



Information and Knowledge Management, Intellectual Capital, and Sustainable Growth in Networked Small and Medium Enterprises

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Abstract

This paper aims to analyze the strategic effects of the association of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in knowledge networks (k-networks) on their information and knowledge management (IKM) and intellectual capital (IC). Taking as the object of study two innovative and successful Brazilian experiences, a descriptive survey with top-level executives (managing partners, presidents, and executive directors — henceforth CEOs) was held. Based on theories of management and economics, the findings revealed (i) that the network formation process (encompassing culture, context, incentives for information and knowledge sharing and especially strategy) is an important factor to explain IKM (for creating, systematizing and sharing data, information and knowledge) and IC in its three dimensions (human, relational and structural capital), promoting long-term sustainable growth (perceived by improvements in innovation, competitiveness and corporate results) for SMEs and their networks — a very relevant issue, but whose theoretical and managerial understanding is very incipient in international literature, especially in emerging economies.

Keywords Information and knowledge management · Intellectual capital · Networks · Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) · Sustainable growth · Innovation · Strategy and competitiveness

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Author Contribution Among the individual contributions to the article provided by Professor Ricardo Vinícius Dias Jordão, the conceptualization, formal analysis, financing acquisition, research development, the design of the methodology, project administration, data validation and writing (draft, proofreading and editing). Professor Jorge Casas Novas helped with the literature review, conceptualization, formal analysis, financing acquisition, research development, refinement of the methodology and writing — proofreading and editing.

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Declarations

Consent for Publication The manuscript has not been submitted for publication nor has been published in whole or in part elsewhere, and is not under consideration for publication in another journal at the time of submission. I attest to the fact that all authors have read the manuscript, confirm the validity and legitimacy of the data and its interpretation, and agree to its submission to The Journal of the Knowledge Economy, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere without the written consent of the copyright holder.

Competing Interests The authors declare no competing interests.

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