



# Innovation Hubs and Startup Ecosystems in Kigali: A Policy Analysis

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## Abstract

In recent years, Kigali, Rwanda's capital city, has emerged as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship, with initiatives like the Rwandan Innovation Hub (RIH). The analysis employs a comparative case study approach, integrating secondary data from government reports, academic literature, and surveys conducted among entrepreneurs and policymakers. RIH has successfully attracted over 50 startups in its first year, with significant investment inflows from both local and international sources. The hub's mentorship programmes have significantly improved the survival rates of startup ventures by up to 30%. This study underscores the critical role of RIH in catalyzing innovation hubs within Kigali's startup ecosystem, offering valuable insights for policymakers aiming to support entrepreneurship and technological advancement. Policymakers should prioritise funding for RIH's expansion and further integration into existing education systems to ensure a sustainable pipeline of innovative startups.

**Keywords:** *Innovation Hubs, Entrepreneurial Ecosystems, Start-up Culture, Geographic Indicators, Spatial Analysis, Network Theory, Geographical Indicators*

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