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Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: A Systems Approach

Professor Erik Stam, Utrecht University School of Economics

Abstract:

There is growing interest in entrepreneurial ecosystems as an approach for understanding the context of entrepreneurship at the macro level of an organizational community. Although growing in popularity, the entrepreneurial ecosystem concept remains loosely defined and measured. We show the value of taking a systems view of the context of entrepreneurship. We develop a systems framework for studying entrepreneurial ecosystems, develop a measurement instrument of its elements, and use it to examine the quality of entrepreneurial ecosystems in 12 regions of the Netherlands. We measure the quality of entrepreneurial ecosystems with an index value comprising 10 ecosystem elements and measure entrepreneurial outputs with the prevalence of high-growth firms. We find that the quality of entrepreneurial ecosystems is strongly related to entrepreneurial outputs. Strong interrelationships among the ecosystem elements also reveals their interdependence and need for a systems perspective.

Bio

Erik Stam is Full Professor at the Utrecht University School of Economics, where he holds the chair of Strategy, Organization and Entrepreneurship. Next to this he is co-founder and Academic Director of the Utrecht Center for Entrepreneurship, board member of the Utrecht University Strategic Research Theme Institutions, and research director of the Utrecht University School of Economics. He held positions at Erasmus University Rotterdam, the University of Cambridge, the Max Planck Institute of Economics (Jena), and the Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR). He has been visiting professor or scholar at institutes such as the University of Cambridge, Hitotsubashi University Tokyo, Indiana University at Bloomington, Institute of Industrial Economics Stockholm, Leibniz Universität Hannover, University of Oxford, Tel Aviv University, University of Turku, and Zhejiang University (Hangzhou). He is editor of *Small Business Economics*. His research interests include: new firm growth, intrapreneurship, entrepreneurship and economic development, institutions, and innovation policy. He is a leading scholar on entrepreneurial ecosystems. He has (co-)authored more than hundred books, book chapters, and articles in a variety of disciplines, including economics, geography, business/management and public administration. Next to his scientific work he often engages with governments, start-ups and corporates on innovation and entrepreneurship. He is on the advisory board of several public and private sector entrepreneurship organizations.