Review of Futures Markets (RFM)
ISSN: 1993-7116
Volume 30 Issue 1 (2022)
Website: https://fra.st

Entrepreneurship, Innovation Ecosystems, and Economic Growth

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Submission: 25.02.2022; Acceptance: 04.04.2022; Publication: 23.06.2022

Abstract
Entrepreneurship has long been recognized as a major driver of economic growth, innovation, employment generation, and social development. In recent years, increasing attention has been directed toward the role of innovation ecosystems in supporting entrepreneurial activities and fostering sustainable economic progress. Innovation ecosystems comprise interconnected networks of entrepreneurs, educational institutions, investors, policymakers, research organizations, and supporting infrastructure that collectively facilitate innovation and business development. This study examines the relationship between entrepreneurship, innovation ecosystems, and economic growth, highlighting the mechanisms through which entrepreneurial activity contributes to national and regional development.

The research adopts a multidisciplinary perspective by integrating insights from entrepreneurship theory, innovation studies, and economic development literature. Particular attention is given to factors such as access to finance, knowledge transfer, technological infrastructure, institutional support, and policy frameworks. The study evaluates how innovation ecosystems influence entrepreneurial success and create favorable conditions for business formation and expansion.

The findings indicate that well-developed innovation ecosystems significantly enhance entrepreneurial performance by facilitating access to resources, expertise, and collaborative opportunities. Regions characterized by strong institutional support and active innovation networks tend to experience higher levels of business creation, technological advancement, and economic productivity. The analysis further reveals that entrepreneurship contributes to job creation, competitiveness, and structural economic transformation.

The study also highlights challenges faced by entrepreneurs, including funding constraints, regulatory complexity, market uncertainty, and skill shortages. Addressing these barriers requires coordinated efforts among governments, educational institutions, investors, and industry stakeholders. The paper concludes that entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems play complementary roles in promoting economic growth and fostering long-term development. Policymakers should prioritize ecosystem-building initiatives that encourage innovation, investment, and entrepreneurial activity.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Innovation ecosystems, Economic growth, Startups, Business development, Innovation policy, Economic development