



Entrepreneurship Ecosystems and Innovation Hubs in East Africa: A Comparative Analysis

Rania Meddeb¹, Layla Belhassen², Hamza Ben Amor¹, Nadia Aouad³

¹ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Sfax

² University of Tunis

³ Department of Advanced Studies, Tunis Business School (TBS)

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Correspondence: rmeddeb@outlook.com

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Author notes

Rania Meddeb is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Sfax and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Layla Belhassen is affiliated with University of Tunis and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Hamza Ben Amor is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Sfax and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Nadia Aouad is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Tunis Business School (TBS) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Entrepreneurship ecosystems and innovation hubs have become critical components in fostering economic growth and job creation across various regions, including East Africa. These systems support entrepreneurs by providing resources, networks, and infrastructure necessary for sustainable business development. The research employs a mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with semi-structured questionnaires designed to gather insights from entrepreneurs, policymakers, and industry experts in Tunisia. Data analysis involves thematic coding and cross-regional comparisons. A significant proportion (70%) of surveyed entrepreneurs reported receiving support services through innovation hubs, highlighting the importance of these structures in facilitating access to resources such as funding, mentorship, and networking opportunities. The findings underscore the potential of entrepreneurship ecosystems and innovation hubs to drive regional economic development. However, there is room for improvement in terms of policy alignment and resource allocation across different regions. Policymakers should prioritise the integration of existing support structures into a more cohesive ecosystem framework that caters specifically to East African informal settlement areas. This would enhance their effectiveness and impact.

Keywords: *East African, entrepreneurship, innovation, hubs, ecosystems, comparative, regional*

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