



Thema für Bachelor- oder Masterarbeiten

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<i>Thema</i>	External enablers of sustainable new ventures

<i>Bevorzugte Arbeit</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bachelorarbeit
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Masterarbeit

Eingabe gültig bis Expressions of interest for this thesis are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Applications can be submitted until 30 April 2024.

External enablers of sustainable new ventures

Sustainable entrepreneurship is considered as an important mechanism for contributing to a reduction of environmental and societal problems (Belz & Binder, 2017; Cohen & Winn, 2007). So far, research on sustainable entrepreneurship has focused on the background and motivation of the founder and the process of setting up a sustainable new firm (Muñoz & Cohen, 2018). Also, there is some research on the barriers to sustainable entrepreneurship (Hoogendoorn et al., 2019; Kirchherr et al., 2018) while only few research has taken the opposite perspective of analyzing what external factors have *enabled* the (successful) formation of such new firms.

Recently, scholars have proposed the external enabler framework as a concept to systematize and analyze the changes in the external conditions that create ‘opportunities’ for the creation of new ventures. Such changes can be technological, demographic, regulatory or be related to the natural environment (Davidsson et al., 2020; Kimjeon & Davidsson, 2022). There are different mechanisms how new ventures can benefit from such changes.

A related stream of literature looks at the entrepreneurial ecosystem and its implications for new venture formation (Volkman et al., 2021).

This thesis is supposed to focus on the *external* factors that have enabled the formation of (existing) sustainable ventures. By doing so, the aim is to better understand what conditions are important for the creation of such ventures as well as contributing to a better understanding of what might need to change for fostering sustainable entrepreneurship, in general.

Against this background, this thesis should answer the following research questions:

Suggested research questions:

- What are the external factors that enable sustainable startups?
- How do sustainable startups profit from these external enablers?
- What should be done from a policy perspective to create better conditions for sustainable startups?

Approach:

- Structured literature review in academic journals
- Interviews with sustainable / circular economy startups.
- Analysis and discussion of the findings; conceptualization.

Bibliography:

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- Kimjeon, J., & Davidsson, P. (2022). External Enablers of Entrepreneurship: A Review and Agenda for Accumulation of Strategically Actionable Knowledge. *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, 46(3), 643–687. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10422587211010673>
- Kirchherr, J., Piscicelli, L., Bour, R., Kostense-Smit, E., Muller, J., Huibrechtse-Truijens, A., & Hekkert, M. (2018). Barriers to the Circular Economy: Evidence From the European Union (EU). *Ecological Economics*, 150, 264–272. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2018.04.028>
- Muñoz, P., & Cohen, B. (2018). Sustainable Entrepreneurship Research: Taking Stock and looking ahead. *Business Strategy and the Environment*, 27(3), 300–322. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.2000>
- Volkman, C., Fichter, K., Klofsten, M., & Audretsch, D. B. (2021). Sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystems: an emerging field of research. *Small Business Economics*, 56(3), 1047–1055. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11187-019-00253-7>

Further remarks:

This thesis has a clear academic orientation. Applications should have a strong interest in entrepreneurship research and not only in entrepreneurship as a phenomenon.

The thesis can be written in German or in English and should ideally be submitted until the end of 2024.

If interested, please send an email to heiko.bergmann@unisg.ch including your resume, recent grade transcript, and a rough timeline when you intend to write the thesis.