

Apolline Reyniers

Social Entrepreneurship in China

Modern face of a new challenge

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Graduation thesis submitted to
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School: School of Economics and Management
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Major: Enterprise Management
Candidate: Apolline Reyniers
Supervisor: ZHANG MAOLIN

ABSTRACT

Social entrepreneurship in China, opportunities and challenges

Reason of the study

During my researches and in order to find an interesting subject, I have been to a lot of networking events here in Shanghai to understand current challenges faced by the young generation. I understood that there are a lot of entrepreneurs in Shanghai, and that there is a special energy, regarding the past and the influence of communism, to create companies and to do business. I guess this is maybe particular to Shanghai, which is more open to commerce than other cities. Since the Cultural Revolution and the opening of the city thirty years ago, Shanghai is definitely a city of business. Plenty of projects are starting everyday. So I was first interested in writing about entrepreneurship in China, but I had to focus my subject on a more precise part. So after participating in some social events, I decided to focus my study on this particular part of entrepreneurship.

Question that the thesis suggests

The question that my thesis tries to answer is then:

What is social entrepreneurship in China, what forms does it take and what are possible challenges and opportunities?

Method

My method has been both to read research articles and to go to events and drinks to understand actual challenges of entrepreneurs in China, and to understand the real face of social entrepreneurship in China today. What is it exactly? Does it take the same form as in Europe? What challenges are they facing? Why and how do they deal with it?

Results of my studies

With the influence of communism, China has not been open to new businesses that the government would not be able to control. During many years, doing business in China was only state control with no liberty of acting. They were no way in trying to set up an independent business.