**Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title**: Funding Entrepreneurial Start-ups

**Researcher**: Foteini Papadopoulou

**ERGO number: 31079**

***Please read this information carefully before deciding to take part in this research. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.***

**What is the research about?**

This research is part of my three-paper thesis for my PhD candidature. I am studying access to funding opportunities. More specifically, I look at the role of social stakeholders in the allocation and distribution of venture opportunities.

**Why have I been asked to participate?**

You are participating in this study as a non-professional evaluator/ supporter of crowdfunding campaign sites.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

You will be presented with a crowdfunding campaign site template. You will then be asked to answer a short questionnaire and give a few demographic information. Once you have completed the main questionnaire, you will then be asked to answer a few more questions in regard to the study. The experiment will take no longer than 10 minutes.

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

This is a fun experiment in which participants become evaluators/ supporters of new product ideas on crowdfunding platforms. Your participation in this study will provide novel insights in the field of entrepreneurship.

**Are there any risks involved?**

N/A

**Will my participation be confidential?**

The study complies with the Data Protection Act and University Policy. Participant names and any identifiable characteristics will not be asked or revealed. Confidentiality of the experimental data will be maintained throughout the study. Consent forms will be separated from questionnaires which will be stored in a locked filing cabinet for a period of three to five years. Access to the data will only be granted to the researcher, the research supervisor and the research collaborator.

**What should I do if I want to take part?**

Please carefully read the instruction provided in the Participant Information Sheet and answer the questionnaires.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

If you change your mind please leave fields incomplete and press ‘Leave survey’ button.

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

The results of the research will be analysed and included in the second paper of the researcher’s three-paper PhD thesis. In case you wish to be sent a copy of the study results please feel free to email your request at f.papadopoulou@soton.ac.uk

The research data will be stored in a locked filing cabinet for a period of three to five years and will only be used for the purpose of ethically approved research studies.

**Where can I get more information?**

For any further information in regards to this research project please contact:

Foteini Papadopoulou, PhD Researcher

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**What happens if something goes wrong?**

In case of concern or complaint in regards to this research project please contact:

Research Integrity and Governance Manager

rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk

023 8059 5058

**Thank you so much for taking the time to read the information sheet and considering taking part in the research.**