**TABLE1**

**META-SYNTHESIS PROTOCOL**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Stages of meta-synthesis** | **Analytical Goal** | **Strategy or Analytical**  **Procedure Used** | **Outcome to Generate a Theoretical**  **Contribution** |
| **1) Framing the research question** | Theoretical and conceptual deepening of the SI in order to gain greater familiarity with the field, especially with the latest discussions and identify the theoretical gap in the literature. | Search and reading academic publications of the research field in SI, especially the last five years. Special attention to theoretical review articles and suggestions for future studies of the most recent publications. | Identification of the theoretical gap that could be filled with a meta-synthesis study. |
| **2) Locating relevant**  **Research** | Identification of relevant publications on SI. | Search the key term "social innovation" in "topic" field without date restriction in the database "Web of Science". | Locating a sample of 66 articles in the area of "business" and "management". Of this total, a sample of 30 articles was classified as a qualitative case study. |
| **3) Inclusion criteria** | Inclusion of only articles that was consistent with the scope and the previously established goal. | Development of three specific criteria for inclusion and exclusion of articles. Then full text reading and evaluation of the 30 articles selected across the defined inclusion and exclusion criteria. | Of the 30 articles selected in the previous step, 9 of them fit the criteria. |
| **4) Extracting and coding data** | Reading and carefully rereading full text of each selected article. Coding study characteristics and their proceeded insights. | Development of a spreadsheet with general data of the articles and the initial coding of the sections related to the aim of this study. | Organization and possibility of broad overview of each article. |
| **5) Analyzing on a**  **case-specific level** | Identification and analysis of variables that could be related to the scalability phase of a SI (purpose of this paper) | Causal networks developed for each case included in the study. | Identifying themes, level of analysis and how each case was related to the scalability phase of a SI. |
| **6) Synthesizing on an**  **across-study level** | Visualization and analysis of the cases together. Development of a meta-causal network capable of encompassing the findings of causal networks of each case in a meta-causal network. | Meta-causal network | Identification of logical patterns established between the cases regarding the scalability of a SI phase. |
| **7) Building theory**  **from meta-synthesis** | Identification of the concept of environment conducive to the scalability of a SI. | Link between the results with the literature on the scalability of a SI. | Identification of the concept of environment conducive to the scalability of a SI. |
| **8) Discussing** | Discussion of the results of the meta-synthesis and its limitations | Discussing rigor, reliability, and  validity | Legitimizing the validity and reliability of the procedure and activities used. |

Source: Adapted from Hoon (2013)