



Entrepreneurship Ecosystems and Innovation Hubs in Central African Republic: An African Perspective

Mandji Ondoa¹

¹ University of Bangui

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Correspondence: mondoa@yahoo.com

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Author notes

Mandji Ondoa is affiliated with University of Bangui and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Entrepreneurship ecosystems and innovation hubs are crucial for fostering economic growth and technological advancement in developing countries. Central African Republic (CAR), like other Sub-Saharan African nations, faces significant challenges in these areas. The research employs qualitative methods including semi-structured interviews with entrepreneurs, policymakers, and industry experts. Data analysis focuses on thematic coding and cross-case comparisons to uncover common themes and specific challenges. Our preliminary findings indicate that while CAR has seen limited investment in innovation hubs, there is a growing interest among local businesses and government entities in establishing such initiatives. The primary challenge identified is the lack of adequate funding and skilled human resources. Despite these initial insights, the study suggests that strategic partnerships between private sector actors and governmental bodies could catalyze the development of effective innovation hubs in CAR. The paper recommends a multi-pronged approach including targeted government support programmes, capacity building initiatives for entrepreneurs, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders to create sustainable ecosystem environments. Entrepreneurship Ecosystems, Innovation Hubs, Central African Republic, Sub-Saharan Africa

Keywords: *Africanization, Geographical Indicators, Innovation Hubs, Regional Development, Entrepreneurship Models, Participatory Methods, Community-Based Initiatives*

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