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Research Article

Exploring Corporate Adoption and Perceptions of Shared Spaces in Slovak Republic Companies

Eva Malichova [1*], Emese Tokarcikova [2]

[1] *Assistant professor of Economics and Management, Faculty of Management Science and Informatics, University of Zilina, Zilina, Slovak Republic. Email: malichova@uniza.sk*

[2] *Associate professor of Economics and Management, Faculty of Management Science and Informatics, University of Zilina, Zilina, Slovak Republic. Email: tokarcik@uniza.sk*

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ABSTRACT

Increasingly dense urban environments have created new challenges for both individuals and businesses. Growing awareness of sustainability issues, coupled with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of remote working, has led many businesses to question the need to own property or space. Instead, they are increasingly considering the benefits of collaborative consumption, which provides access to the space they need at a fraction of the cost and with greater flexibility. This study explores the adoption of shared spaces in the context of collaborative consumption, with a particular focus on Slovakian enterprises. As digital technologies and collaborative consumption continue to revolutionize resource management, shared spaces such as co-working environments have emerged as key tools for improving operational efficiency and fostering innovation. The research highlights the growing interest among Slovakian enterprises in using shared spaces to reduce costs and increase flexibility. However, several barriers, including trust issues, lack of awareness, and insufficient platform availability, are hindering widespread adoption. The study also highlights the important role of corporate culture, particularly those that encourage innovation, in influencing companies' willingness to adopt shared space models. Despite these challenges, the findings suggest that increased awareness and appropriate strategies could open up new opportunities for enterprises to benefit from collaborative consumption.

Keywords: sharing economy, shared spaces, office sharing.

INTRODUCTION

Resourcefulness and ability to easily connect individuals and assets through continuously advancing digital technologies are revolutionising how economic agents utilise limited resources to fulfil their needs. The exchange of unused resources or fulfilment of temporary needs without assuming ownership has been increasingly optimised through access-based consumption. According to Lawson et al. [1], this phenomenon differs from ownership-based decisions by encompassing choice tactics, choice dedication, value assessment, and post-purchase evaluation. This paradigm shift towards collaborative consumption is evident not only among consumers worldwide but also among businesses seeking to reduce costs and optimise operations. The means of achieving profit is through the reduction of costs and expansion of the revenue stream, also the value for business and stakeholders ideally through a combination of these strategies [2].

In this regard, the European Commission [3], [4] defines collaborative consumption as the shared utilization of assets, resources, time, and skills on an ad hoc (peer-to-peer) or professional basis through online platforms. Cauffman [3], Akbar and Hoffman [4] highlight the correlation between collaborative consumption and the development of communities, the preservation of resources, and the potential for enhancing social exchange among economic actors. One manifestation of this trend is the concept of shared spaces. As businesses increasingly adopt collaborative consumption models, shared spaces have emerged as a practical solution for companies looking to optimize resources and reduce costs. As energy prices, operating expenses, and real estate costs rise, the expenses associated with both physical and virtual workspaces have steadily increased. This trend affects the facilities of large corporations and small enterprises alike, regardless of their location, whether it be in production sites, inventory storage, business operation centres, administrative offices, or spaces used to showcase the enterprise's image. In this context, office sharing has emerged as a cost-effective and efficient solution for providing production or office settings. This approach aligns with the principles of a sharing economy and has gained significant popularity. However, companies are still weighing the advantages and disadvantages of co-working arrangements. There is also a research gap concerning companies' views on potential space sharing beyond just office space, as well as an understanding of space sharing perspectives across different countries, where distinct business practices and cultures may influence attitudes towards sharing. The aim of this article is to investigate the current usage and motivation of shared spaces by businesses in Slovakia. Our research inquiries are as follows:

- How prevalent is the interest in space sharing among Slovakian companies?
- What factors influence their decision making to adopt space sharing concept?
- What are the perceived barriers according to these companies?
- Is interest in concept of space sharing influenced by company characteristics?

This research aims to thoroughly understand these factors to propose improved business models for the shared business space sector, benefiting all stakeholders involved. Additionally, it seeks to mitigate any negative factors that might result in unwanted externalities.

The article is structured as follows. First, we introduce the latest research findings on the shared the literature review section introduces the latest research findings on the area of shared business spaces, discusses the benefits of shared business spaces and examines the motivation of managers to utilize them. The next section explains the methodology we used in our research, description of the statistical sample and outlines of the statistical methods employed. Then we present our main findings which are followed by last section discussion including with identified limitations of the research and challenges for further research. Finally, we summarize the key points of the article in the conclusions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of sharing space, whether as an individual or as a corporate entity, encompasses a variety of dimensions and therefore poses a challenge in terms of achieving a consistent theoretical understanding. In addition, due to the common attributes shared by certain shared services, there is often overlap, as well as both complementary and negative influences. To address this issue, Chan et al. [5] have adopted a "place-based" approach to the general theory of sharing spaces. This approach focuses on the sociospatial dimensions of sharing, specifically in the context of urban sharing (such as dock less bike sharing programs, shared public buildings by communities), sharing living spaces (such as domestic spaces, shared accommodations), and shared social spaces (such as co-working spaces and hackerspaces). Similarly, Francart and colleagues [6] make a distinction between various forms of shared indoor spaces, which include co-housing and co-living initiatives where residents share a single dwelling or apartment, collective apartment buildings with communal areas, eco-villages with communal facilities, as well as student dormitories with compact living quarters and shared amenities like laundry and kitchen spaces. Additionally, they also include shared co-working spaces and flexible office premises, as well as shared facilities such as gymnasiums and reception halls that are utilized by multiple organizations, such as schools and retirement homes [6]. Another perspective on the spatial context of sharing considers whether the sharing is done for profit or non-profit purposes. It can be argued that non-profit sharing of space is not typically peer-to-peer (P2P) in nature, as it is usually managed by the public or third sector. In an economic setting, proprietors or administrators commonly opt for shared inventory spaces in supply chains [7] or another form of shared storage solutions, such as sharing container capacity among participating companies in a port [8] or Luo et al [9] dedicated to a sharing logistics service platform utilizing supply chain frameworks and incorporating either revenue-sharing or cost-sharing agreements to facilitate Pareto optimality. Further potential area for exploration is the concept of sharing spaces among different entities, utilizing shared parking areas. Previous research by Kong et al. [10] has already delved into the effective utilization of cloud platforms in managing urban parking lots through the incorporation of the Internet of Things. Their findings illustrate that this approach can result in a system profitability rate of 20%-30% and a post-budget balance for the platform. Additionally, the sharing of parking facilities between employees and businesses has been studied by Ning et al. [11], with further examination of the use of privately owned free parking spaces by Gao et al. [12]. Even though shared factories have a common spatial context when discussing shared manufacturing capabilities and production halls [13]. It shows that effective coordination and the utilization of available sharing platforms now allow competing companies the option to share various spaces such as storage facilities, parking lots, office spaces, and even production areas. The result is a reduction in costs for these companies. However, the most sought-after spatial context for sharing is the need for office sharing and co-working space. The term office sharing can describe a situation in which a company that owns a large workspace but only uses a part of it sublets the excess office space to another company. This arrangement allows the renting company generate revenues from unused assets, while the other company gains access to a professional office environment that might otherwise be financially out of reach. As a result, co-working spaces are well-equipped workspaces typically used by freelancers, star-ups, small business owners, as well as remote employees, or managers of larger companies. Office-sharing and co-working can co-exist in the same space. Moreover, both concepts offer a plethora of similar benefits to companies, so we will examine them together in terms of improving the efficiency of space utilisation.

A co-working space typically includes not only a table and chair, but also an access to the high-speed Wi-Fi, easy networked printing and fax/copy/scanning, barrier-free parking or easy access via public transport or on foot, a kitchen and free refreshments, common areas, private areas (phone booths) for undisturbed telephone calls, meeting rooms, cleaning services, etc. [14]. The advantage of co-working spaces is that their pricing policy is based on a monthly subscription or payment for specific days even hours (like conference room time, short private office usage), allowing companies to cancel their use at any time. The use of co-working spaces by businesses offers a multitude of advantageous opportunities for entrepreneurs:

- Cost – efficient (depends on estimated overall cost, average cost per month can be very determined by the location, size of the co-working space, or the price politics for example monthly packaging, etc.)
- Collaborative working environments, where people can get a chance meet other with similar skills, goal or just to get a „community "feeling as a link – minded member. According to the research conducted by Lavoratori et al. [15], the location of co-working spaces tends to coincide with the co-location of start-up firms, mirroring the varied effects of knowledge spill overs within a company's life cycle. Large corporations are increasingly using co-working spaces in order to both retain top talent and foster a sense of cohesion among their remote employees, ensuring they feel like they belonging to the broader company.
- Flexibility for employee „work-from-anywhere "to choose own working atmosphere and to create schedules based on daily needs. There is also added benefit of increased flexibility for companies for instance to enter a new market without incurring significant upfront costs by not committing to a conventional office space right away. This in turn enables them to evaluate a new market before making a full investment.
- Popularity of new culture of working which avoid monotony ad increase productivity, creativity, personal and professional growth. Rese et al [16] conducted studies found evidence that co-working spaces have a positive impact on the creativity of those who work in them. Working together – face-to face- in an informal shared office space combined with the flexibility to work remotely at any time foster the agility and efficiency.
- From sustainability perspective, incorporating shared resources, spaces and amenities in office can lead to a smaller environmental footprint than traditional office models.

But the use of co-working spaces may not be suitable for all individuals and businesses. Certain individuals or companies may find that such arrangements do not align with their personal or professional requirements. Factors such as distractions caused by the frequent movement of others, financial constraints in finding a suitable co-working space, location limitations, the need for confidentiality and privacy, or branding considerations that require a private office, can diminish the benefits of a shared workspace. Consequently, it is essential for individuals and businesses to carefully assess and evaluate their specific needs before opting for a co-working space.

The most popular industries that co – workers work is in Information technology, Marketing & Sale, Public relations and Consultancy. Before the outbreak of the pandemic, co-working spaces were experiencing rapid growth and emerged as the fastest-growing segment in the commercial real estate market. In the wake of Covid-19, the demand for co-working spaces has been impacted both negatively, as the workforce worked home during the lockdowns, but also positively as the number of independent contractors, remote workers, and freelancers increased. Even large corporations with over a hundred employees, such as IBM, Google, Microsoft and Starbucks, have integrated co-working spaces into their business structures. According to the "Coworking Space Global Market Report 2024 " the global co-working space market was valued at $19.05 billion in 2023 and is expected to reach $40.4 billion by 2028, with a projected compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 15.8%. [17] Data from the Coworkingcafe project shows that prices for co-working spaces in the United States are expected to remain relatively consistent in 2024 (refer to Fig. 1)

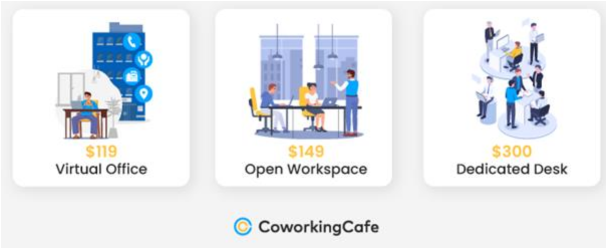

Fig. 1. Median Monthly Subscription, national level, USA, 2024. Source [18]

As reported by data from Next Move Strategy Consultation, the estimated size of the Europe co-working space market in 2023 is $3.91 billion, with a projected growth to $13.4 billion by 2030 (Fig. 2). However, this growth may be hindered by the increasing cybersecurity threats faced by the industry. At present, France dominates the European market due to its pricing dynamics and strong government support for scientific and technological advancements.

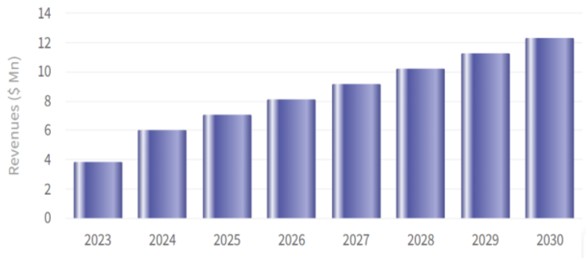

Fig. 2. Europe Co –working Space market Revenue, 2023-2030 ($ M) Source: [19]

The contemporary B2B sharing economy encompasses a diverse array of services, including the provision of office space, cloud-based solutions, independent contractors, and financial loans. Businesses are experiencing multiple advantages from the opportunities presented by the B2B sharing economy. These benefits include lowered expenditures, time saved, increased access to capital, improved employee efficiency, and the potential to reach previously untapped customer segments. But the practice of sharing resources between large enterprises and small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is not yet prevalent, mainly due to the lack of adequate tools and support for partner matching. Corsaro and Murtarelli [20] have identified a significant gap in the collaboration process, specifically in the joint value spheres beyond the traditional value co-creation processes. The authors suggest that incorporating five joint value spheres in business relationships, namely value co-creation, value appropriation, value communication, value measurement, and value representation, can facilitate B2B sharing and ultimately foster successful partnerships [21]. In conjunction with shared space B2B platforms, we have identified Flexe [22] as a prominent pioneer platform that facilitates connections between warehouse-seeking organizations and those with surplus space. Their services cater to a variety of needs within the supply chain, including distribution, direct-to-consumer (D2C) fulfilment, and capacity storage for product manufacturers and retailers. In a 2024 interview with a Flexe representative, it was demonstrated that utilizing the platform resulted in increased sales revenue, cost savings through consolidation of warehouse contracts, reduced warehousing expenses, savings from owning fewer facilities, and seasonal commitments. With its advanced technology, Flexe provides access to over 700 warehouse operators in the United States and Canada, as reported by Forrester Consulting in 2023 [23]. Likewise, in the United Kingdom, for example the returnloads.net platform, which boasts 4,974 warehouse company members, serves as a secure warehouse exchange. [24]. The potential for B2B shared space platforms, particularly a shared warehouse or production hall or industry–specific workspaces to be implemented in Slovakia is hindered by the inadequacy of institutional and legislative support. Moreover, the taxation and regulation policies for SE´s services further limit the ability to cater to companies' specific needs. Currently only the traditional manner, such as leasing through real estate agencies is known. The search for co-working spaces in Slovakia is made easier due to the availability of numerous platforms. The global market, a variety of co-working space platforms, such as Tribes, Sevcorp, Minspace, Rent24, TalentGarden, WeWork, The Wing, Google Campus and ImpactHub etc. offer a vast network of co-working spaces across major European cities as well as smaller urban centres.

Based on existing theoretical frameworks and business practices, the potential for effectively sharing unused spaces with various stakeholders, such as employees, customers, public authorities, the community, and even competitors, can be identified. These shared spaces options may include, but are not limited to:

- Office sharing or co-working spaces, which are currently the most commonly shared spaces related to business monitored by available relevant data and research findings like those from Bouncken et al. [25], [26] and Johns et al. [27].
- Sharing warehouses and transportation spaces, which are frequently utilized by logistics and production companies searching for cost and time effective solutions.
- Sharing of parking spaces, particularly with public authorities, customers, and the community (vice-versa), encompasses various approaches of multi- faceted engagement and can be deemed a fruitful strategy for space allocation defined for example by Wang et.al, [28].
- Sharing of production facilities with other companies, such as suppliers or even competitors, can offer potential benefits.
- Sharing business premises with the public as part of corporate social responsibility or sustainable initiatives should also be acknowledged as a viable option for effective space sharing.

Different forms of sharing in the context of space have their advantages and disadvantages, but there is a gap in research about what the barriers are that prevent companies from developing and using these possibilities of the sharing economy. Offices, warehouses, parking spaces, and business premises are rarely one hundred percent occupied 24/7. As stated by Harris et al. [29], sharing could result in fewer buildings, less material for construction, and reduced energy consumption for operations, among other benefits. Despite the clear benefits, companies remain hesitant about utilizing or offering shared spaces to a larger degree. Barriers of sharing parking spaces as identified Hu and Jiang [30] can be parking unpunctuality behaviour of demanders, as well as the potential no-show behaviour of owners and demanders. Related to co-working, another finding from Suckley and Orel's research [31] is that the resurgence of co-working spaces after the pandemic was driven by a desire for social interaction and defined spatial boundaries. However, this return was also influenced by a growing demand for increased privacy, as a lack of sufficient privacy was perceived as a significant barrier hindering more widespread adoption. Generally, barriers to participation in utilization of shared spaces can significantly hinder their growth and effectiveness. Key barriers can be lack of trust, as both demanders or suppliers may hesitate to engage due to the trustworthiness of other participants. Then regulatory challenges can either protect or restrict the sharing space utilization. Also, a low level of awareness about the possibilities and benefits of space sharing can prevent potential users from engaging as they may not fully understand how sharing space works. Companies may face the fact that effectiveness of sharing platforms often relies on a dense network of users. In areas with a smaller population or limited-service offerings, the lack of a robust network can inhibit participation and reduce the perceived utility of sharing services. Furthermore, a company's culture, societal attitudes and norms can influence companies' willingness to participate. Resistance to changing established habits and behaviours can pose significant challenges, particularly in companies where ownership is highly valued. Insufficient data security can lead to reluctance in participation as users may avoid sharing sensitive information. These barriers highlight the complexities involved in fostering a sharing space utilization and underscore the need for targeted strategies to address these challenges

METHODOLOGY

Data collection and sample

The data analysed in this research were collected from October to December 2023 in Slovakia. Representatives of companies were asked to complete a paper questionnaire focused on the acceptance of different shared services by companies. The questionnaire was divided into three sections: company information, the use of shared services from the company's perspective, and by their representatives. This research is based on the first part of the questionnaire, specifically focusing on sharing spaces. Over 180 business representatives participated in the survey, but after data cleaning, the sample was refined to 154 responses, each representing a different company (Table 1).

Table 1: Descriptive statistics for respondents (N = 154).

Variable	**Frequencies**
Nature of business operations	17.5% Manufacturing, 82.5% Service
Number of employees	49.4% 1-9 employees; 18.8% 10-49 employees; 12.3% 50-49 employees; 19.5% 250 and more employees
Yearly turnover	61.0% less than 2 million €; 17.5% from 2 to 10 million €; 21.4% more than 10 million €
Business models	23.4% B2C; 44.2% B2B; 32.5% B2C & B2B
Corporate culture encouraging innovation	65.0% Yes; 35.0% No

Methods

The analysis of the collected data employed a comprehensive array of statistical techniques to ensure insightful findings. Initially, descriptive statistics were utilized to provide a foundational understanding of the data, comparing companies that have already considered the space-sharing concept with those that have not. Additionally, we employed binomial logistic regression to explore the factors influencing companies' interest in space sharing. The nature of our primary outcome variable, which was binary (indicating whether companies had considered space sharing, with responses of yes or no), made binomial logistic regression the appropriate choice for our analysis [32], [33]. Second, binomial logistic regression allows for the simultaneous assessment of multiple predictor variables. In our study, we examined the influence of factors such as the nature of business operations, the number of employees, yearly turnover, business model (B2B or B2C), and corporate culture related to innovations. This capability makes it well-suited for evaluating the combined effects of these diverse factors [34], [35]. Third, the coefficients obtained from logistic regression can be easily interpreted in terms of odds ratios, providing clear insights into the strength and direction of the relationships between predictors and the outcome variable. This interpretability is particularly useful for making informed decisions based on the analysis [36], [37].

RESULTS AND FINFINGS

Interest in Space Sharing and Influencing Decision Factors

Respondents were asked whether their company had considered using sharing services, including space sharing. As shown in Fig. 2, 46.8% of companies had already thought about utilising sharing of spaces. Among those who had not yet considered it, 40% indicated that it could be potentially used in their company.

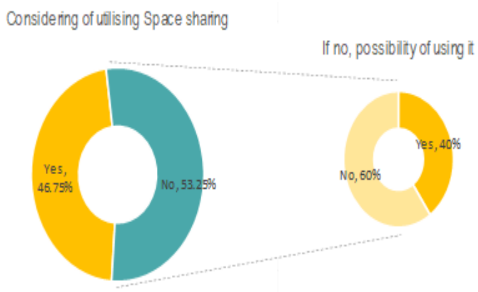

Fig. 3. Interest of companies in using space sharing and its possibility to use space sharing

When evaluating the significance of factors in deciding the use of space sharing, it becomes evident that the most crucial considerations for companies include the potential to generate additional revenue and cost saving. This trend indicates a strong emphasis on financial benefits as primary motivators for adopting space-sharing practices.

However, when comparing these factors based on whether companies have already considered using the concept, it is apparent that the distribution of importance regarding revenue generation and cost savings is relatively more balanced among those who have not yet considered this concept (Fig. 4). In contrast, among companies that have considered space sharing, the majority of respondents clearly prioritize these factors as the most important.

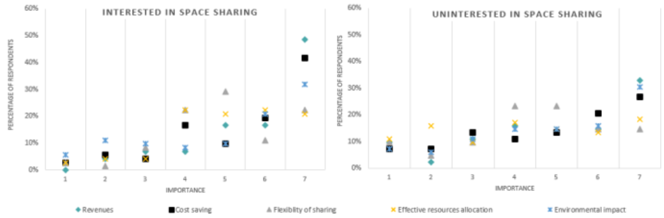

Fig. 4. Importance of factors influencing the decision to use space sharing in companies that are interested in space sharing versus those that are not.

Interest in Space Sharing and Influencing Decision Factors

When examining the barriers perceived by companies regarding the use of space sharing, it is evident that companies already considering this concept identify the biggest obstacles as low level of awareness (Mean=5.3056), issues with trust (Mean=4.7222), capital costs (Mean=4.557), and lack of platforms (Mean=4.4571). On the other hand, companies that have not yet considered this concept cite no need (4.8375), lack of platforms (4.5625), and low level of awareness (4.4878) as the most significant barriers.

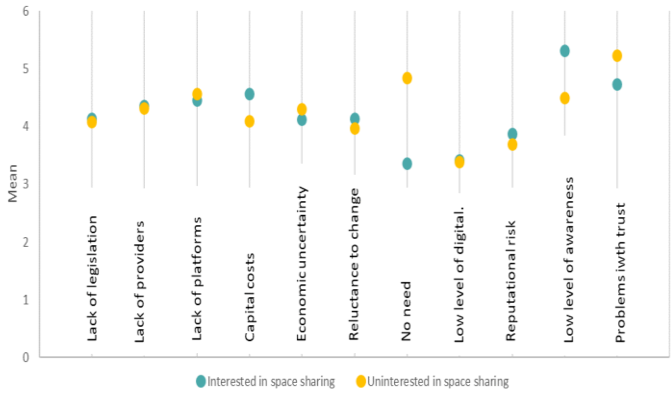

Fig. 5. Means comparison of barriers relevancy related to using of space sharing

Comparing these two groups reveals that the most significant difference in average responses is related to the "no need" factor (Fig. 5). Companies that have not considered space sharing view this as the biggest barrier to adopting the concept. Additionally, a notable difference is seen in the perception of a low level of awareness; companies considering space sharing view it as a more relevant barrier than those who have not considered it. This trend also applies to capital costs. Conversely, businesses considering space sharing perceive trust issues as less relevant compared to those that have not considered the concept.

Interest in space sharing and company characteristics

A binomial logistic regression was performed to ascertain the effects of the nature of business operations, number of employees, yearly turnover, business model, and corporate culture related to innovation on the likelihood that companies are interested in sharing spaces. The logistic regression model was statistically significant, $\chi2(5) = 23.069$, $p < .0005$. The model explained 18.6% (Nagelkerke R^2) of the variance in interest in space sharing and correctly classified 63.6% of cases. Of the six predictor variables, only one was statistically significant: corporate culture related to innovation (as shown in Table 2). Companies that support the implementation of innovations in the market had 4.59 times higher odds of being interested in using space sharing than companies that do not.

Table 2: Logistic regression predicting likelihood of interest in space sharing based on the nature of business operations, number of employees, yearly turnover, business model, and corporate culture related to innovation

	B	SE	Wald	*df*	*p*	Odds ratio	95% CI for Odds ratio	
							Lower	Upper
Business operations	-.332	.474	.490	1	.484	.718	.284	1.816
Number of employees	.330	.242	1.855	1	.173	1.391	.865	2.237
Yearly turnover	.163	.237	.472	1	.492	1.176	.740	1.870
Business models	-.539	.342	2.481	1	.115	.584	.299	1.141
Corporate culture	1.523	.393	15.013	1	.000	4.585	2.122	9.906
Constant	-1.253	.620	4.087	1	.043	.286		

DISCUSSIONS

Recently, collaborative consumption has transformed how businesses and individuals use resources, especially through shared spaces. However, the lack of comprehensive research may hinder businesses from fully embracing these opportunities. Our findings reveal the potential for innovative strategies and business models that leverage shared spaces to enhance efficiency and foster innovation. By increasing awareness of the benefits and challenges of space sharing, companies can explore new ideas for platforms and solutions, unlocking the sharing economy's full potential in the business sector.

The increasing adoption of shared spaces, such as co-working environments, reflects broader trends within the collaborative economy. This trend is driven by several factors, including cost efficiency, flexibility, and the fostering of collaborative environments. According to Bouncken et al. [25], co-working spaces provide significant opportunities for knowledge exchange and community building, which are essential for fostering innovation and creativity in businesses. Similarly, Capdevila [38] highlights that these spaces create dynamic ecosystems where collaboration leads to enhanced learning and innovation. Our findings align with these perspectives, indicating that Slovakian companies are increasingly interested in the potential of shared spaces to reduce costs and increase operational flexibility.

The study also reveals that financial considerations, such as cost savings and potential revenue generation, are primary motivators for companies considering space sharing. This is consistent with the research by Johns et al. [39], which emphasizes the economic benefits of resource-sharing models in reducing overhead costs. Furthermore, Mota et al. [40] identify the role of shared spaces in optimising resource allocation and minimizing financial risks for businesses. Additionally, the flexibility offered by shared spaces allows businesses to adapt quickly to changing market conditions without the burden of long-term commitments to physical office spaces, as discussed by Rese et al. [16].

However, the adoption of shared spaces is not without challenges. Trust issues, a lack of awareness, and the absence of suitable platforms were identified as significant barriers. This finding echoes the research of Hu and Jiang [41], who noted that trust and privacy concerns are critical barriers to the widespread adoption of sharing economy models. Li and McQuarrie [42] also emphasize the importance of establishing trust-building mechanisms to enhance participation in shared space initiatives. Moreover, the cultural context and specific business practices in Slovakia may further influence these perceptions, highlighting the need for tailored strategies to address these barriers.

The study's logistic regression analysis indicates that corporate culture, particularly one that encourages innovation, significantly influences a company's interest in space sharing. This aligns with the idea that innovative corporate cultures, which encourage creative decision-making, are better equipped to manage risk and uncertainty effectively [43]. This suggests that companies with a culture of innovation are more likely to adopt new business models that involve space sharing. Embracing creative decision-making processes plays a crucial role in driving sustainable innovation [44], [45], further supporting the idea that innovative corporate cultures are better equipped to explore new value creation opportunities through collaboration and sharing. This is consistent with the findings of Corsaro and Murtarelli [46], who argue that such cultures are more open to these opportunities. Additionally, D'Agostino et al. [47] highlight that fostering an innovative mindset within organisations leads to better engagement with collaborative consumption practices and sustainable business models.

While this study offers valuable insights into the adoption of shared spaces in Slovakia, several limitations should be noted. A primary limitation is the scarcity of relevant data on the various forms of space-sharing practices among Slovak companies. The research is focused primarily on businesses in Slovakia, so the findings may not be applicable to regions with different cultural and economic contexts. Future research could examine the adoption of shared spaces across a wider range of countries to better understand how cultural differences influence perceptions and the utilization of shared spaces.

Moreover, our study did not assess the level of knowledge that managers may have regarding the potential for space sharing within their companies. This limitation is further compounded by the fact that we only asked respondents about space sharing in general, rather than obtaining detailed information on their understanding of the concept. Due to these identified limitations, our future research will involve the comprehensive collection of data pertaining to the sharing space capabilities within Slovak companies. This approach also aims to enhance the knowledge of Slovak managers regarding the advantages of space sharing, specifically tailored to the unique conditions of their respective companies.

Research into the effects of legislative and institutional frameworks on the sharing economy in Slovakia could also provide valuable guidance for policymakers seeking to support the growth of shared business models. An examination of the regulatory barriers inhibiting shared space initiatives in Slovakia, as well as the analysis of perspectives from companies' stakeholders, would prove to be immensely beneficial. Furthermore, a recurring annual investigation with a heightened focus on nuanced and specialized queries related to this topic would further enhance our understanding of this subject matter. Such an ongoing exploration would help address the current gaps and provide a more comprehensive understanding of shared space adoption in diverse business environments.

CONCLUSION

The research paper has explored the growing phenomenon of shared spaces within the context of the sharing economy, with a particular focus on Slovakian businesses. This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the factors influencing the adoption of shared spaces, the benefits and barriers associated with these spaces, and the role of corporate culture in facilitating or hindering their use.

The findings reveal interest among Slovakian companies in the concept of shared spaces, driven primarily by the potential for cost savings and increased operational flexibility. This aligns with the global trend towards collaborative consumption, as businesses seek innovative ways to optimize resources and reduce overhead costs.

Despite the clear benefits, several barriers impede the widespread adoption of shared spaces. Issues such as trust, awareness, and the availability of suitable platforms were identified as major obstacles. Moreover, the study underscores the importance of corporate culture in shaping attitudes toward space sharing. Companies with a culture that encourages innovation are more likely to explore and adopt shared space models. The insights gained from this study have significant implications for both business leaders and policymakers. For businesses, the findings emphasise the importance of fostering a culture of innovation and openness to new business models. By addressing the barriers identified, companies can better leverage shared spaces to enhance their competitive advantage and drive economic growth. Additionally, businesses should consider investing in awareness campaigns and trust-building measures to facilitate the adoption of shared spaces.

For policymakers, the research highlights the need to create a supportive legislative and institutional framework that encourages the growth of the collaborative consumption. This includes developing policies that address data security concerns, facilitate platform development, and promote the benefits of shared spaces to businesses and society at large. By doing so, policymakers can help create an environment conducive to the successful implementation of shared business models.

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Data availability statements

Some data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article. The whole datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Competing Interests

The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

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