

Peer Review

Review of: "Social Capital and National Innovativeness – The Influence of Trust and Tolerance on the National Capacity to Innovate"

George Martinidis¹

1. University of Western Macedonia, Greece

Overall, this is a well-written paper that explores a crucial topic which is often overlooked: how social capital, trust, and tolerance influence national innovation capacity. To my knowledge, this is an underexplored area, so the paper makes a hugely important contribution to highlighting the social aspects behind innovation. The theoretical model is excellent, the literature review is very thorough, and the statistical analysis is very solid in its simplicity.

Some minor points for improvement:

National innovation systems are very context-specific. I understand that this is primarily a quantitative study, but a short consideration of system-specific factors would perhaps add depth.

While the correlation indicates strong relationships, the causal link between trust, tolerance, and national innovativeness remains somewhat unexplored in the paper. This is acknowledged, but incorporating case studies or historical comparisons could provide a more concrete understanding of how these social factors translate into innovation outcomes.

The paper makes a strong case for the role of social capital in innovation but lacks specific policy recommendations. Providing concrete proposals on whether governments should promote trust and tolerance through education, civic engagement, or legal reforms would enhance the paper's practical relevance.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.