

# Entrepreneurial behaviour, informality and the construction of social norms in post-Soviet Eurasia: a cross-regional perspective

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## Summary

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*TalTech School of Business and Governance, Department of Law offers a 4-year PhD position in economics. Supervisors: Abel Polese (Tallinn University of Technology) and Prof. Rodica Ianole Calin (University of Bucharest).*

Research field:	Economics and finance
Supervisor:	Abel Polese
Availability:	This position is available.
Offered by:	School of Business and Governance Department of Law
Application deadline:	Applications are accepted between November 16, 2020 00:00 and December 16, 2020 23:59 (Europe/Zurich)

## Description

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The overall goal of the project is to compare countries that had fully opened to foreign investors by the early 2000s – Estonia, Latvia (now EU members), Georgia (considered by many as an example of best practice in reforms), and Kyrgyzstan (where markets are stable but no major economic leap is expected in the next immediate future) – with what have been identified as significant prospective post-USSR markets for the next ten years - Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan (all of which have shown a more concrete desire for economic

dialogue in the past three years), Russia (its eastern region and, in particular, Siberia, which has remained largely unexplored by EU companies), and Azerbaijan, a country that has finally started interacting in more concrete terms with the EU.

With this framework in mind, we are looking for a candidate willing to work to use behavioural game theory (the candidate will be guided in learning about it by an external mentor, Prof Ianole) to explore the interplay between social norms and informal economies; provide a model of why actors engage with informality beyond simple financial motives, contribute to policy debates.

### Qualifications

The applicants should fulfill the following requirements:

- MA in Economics, Political Economy, Social Sciences. Other qualifications may be considered (but will be evaluated case by case)
- Interest in the former USSR region (Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern Europe), knowledge of local language(s) is an asset



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