

How interested are the students from the Public Administration bachelor program in studying social entrepreneurship and social enterprises? Insights from the Bucharest University of Economic Studies

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Abstract: The aim of the paper is to evaluate the level of students interest from Public Administration bachelor program within the Bucharest University Economic Studies regarding the study of social entrepreneurship and social enterprises. The interest shown by the students from the last three graduations cohorts in studying the subjects is measured from several points of view: the degree of involvement in the development of extracurricular practical applications in the social area, the results obtained in the knowledge evaluation and the feedback from the students. In the 2022-2023 academic year, a questionnaire-based survey was conducted among students, which reflected their degree of involvement in the field of social entrepreneurship and social enterprises. The aim of the study was to measure the predilection to study about social enterprises, to understand the mechanisms of operation and financing social enterprises and to assume the consideration of social aspects in their own activity, in the family, in society, at the workplace and in general in the Romanian administrative system, by virtue of their future occupation as civil servants. The degree of involvement of Romanian public administration is known to be quite modest in terms of solving certain social problems that prove to be complex for local communities, part of the reasons referring to the lack of specialists. In this context, the paper wants to argue the usefulness of studying social entrepreneurship and social enterprises from the perspective of the real opportunities they offer for solving unsatisfied social needs. In fact, how necessary, relevant and important is for a future public official to know the operation mechanisms of social enterprises and to use them in the formulation of proper social policies capable of adequately responding to unsatisfied social needs from the community?