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Unlocking Innovation Potential through Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Support: Navigating the Startup to Scaleup Transition

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Abstract

The objective of the study is to examine the impact of entrepreneurial ecosystem support on the innovation potential of startups as they transition to scaleups. Grounded in theories of innovation systems and entrepreneurial ecosystems, the study will focus on external factors, including access to financial resources, mentorship, and regulatory and institutional support. These elements are essential components of a thriving ecosystem, influencing not only a company's capacity for innovation but also its ability to overcome growth challenges. By examining empirical data from Slovenian startup companies, the research will seek to identify specific relationships between external support mechanisms and enhanced innovation capabilities. The study will explore how startups with greater access to capital, knowledge networks, and a supportive regulatory environment are better equipped to develop and implement innovative solutions, thus facilitating their scaling process. It is anticipated that the findings will illustrate that a well-structured entrepreneurial ecosystem significantly boosts innovation potential, which is pivotal for navigating the complexities of scaling in both domestic and international markets. This study will contribute to the ongoing discourse on the role of ecosystems in fostering high-growth firms, offering practical recommendations for policymakers and ecosystem stakeholders to enhance collaboration and resource accessibility, thereby supporting scalable innovation.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial ecosystem, External support, Innovativeness, Scaleup, Startup