ISSLP
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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Risk Management in Partnership Contracts

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The opening paragraph is strong but lacks a clear problem statement at the end. Add one or two sentences explicitly framing the research gap and need for practice-based insights.

While the comparative law discussion is valuable, it needs clearer linkage to risk management. Show how Iran's civil law traditions concretely affect risk allocation and dispute resolution.

Clarify whether financial risk assessment tools (scenario analysis, hedging) were described by participants or inferred by researchers.

Expand briefly on what kinds of "digital progress logs" and "smart contracts" participants found feasible within Iran's legal infrastructure.

Offer more concrete policy recommendations, e.g., creation of standardized model contracts or guidelines by professional associations.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The gap statement is somewhat scattered. Combine references to prior conceptual/doctrinal studies and explicitly state why an empirical qualitative approach is novel.

Strengthen the research objective by making it more operational, e.g., “This study seeks to identify and categorize practical strategies used by legal experts to manage risk in partnership contracts.”

Provide more justification for selecting 15 participants. Include a rationale for sample size adequacy (e.g., data saturation indicators) and demographic details such as years of experience distribution.

Consider appending the interview protocol or at least summarizing key question areas for transparency and reproducibility.

The four themes are clear but could benefit from a figure or conceptual model to visually integrate them and their subthemes.

The table is informative but too text-heavy. Consider condensing open codes or providing hierarchical indentation to show subthemes more clearly.

The adaptability theme is strong but would be enhanced by linking to specific Iranian case examples (anonymized) where renegotiation saved or failed a contract.

Explicitly compare your findings with key global PPP frameworks to strengthen the practical contribution.

Discuss potential legal enforceability challenges for smart contracts in Iran; this is a critical practical issue.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.