

Macroeconomic Conditions and Entrepreneurial Intention Formation: A PRISMA Systematic Analysis

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Abstract: *This study elaborates a PRISMA guided systematic literature review that finds ultimately behind policy actors' economics as an important determinant of entrepreneurial intention insofar as it relates to economic opportunity, market conditions, and policy environments for business orientation and development. The review also deals with the piecemeal evidence on the influence of macro, microeconomic and regional factors in the entrepreneurship motivations and behaviours of distinct economies. Empirical studies found in peer-reviewed journals through application of the PRISMA 2020 guidelines were identified, screened, and reviewed for the use of clear inclusion and exclusion criteria. It presents a summary of evidence of quantitative, qualitative and mixed method studies in developed and emergent countries. Among the statistically significant factors, it supports the relevance of fiscal policy, level of taxation, government aid and macroeconomic stability in all cases to affect entrepreneurial intention, although the sign and the magnitude of these variables are dependent on the economic development level of the macro area, as well as the institutional environment. Conditions of the regional economy in terms of infrastructure, human capital, and the quality of the ecosystem do moderate the outcomes of individual entrepreneurship, and situational analysis within the market structure moderate to some extent the recognition and feasibility perception. The review also assumes the mediating role of perceptions and the institutional environment for the process of transforming economic conditions into entrepreneurial intentions. It follows a PRISMA synthesis to bring methodological clarity to the field of entrepreneurship and of integrated review on the economic and regional influencers of entrepreneurial intention. Policy makers and researchers interested in designing efficient contextual strategies to foster entrepreneurship development could benefit from these findings.*

Keywords: Entrepreneurial intention, Economic factors, Entrepreneurship policy, Regional economic development, PRISMA systematic review

1. Introduction

Entrepreneurial activity is a cornerstone of economic development and growth as well as the driving force behind job creation in developed and developing economies. Therefore, research focusing on entrepreneurial intention has been growing and it has begun to look at factors outside of the personal characteristics of the individuals toward economic, institutional, and regional influences. Previous research has shown that the decision to become an entrepreneur does not only depend on attitudes, or skills and characteristics in general, but also on the characteristics of macroeconomic conditions, markets, policies, and processes of regional development. (Rusu & Roman, 2018; Sweidan, 2021; Luz et al., 2024).

In the economic entrepreneurial intention literature, variables like economic growth, unemployment, inflation, fiscal policy, or regulatory quality have been found to be significant. Positive market conditions and pro-business economic policies foster entrepreneurial motivation, while economic uncertainty and regulatory burdens are deterrents to creation of new ventures (Martínez-Rodríguez et al., 2020; Fernández et al., 2024). Simultaneously, regional economic development, including infrastructure, human capital, and local entrepreneurial ecosystems, are critical to understanding opportunity recognition and entrepreneurial feasibility (Bosma & Schutjens, 2011; Civera et al., 2021).

Despite increasingly widespread research, evidence is mostly partial. Some have focused on single regions, or stage of development, while others have isolated aspects of policies, the economy or market conditions. This is problematic because it prevents integrated insights from emerging concerning the joint effects of macroeconomic, regional and institutional conditions on entrepreneurial intention (Begley et al., 2005; Kibler, 2013). Also, findings are not always the same depending on the context, being these advanced versus developing economies, regional, or institutional settings (Sipakoly, 2005-2024; Tekic and Kurnosova, 2005-2024).

A second weakness is the array of existing theories and methods used. Many studies use the Theory of Planned Behavior and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Theory while varying the operationalization and measurement of economic and regional variables (Liñán et al., 2011; Kibler et al., 2014). Others have argued that the widespread use of cross-sectional studies and convenience sample populations has limited the capacity for comparison and building a body of aggregate knowledge (Samardžija et al., 2025).

Limitations such as these emphasize the more general need for a comprehensive and coherent literature review that ties economic inputs, market circumstances, national policies, and regional development understandings together. To fill this gap, a more structured and systematic approach using the available evidence and identifying gaps is needed. A PRISMA guided systematic review can do so by providing clear search strategies and filtering criteria to collect all available evidence.

Thus, the objective of this paper is to perform a PRISMA-guided systematic review of empirical studies focusing on the economic and territorial factors of entrepreneurial intention. This review will attempt to present a comprehensive view on the effect of macroeconomic facts, political environments, and internal development on entrepreneurial intention, one that integrates the multiplicity of findings concerning these factors. The research has implications for the study of entrepreneurship in terms of providing more sophisticated methodological guidelines and policy research-based reasoning for future research and policy design.

2. Purpose and Scope of the Review

This study represents the first attempt to implement a PRISMA guided systematic review of empirical studies oriented toward economic considerations related to entrepreneurial intention. Specific interest is put into the influence of macroeconomic and market conditions, economic policies, and local and regional economic development, in the process of entrepreneurial intention in different societies. This review follows PRISMA guidelines to provide a transparent, replicable and methodologically sound summary of the state of the research.

The review scope is in empirical studies that have been published in peer review academic journals of entrepreneurship, business, economics and management. The sample includes

papers dealing with both developed and developing countries, to try to account for contextual differences in economic and regional issues. Conceptual papers, non-peer reviewed sources, and studies without empirics are excluded to ensure the rigor of the analysis. This review highlights only those works that directly address and study the relationship between economic, policy, regional variables and entrepreneurial intention.

This PRISMA-guided systematic review aims to:

1. To identify and combine the findings of research into economic determinants of entrepreneurial intention.
2. To examine the role of market conditions and macroeconomic indicators in shaping entrepreneurial intention across different economic contexts.
3. To examine the effect of economic policies and institutional contexts on the process of developing entrepreneurial intentions.
4. To examine the effect of regional economic development and entrepreneurial ecosystems on entrepreneurial intention.
5. To present the findings and attending implications to highlight existing theoretical, methodological, and contextual voids that need to be filled in future research. The uniform outlook will help the reader to follow the article easily. This can be obtained effectively if author uses this template file to construct his or her paper.

3. Methodology

To maintain transparency, rigor and replicability throughout the identification and synthesis of the existing literature, this study follows a PRISMA guided systematic review approach. The literature search and review processes are based on PRISMA 2020 and consist of identifications, screening, eligibility and inclusion of studies. A literature search was performed in Scopus, Web of Science, ScienceDirect and Emerald Insight. Secondary sources, such as citation chaining through backwards and forwards reference tracking were used to attempt to improve coverage of the relevant studies (Page et al., 2021).

The search was designed using keywords such as entrepreneurial intention, economic factors, market conditions, economic policy, regional economic development. Only studies published in English in peer-reviewed journals were included. Conference papers, book chapters, articles of a conceptual nature, and non-peer reviewed materials were not included. This process was done in a two-stage approach. Screening of titles initially eliminated studies that were not obviously unrelated, and abstracts of the remaining studies assessed relevance to the research question. The full texts of these articles were subsequently reviewed for inclusion based upon the pre-determined criteria of relevance to entrepreneurial intention, how they addressed the question of regional or economic influences, and the strength of their empirical approaches (Moher et al., 2009).

Information regarding the description of the studies, theories used as a framework, samples, design and context, and main findings were extracted in a systematic manner. A qualitative synthesis was used to analyze the studies in this review that revealed recurrent trends, themes, and variations by contextual categories or themes such as region or type of economy. To achieve this integrated overview of studies examining the influence of economic and regional variables on entrepreneurial intention, this review adopts a qualitative synthesis without conducting a meta-analysis, consistent with common practice in prior entrepreneurship reviews (Kraus et al., 2020).

Figure 1 displays the PRISMA flow diagram detailing how studies were identified, screened, and selected for inclusion in the review. The database search produced 1,550 records while citation chaining added a further 150 records. After identifying and removing duplicates, a total of 1,130 records were screened based on title and abstract. Out of these, 460 were considered in full text, and a further 150 were not empirical, and not strongly linked to entrepreneurial intention and economic factors based on established inclusion/exclusion criteria. Finally, an additional 43 studies that satisfied all these criteria were included in the sample. It allows for the review to be transparent, systematic and reproducible, in terms of how the final review body of evidence was compiled to meet the PRISMA 2020 standard.

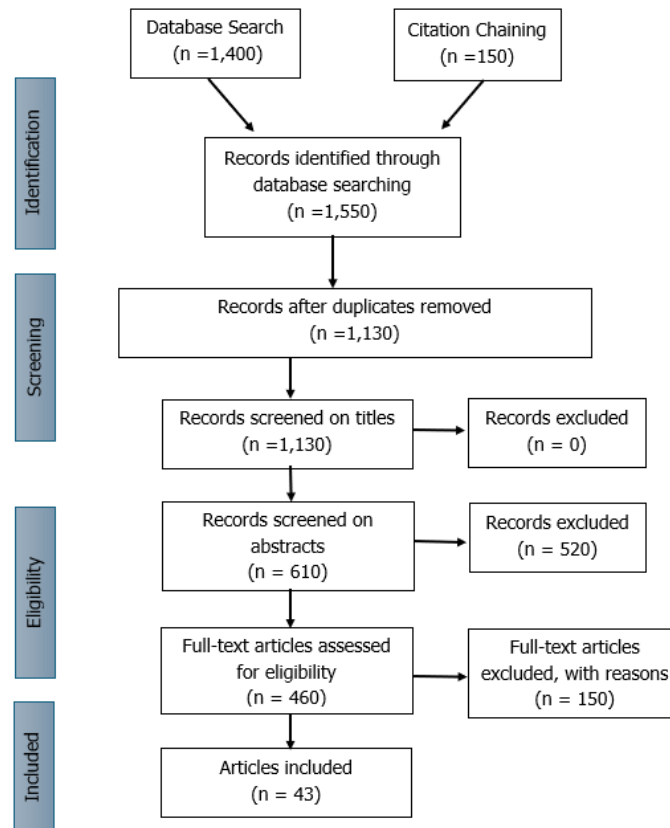


Figure 1: PRISMA Flow Diagram of Study Identification, Screening, Eligibility, and Inclusion Process

4. Results

Following PRISMA guidelines, this systematic review included a total of 43 studies that reported empirical research linking economic determinants to entrepreneurial intention. The majority of these were quantitative studies, many utilizing survey research. The Theory of Planned Behaviour appeared as the most used theoretical bases for studies, either complemented with economic, institutional or contextual elements (Liñán & Chen, 2009; Kibler et al., 2014).

Broad macroeconomic factors such as economic growth, levels of unemployment, and overall economic stability are significantly related to entrepreneurial intention, albeit with differing magnitudes and directions of the effects in different contexts. Plus, opportunities and feasibility are positively influenced by good economic conditions while a lack of entrepreneurial drive would be discouraged by poor economic conditions and instability (Rusu & Roman, 2018; Martínez-Rodríguez et al., 2020). Finally, market conditions such as competition, access to

finance also influences how potential entrepreneurs perceive opportunities and risks. The study revealed that economic policy determinants such as government support programmes, taxes and regulations quality were important contextual aspects to influence entrepreneurial intention. In general terms, supportive policy environments enhance entrepreneurial intention by lowering perceived barriers and increasing institutional trust, a fact particularly true in emerging and transition economies (Bosma et al., 2018; Fernández et al., 2024). Lack of policy enforcement and complex regulatory issues were often mentioned as barriers.

A regional focus on economic development became a significant factor in moderating the movement. Further focus is given to the role exercised by the quality of infrastructure, the availability of human capital, and the power of the local entrepreneurial ecosystem as enhancers of the positive impact of economic conditions on entrepreneurial intention (Civera et al., 2021; Sipakoly, 2024). These regional disparities account for a significant proportion of the variation in entrepreneurial intention even within the same country, specifically between urban and peripheral regions. Collectively, these findings suggest a somewhat disparate but largely overlapping pattern. The macroeconomic and regional sources of migration are well recognized, though variation in the way they are measured and contextualized as well as in the research design often obscure the possibility of comparison between studies. Building on insights across the reviewed studies, this review supports the call for longitudinal and multi-level research capable of capturing the dynamic relationship between economic environments and entrepreneurial intentions.

The research reviewed in this paper generates a few central empirical insights across contexts on the relation between macroeconomic factors, policy climates, and development in a particular region, and entrepreneurial intention, and these insights are summarized in Table 1. The table highlights the uniform backing for the importance of macroeconomic stability, economic growth, and favourable fiscal and regulatory policies to support entrepreneurial intention via higher levels of opportunity perception, perceived feasibility and institutional trust. At the same time, it points to a very high contextual variability and argues that economic uncertainty, poor governance, and uneven development at regional level otherwise limits the formation of intentions, with a particular attention to emerging and transition economies. The role of regional infrastructure, human capital, and ecosystem maturity as moderating variables in the transformation of macroeconomic conditions into entrepreneurial motivation are all presented as trends across studies.

In summary, Table 1 shows that the development of entrepreneurial intention is not generally “economic-based,” but it is rather the result of interplay between macroeconomic indicators, quality of policy and strength of the regional ecosystem, further suggesting the significance of examining entrepreneurship within a multi-level and context-specific framework.

Table 1: Descriptive Summary of Empirical Studies on Macroeconomic Conditions and Entrepreneurial Intention

Study (Author(s), Year)	Context and Methodology	Key Findings on Entrepreneurial Intention
Rusu & Roman (2018)	Cross-country study using Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) data	Macroeconomic stability and economic growth positively influence entrepreneurial intention through enhanced opportunity perception.
Martínez-Rodríguez et al. (2020)	European economies; quantitative analysis	Economic uncertainty and unemployment exert mixed effects on entrepreneurial intention depending on national institutional quality.

Fernández et al. (2024)	Latin American countries; survey-based empirical study	Fiscal incentives and entrepreneurship-friendly policies significantly increase entrepreneurial intention by reducing perceived barriers.
Civera et al. (2021)	Regional-level analysis in Europe	Regional infrastructure and human capital moderate the relationship between macroeconomic conditions and entrepreneurial intention.
Sipakoly (2024)	Emerging economies; mixed-method approach	Policy coherence and regional ecosystem maturity enhance the translation of economic conditions into entrepreneurial motivation.
Tekic & Kurnosova (2024)	Transition economies; comparative study	Market dynamism and innovation ecosystems play a stronger role than macroeconomic indicators alone in shaping entrepreneurial intention.
Kibler et al. (2014)	Institutional analysis across European regions	Institutional trust and regional legitimacy conditions mediate the effect of economic environments on entrepreneurial intention.
Samardžija et al. (2025)	Systematic review of entrepreneurship studies	Highlights methodological fragmentation and calls for multi-level models integrating macroeconomic and regional variables.
Bosma & Schutjens (2011)	Multi-level analysis using GEM data across European regions	Regional economic development and urbanization enhance entrepreneurial intention through improved opportunity perception and lower fear of failure.
Sweidan (2021)	Panel data analysis of U.S. states	Economic freedom, lower taxation, and regulatory quality significantly increase entrepreneurial intention and new venture formation.
Begley et al. (2005)	Multi-country survey of MBA students	Favorable macroeconomic and policy environments enhance perceived feasibility and desirability of entrepreneurship, indirectly increasing intention.
Liñán et al. (2011)	Regional-level study in Spain; Structural Equation Modeling	Economic development affects entrepreneurial intention indirectly through regional entrepreneurial culture and social valuation of entrepreneurship.
Kibler (2013)	Multilevel study combining individual and regional data in Germany	Regional economic conditions shape entrepreneurial intention via perceived behavioural control rather than direct economic effects.
Audretsch & Belitski (2017)	European city-level ecosystem analysis	Macroeconomic conditions interact with local ecosystem quality to shape entrepreneurial intention and startup density.
Pisá-Bó et al. (2021)	Longitudinal regional study in Spain	Post-crisis economic recovery strengthens the role of human capital in translating macroeconomic growth into entrepreneurial intention.
Sahiti (2023)	Comparative analysis of transition and developed economies	Weak macroeconomic stability and policy inconsistency suppress entrepreneurial intention, particularly in transition economies.
Tetteh et al. (2024)	Systematic review of economic and institutional drivers	Economic growth, market demand, and fiscal incentives positively affect entrepreneurial intention, conditional on institutional quality.

Luz et al. (2024)	EU countries; crisis-period regression analysis	Macroeconomic downturns reduce entrepreneurial intention, but supportive policy responses mitigate negative effects.
Guo et al. (2025)	Survey of vocational students in China; SEM	Perceived economic situation and policy support positively influence entrepreneurial intention through attitudes and opportunity recognition.
Phan & Cong (2025)	Southeast Asia; extended TPB model	Stable macroeconomic conditions strengthen subjective norms and perceived behavioural control, increasing entrepreneurial intention.
McQuaid (2002)	Conceptual and policy-oriented analysis of regional economies	Macroeconomic stability and labour market conditions shape the feasibility of entrepreneurship, particularly through access to resources and markets.
Verheul et al. (2009)	Regional industry-level analysis in Italy	Regional economic progress and wage structures influence sector-specific entrepreneurial intention, with limited direct effects of policy incentives alone.
Amer et al. (2024)	Mixed-method study in Egypt	Macroeconomic policy support indirectly strengthens entrepreneurial intention through enhanced self-efficacy and opportunity recognition.
Vargas-Hernández et al. (2024)	Meta-analytical and conceptual synthesis	Entrepreneurial ecosystems mediate the impact of macroeconomic conditions on entrepreneurial intention and regional development outcomes.
Duodu et al. (2024)	Comparative QCA across emerging and developed economies	Market access and macroeconomic resource availability interact with ecosystem conditions to shape entrepreneurial motivation.
Bağış et al. (2025)	Panel data analysis of EU countries	Economic policies influence entrepreneurial intention through opportunity perception and job creation expectations.
Paray et al. (2024)	Regional student survey in India	Regional disparities in infrastructure and economic development significantly affect entrepreneurial attitudes and intentions.
Almeida & Daniel (2025)	Sub-regional analysis in Portugal	Local macroeconomic conditions and leadership quality strengthen entrepreneurial ecosystems and intention formation.
Mateos & Amorós (2019)	Comparative regional study in Mexico	Uneven regional economic development leads to heterogeneous entrepreneurial intentions across regions.
Sabir (2025)	Student survey in Kurdistan Region of Iraq	Macroeconomic constraints shape entrepreneurial intention indirectly via access to education and resources.
Aggarwal & Kashiramka (2025)	Delphi and MCDM study in emerging economy	Government financial support and stable economic conditions improve entrepreneurial ecosystem confidence and intention.
Roshan et al. (2023)	fsQCA of 23 countries	Configurations of macroeconomic stability, financial access, and institutional quality explain high entrepreneurial intention.
Gomes et al. (2023)	OECD countries; dynamic panel GMM	Economic growth and fiscal support positively influence entrepreneurial intention through improved ecosystem quality.
Fotoyi & Ncwadi (2025)	South Africa; time-series econometric analysis (ARDL) focusing on youth entrepreneurship	Interest rates and human capital development significantly influence youth entrepreneurial intention, while broader macroeconomic variables show indirect or delayed effects.

Lesinskis et al. (2022)	Latvia and other Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries; mixed-method student survey	Regulatory frameworks are perceived as stronger barriers to entrepreneurial intention in Latvia compared to other CEE economies, highlighting the constraining role of institutional rigidity.
Bhardwaj et al. (2024)	India; qualitative interviews and exploratory factor analysis in green ICT sector	Supportive regulatory frameworks and sustainability-oriented policies significantly enhance entrepreneurial intention toward green ICT ventures.
Ali et al. (2025)	Regional ecosystems; structural equation modeling with stakeholder data	Supportive policy frameworks moderate the relationship between entrepreneurial ecosystems and regional transformation, strengthening entrepreneurial intention through ecosystem quality.
Xu (2024)	Comparative regional survey in China	Economic stability and public policies mediate the effects of entrepreneurial resources on intention, indicating that resources translate into intention only under stable macroeconomic conditions.
Babiker & Timan (2023)	Sudan; survey-based empirical study	High tax fees, complex licensing, and weak economic governance hinder entrepreneurial intention and suppress firm growth despite strong necessity motivations.
Mateos & Amorós (2019)	Mexico; comparative regional expert survey	Government policies differ significantly between central and non-central regions, resulting in uneven entrepreneurial intentions and ecosystem development.
Sirine et al. (2019)	Indonesia; cluster-level survey analysis	Favourable economic and regulatory environments trigger regional entrepreneurial intention by improving perceived feasibility and market access.
Queissner et al. (2022)	Meta-analysis of 544 empirical studies across multiple countries	Fiscal and regulatory policies influence entrepreneurial intention differently across spatial levels, with stronger effects observed at regional and local ecosystem levels.
Queissner et al. (2025)	Meta-analysis of 257 ecosystem-based studies	Taxation and government support shape different types of entrepreneurial activity, with productive entrepreneurship responding more strongly to supportive macroeconomic conditions.

5. Discussion

This study systematically integrated the available empirical evidence about the effects of economic determinants, policy contexts, or regional development on entrepreneurial intentions, guided by PRISMA guidelines. The results also support the assertion that entrepreneurial intention is not an isolated concept, but one that exists within economic and institutional environments. Macroeconomic stability, the market, and policy have been identified as a facilitator in all reviewed studies, while economic uncertainty, regulation, and regional infrastructure have emerged as constraints (Rusu and Roman, 2018; Martínez-Rodríguez et al., 2020; Fernández et al., 2024).

For this critical synthesis, while commonalities were found in the recognition of economic and regional factors being crucial, a divergence between interpretations of these factors is also shown. Much of the existing research focuses on isolated variables such as unemployment or

taxation and does so without necessarily linking these variables within a larger economic or ecosystem context. The main disadvantage of this approach is that it does not allow for an analysis of the interaction between different economic dimensions in explaining entrepreneurial intention. This implies that economic situation has a direct impact on perceived feasibility, but it also has an indirect influence through individual perception, institutional trust and opportunity recognition (Liñán & Chen, 2009; Kibler et al., 2014).

The review has several important theoretical implications. Firstly, it confirms the applicability of the TPB extended with contextual and economic variables. Economic stability, policy signalling and regional development conditions are variables of consistent acceptance which influence attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived control. Second, their results reinforce entrepreneurial ecosystem and institutional theories by showing the role that regional infrastructure, policy and human capital can play on boosting the translation of economic conditions into entrepreneurial intention (Bosma & Schutjens, 2011; Civera et al, 2021). This suggests that future research should resort to multiple level theoretical models combining individual cognitive explanations with macro and regional economic structure.

From the emerging synthesis, practical implications are quite evident. If efforts to boost entrepreneurial intention are to be successful, then the focus for policy makers must be on providing consistent policy, effective and simple regulatory measures, as well as financially based support mechanisms. These findings suggest that these favourable economic conditions can be further leveraged by investment in regional infrastructure, education and ecosystem development. This implies that teachers and those supporting entrepreneurship initiatives should cater more to their training programs to local economic or policy needs of the local environment to promote entrepreneurial intentions, especially in areas where there are structural disadvantages.

The application of the PRISMA methodology also contributes to the methodology of the present review by adding to its transparency, replicability and systematic synthesis of evidence. Yet, various limitations can be also found in current studies. The dominance of cross-sectional research designs limits causal inference, while inconsistent measurement of economic variables in some studies restricts meaningful comparison of findings across the literature. Also, most studies using only one country or one region as a sample unit may lack variance and generalization with respect to cross-regional processes (Kraus et al., 2020; Samardžija et al., 2025). These limitations show the need for longitudinal, cross-cultural, and multi-level research in future studies.

There are also sectoral and contextual variations that make the relationship between economic and entrepreneurial factors even more complex. The review highlights how the impact of economic conditions is particularistic to sector, stage of economic development and institutional context. For instance, while entrepreneurial intention in new economies may be strongly driven by policy incentives, in developed ones it should be affected mostly by market competition and innovation ecosystems (Sipakoly, 2024; Tekic & Kurnosova, 2024). This highlights the need for context-specific and not one-size fits all analyses.

In sum, the PRISMA guided systematic review presented here is a tool to move entrepreneurship research forward by incorporating scattered pieces of evidence into a cohesive synthesis. This reveals the interplay of the economic, policy and regional dimensions of entrepreneurial intentions and sets a clear basis for the development of new theories, theories, empirical research and evidence-based policies.

6. Limitations

The present PRISMA-guided systematic review has some limitations that need to be acknowledged. The first is the limitations of existing literature. Findings will depend on both the stringency with which inclusion and exclusion criteria were determined, as well as the methodological strength and quality of reporting in the studies examined. The popularity of cross-sectional research designs precludes strong causal inferences between economic determinants and entrepreneurial intention, which has repeatedly been identified as a limitation of the existing research in the field of entrepreneurship (Kraus et al., 2020).

Second, only peer reviewed journal articles are reviewed, and appear only in English. Although this strengthens the level of scholarship and comparability, it also carries the potential drawback of leaving out critical studies published in other languages or grey literature. With these limitations some more local specific insights in non-English speaking areas may be left out. Third, the use of different measures for economic, policy, and regional factors in the studies prevent a direct comparison and summation of the findings. Variability across studies in the measurement and context-defined of the constructs assessed may also affect the stability of the results obtained (Samardžija et al., 2025).

Lastly, the qualitative nature of the synthesis allows for transparency and replicability of the results in a way that affect size statistics cannot regarding the PRISMA framework. It prevented the calculation of an effect size to show existing literature on the strength of relationship as well as to formally test heterogeneity between the studies.

7. Future Research Directions

A few areas for future research are suggested in consideration of the constraints noted. First, future studies could be based on a longitudinal approach and employ panel data to capture more accurately the dynamic relationship between economic conditions and entrepreneurial intentions. These methods would also allow for better causal inference and for better understanding of how shifts in economic environments lead people to form intentions at varying points in time.

Second, there is a need for more theoretical integration. Future studies should also integrate more individual level intention models, like the Theory of Planned Behaviour, with macroeconomic, institutional, and entrepreneurial ecosystem perspectives. It would also be useful the use of multi-level models in analyzing the interplay between individual perceptions and motivations, economic and regional structures (Liñán & Chen, 2009; Kibler et al., 2014).

Third, future empirical work needs to focus more on comparative studies across countries and regions. Comparative designs would also provide interesting insights into the distinct effects of economic policies, institutional quality and regional development conditions on entrepreneurial intention in different contexts, especially in developed and less developed economies (Bosma & Schutjens, 2011; Civera et al., 2021).

Fourth, expectations of improved measurement consistency and standardization should be met in the area economic and policy variables commonly used in studies on entrepreneurship. This would increase the possibility of comparing them and help in the accumulation of knowledge. Lastly, PRISMA-based reviews in the future could include a more detailed sector analysis or even consider meta-analyses when data is homogeneous enough to draw such strong evidence-

based conclusions. These pathways in combination generate a clear research agenda for the future analyses of the economic and regional drivers of entrepreneurial intentions under a PRISMA systematic review framework.

8. Conclusion

Using the PRISMA framework, this systematic review synthesizes existing evidence on the role of macroeconomic indicators, market conditions, economic policies, and regional development in shaping entrepreneurial intention. There has been a lack of synthesis of the existing literature from varying economic and institutional perspectives and through the deployment of the PRISMA 2020 guidelines this study attempts to fill this gap, making the integration of these fragmented findings more visible and methodologically robust (Moher et al., 2009; Page et al., 2021).

Among these macroeconomics conditions, the analyzed studies highlight the importance that variables such as macroeconomic stability, favorable markets conditions, and supportive policies have on the entrepreneurial intention; but, the influence of such factors and how they can affect entrepreneurial intention may differ according to the region and the country's level of economic development (Rusu and Roman, 2018; Martínez-Rodríguez et al., 2020; Fernández et al., 2024). This indicates that especially the role that regional economic development, and thus, infrastructure quality, human capital, and entrepreneurial ecosystem strength, plays as a moderating variable is relevant as an explanation of considerable variation in entrepreneurial intention within a country (Bosma & Schutjens, 2011; Civera et al., 2021). These conclusions support the applicability of intention-based theories, and specifically the TPB once contextual and economic variables are considered (Liñán & Chen, 2009; Kibler et al., 2014). The formation of entrepreneurial intentions and, thereby, the decision to see an opportunity belongs in the realm of a multi-level approach that combines individual cognitions with macroeconomic and regional structures. This review indicates the importance of PRISMA as a strong methodology for making entrepreneurship research more transparent and replicable. From a policy perspective, the results imply that efforts to increase entrepreneurial intention need to focus on macroeconomic stability, regulatory certainty, and the development of local ecosystems. In general, this review establishes a strong case for future longitudinal, comparative and multilevel studies of economic and regional drivers of entrepreneurial intention.

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Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this study.

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