology and Innovation Management

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PAPER

SELECTED ASPECTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN POLAND AGAINST THE INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

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Abstract

The paper addresses the issue of the development of entrepreneurship in Poland against the international trends. The discussion presented in the first part deals with the characteristics of entrepreneurship in the light of literature on the subject. The second part of the paper includes assessment of the directions of the development of Polish enterprises. The third part of the paper presents analysis and assessment of entrepreneurship in Poland against EU countries. The last part of the paper presents survey results in the area of barriers to the development of entrepreneurship in Poland against barriers occurring in the world's 20 richest countries. The aim of the paper is to identify and assess parameters of the development of entrepreneurship in Poland against the international trends. The research methods used to achieve this aim are literature studies, descriptive analysis based on data from the Central Statistical Office of

Poland, SBA spreadsheets and reports from Ernst & Young. The study period covers the years 2008-2013. The issues of the development of entrepreneurship in Poland are important and topical due to their impact on economic processes in the EU.

Keywords: entrepreneurship, development indicators, barriers to the development, management.

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PAPER

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE: A TOBIT MODEL APPROACH TO MONETIZE URBAN TRAVEL TIME

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Abstract

Swift, urgent and efficient are what best describe the solution that we have to come up with in order to manage the economic situation. In order to find the answer, we have to be mindful of the economic crisis embodied in the decayed sector of transportation which is one of the pillars of a country's development.

This study aims at monetizing the benefits of barrier-free transportation in society. This could be used by the State and by local authorities to add the "time-value" through politicoeconomic evaluation of transportation. The use of a stated-preference method for this study is justified by a systematic literature review of methods employed for non-market valuation.

Then, stated-preference methods using focus groups show the needs and expectations to save time in traffic. To define urban transportation in the city of Sfax in Tunisia, many questions have been raised. These questionnaires, along with a prescription of the study's procurement and the answers processing, should allow us to form an idea about the willingness of the roadusers to fight congestion and reducing the wasted time during daily trips. A pilot experiment has been realized to test the relevance of attributes and their levels.

This research is based on the notion of Willingness to Pay (WTP) defined as the price an individual is willing to pay to reduce congestion. Conducted On a sample of 457 drivers who move within the city of Sfax, this study applies the WTP concept in the context of duration analysis. This is followed by a descriptive and econometric analysis of the WTP using the Tobit Approach. This study has the objective of emphasizing the variables influencing the average duration, the choice and decisions made by drivers.

Keyword: willingness to pay, value-time, transport policy, stated-preference method

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PAPER

EXPLORING THE SATISFACTION OF EMPLOYEES IN THE FREIGHT LOGISTICS INDUSTRY

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Abstract

This study developed and tested a conceptual framework that linked job satisfaction to satisfaction to employee-supervisor relationships, task allocation, employment conditions and pay. A questionnaire partitioned into six sections was administered to 247 employees drawn from freight logistics companies located in Gauteng Province, South Africa. Hypotheses were tested using regression analysis. All four factors were statistically significant, which qualifies them as predictors of job satisfaction in a freight logistics environments. The findings of the study provide managers in freight logistics companies with information that may be used to develop strategies for enhancing job satisfaction among employees.

Keywords: Employee-supervisor relationships, task allocation, employment conditions, pay, job satisfaction, freight logistics

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PAPER

BUSINESS AND CREATIVITY: CREATION OF POSSIBLE WORLDS

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Abstract

An attempt to give an overview of the present condition in the world of business can be subsumed in the following succinct statement: we are in transition. We are living in the twenty-first century but still operate in organizations designed according to outdated ideas; based on schemes and models from a different time and different challenges. To illustrate, let us take a quick detour into the world of physics. In the seventieth century Isaac Newton compared the functioning of the world to a giant machine that could only be understood if taken apart into smaller parts. If we want to understand the principles of how a company operates, we should do the following: extract the business functions, meticulously analyze them and reassemble them into a business model. Believing nothing was lost in the process, we assume a foreign model can be adopted. Yet, with Newtonian logic we lose the basic cohesive - relationship - and disappointment is imminent. To present this problem metaphorically, If you understand "one" you think you also understand "two", as "one plus one is two". But you must also understand the "plus". This plus is taken seriously by quantum physics that focuses on the invisible. The analogy with business management is clear: successful companies distinguish themselves from the rest in that they incorporate invisible secrets in their design of vision, values, and organizational culture of which nothing can be transferred. Social environment is too complex and requires much more creative management, and as such, simply copying foreign successful models just does not work.

Keywords: creativity, possible worlds, business environment, possibilities

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PAPER

INSTITUTIONAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL VIEWS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP: THEORETICAL STUDY OF THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP CONCEPT

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Abstract

This article represents a theoretical study of the entrepreneurship concept from the three interconnected perspectives. This is a theoretical paper without empirical analysis. However, the three perspectives of entrepreneurship are thoroughly analysed in order to clarify the notion of entrepreneurship. The first perspective – the institutional perspective of entrepreneurship – represents the legal frame of the entrepreneurship concept. The second perspective considered in the paper is the social framework of entrepreneurship. Social institutions, entrepreneurs' behaviour, informal networks and communities of entrepreneurs are considered. The third considered perspective is the cultural perspective of entrepreneurship. Aspects of an entrepreneur's culture, national and cross-national culture are considered for a fuller understanding of the studied concept. An interrelated nature of the three studied concepts points at the necessity to consider entrepreneurship as a multi-sided phenomenon. The theoretical conceptualisation is supplemented by the conclusions and discussion.

Keywords: culture; entrepreneur; entrepreneurship; entrepreneurship institutions; society

Topic Group: Entrepreneurship

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PAPER

BIG DATA - A NEW VALUE FOR ORGANIZATIONS

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Abstract

The research objective for this study is to investigate some values and benefits that Big Data may offer for an organization. Firstly, the issue of Big Data is identified. Then, Big Data application areas are presented. Finally, the most important techniques for analyzing Big Data are discussed. The study was based mainly on a critical analysis of literature, creative thinking, and an interpretive philosophy. The results of this research can be used by IT, business leaders, and policy makers as they plan and develop Big Data applications in their organizations. The paper provides valuable information on the chances and the possibilities of Big Data applying in organizations.

Keywords: Big Data, Business Intelligence, analyzing Big Data, organization, value

Topic Groups: Organizational information and communication systems, Technology and innovation management

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PAPER

TO THE SELECTED MISLEADING COMMERCIAL PRACTICES ACCORDING TO THE BLACK LIST OF THE DIRECTIVE NO. 2005/29/EC

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Abstract

Misleading commercial practices mean distinctive danger for proper commercial choice of the consumer, because they can force the consumer to make such an economic decision which he would have never done if there was no misleading practice. Unfair business practices are regulated **at level of the European union** by the Directive of the European Parliament and Council 2005/29/EC. The prohibition of application of misleading commercial practices is regulated **in national legal orders of the member states** of the European Union in law against the unfair competition, in special legal regulation regulating (forbidding) unfair commercial practices or in general codes protecting consumers. The subject of this contribution is a more detailed casuistic description of partial actions marked as misleading commercial practices described in so called Black list of unfair commercial practices (Annex to the Directive 2005/29), namely ten from those which are most frequently practiced in practice.

Keywords: misleading commercial practices, consumer protection, Black list of unfair commercial practices, regulation

Topic Groups: Law and business, Marketing and consumer behavior

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¹ This contribution arose during the solution of research within the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic "The influence of the law of the European Union on the Czech regulation of unfair competition and unfair business practices", No. GA14-20147S.

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PAPER

THE LEGAL NATURE OF BANKING CONTRACTS

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Abstract

Banking contracts have significant similarities with other contracts. A part of them have their origin from roman law contracts. For these reasons, the definition of their legal nature has continuously been an object of doctrinal debate and judicial practice. This article analizes the legal nature of banking deposit, credit lines, overdrafts, bank rebates and safe-deposit box. However, the bank practicealso recognizes other contracts, this paper is confined only in banking contract that are prescribed in the Civil Code. In my view, even if debates over this topic continue, we have not to do with traditional contracts such as loan, lease or deposit ones, but with special contracts that present obvious distinctions from them.

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THE INFLUENCE OF SELF-EFFICACY ON FUNCTIONAL FOOD CONSUMPTION BEHAVIOUR AMONG MALAYSIAN CONSUMERS

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Abstract

In social cognitive theory, self-efficacy has emerged as an important factor in behavioral change. Thus, this study aimed to investigate the influence of self-efficacy on the consumption behavior of functional food product among adults' consumers. A survey was conducted in Malaysia with the sample of 452 respondents by using the self-administered questionnaire. The results showed that self-efficacy positively influences the consumers to

consume functional food. Despite the positive relationships, the explanatory power of self-efficacy to predict functional food consumption behavior was low. This indicated that there are other variables were also important in predicting functional food consumption behavior that need to be addressed in future research. The results from this study would be valuable for the marketers in the healthy food industry to formulate effective marketing communication strategies in order to facilitate favorable attitudinal change towards healthy food.

Keyword: Functional food, Self-efficacy, Consumption behaviour, Malaysia

Topic Group: Marketing and consumer behavior

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PAPER

COMPLIANCE ACHIEVEMENT AND ASSURANCE OF PROCESSES AND SERVICES IN A DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract

Compliance achievement and assurance of processes and services with regulations, standards, and business requirements become a complex task in the permanently and increasingly changing environment. It should be resolved already in the stage of information systems' design and implementation. This paper introduces new concept of continual compliance management in dynamic service oriented architectures that reflects the most recent achievements in the field of information and communication systems. A system, process or a particular service is considered to be reliable and credible only if we are able to prove its compliance with the defined requirements in a trusted way. If the particular business process or business service is supported with an IT system, then the compliance assurance relates also to these supporting systems. This paper presents a methodology filling the gap between the potential of latest technologies implementation and business strategy development.

Keywords: Compliance Algorithm, Risk Assessment, Control, Business Process Management, Business Rules Management, Key Assurance Indicator (KAI)

Topic Group: Organizational information and communication systems

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PAPER

SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF VIRTUAL TEAMS

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Abstract

The number of virtual teams has been increasing as work is no longer as dependent on physical location as it used to be. In virtual teams people communicate mostly by use of electronic communication tools. This sets challenges for building social relationships between coworkers. The goal of this article is to analyze social relationships between the members of virtual teams. The study data was collected from 10 different virtual teams and the main data gathering method was the thematic interview. A questionnaire collected secondary data. The results show that a virtual working environment decreases informal personal communication and communication between team members as discussion is mainly work related, which affects social relationships between co-workers. Social relationships between virtual coworkers are mainly work-related relationships but it was found possible to build close relationships and even friendships. Furthermore, the depth of those social relationships affects virtual team members' communication and work.

Keywords: social relationships, virtual team, electronic communication

Topic group: organisational behaviour, Organizational information and communication systems, Human resource management

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PAPER

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF WATER SECTOR IN ALBANIA

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Abstract

58 utilities that provide water supply and sewerage service are currently operating in Albania (DPUK, 2014). Each of them reports every three months to the General Directorate of Water Supply and Sewerage System (DPUK) the aggregated data related to financial, operational and organizational indicators. On the basis of the ongoing performance of these parameters, Water Supply JSC benefit subventions from the state budget, mostly to cover the high energy bills or depreciation cost. Also, high operational costs as a main determinant in the ability of the utilities to get a bank loan and the numerous uncollected water bills make it difficult for them to overcome financial problems.

This paper is using the annual aggregated data of 2013 and the first half of 2014, for the 58 utilities that operate in the water sector, to make an analysis of the performance indicators and to identify the cost structure. As a result, they have had financial losses at the end of the fiscal year, which have led to lack of competitiveness in the market, providing unlimited service drinking water and sanitation for all population.

Keywords: water supply, cost analysis, optimal funds, uncollected water bills, operational costs

Topic Groups: Business strategy, Microeconomics, Organizations and financing.