Track: Entrepreneurial ecosystems and start-up programmes
Utrecht, the Netherlands, 16-18 October 2019

Track Chairs:
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Description of the track

Over the last decades there is increased attention for how different contexts influence entrepreneurship (Autio, Kenney, Mustar, Siegel, & Wright, 2014; Welter, 2011). Two prominent ways to conceptualise this context are through entrepreneurial ecosystems at the regional level (Spigel & Harrison, 2018) and start-up programmes that interact directly with start-ups (Eveleens, van Rijnsoever, & Niesten, 2017; Hochberg, 2015). The common notion is that these contexts are crucial in understanding the emergence, and development of start-up firms. In turn, these start-ups and other stakeholders actively shape these contexts. Understanding these dynamics helps explaining how these contexts come about and how they influence the direction, efficiency, speed, and success of entrepreneurial activities (Alvedalen & Boschma, 2017).

In times in which policymakers and the public often look towards entrepreneurs to contribute to solving societal challenges such as climate change or social injustice by introducing new technological innovations or business models, the appeal to influence entrepreneurship is great. This has resulted in the emergence of a large number of variations on both concepts, such as entrepreneurial university ecosystems, digital entrepreneurial ecosystems, university incubators, acceleration programmes, etc.

However, our understanding of how these contexts influence the entrepreneurial process and particularly of the underlying dynamics remains underdeveloped. Much more research is required to understand how entrepreneurial ecosystems and start-up programmes are influenced by different stakeholders, how they affect entrepreneurship and start-up development, how entrepreneurial ecosystems and start-up programmes interact, and how they contribute to solving grand societal challenges.

Key topics and research questions of the track

- What types of entrepreneurial ecosystems and start-up programmes exist?
- What are valid indicators for successful entrepreneurial ecosystems and start-up programs?
- How are existing theoretical frameworks related to the undertheorized concepts of entrepreneurial ecosystems and start-up programs?
- What are the key theoretical mechanisms through which entrepreneurial ecosystems and start-up programmes affect the direction, speed, and success of start-ups?
- How do these key theoretical mechanisms relate to the daily practices in entrepreneurial ecosystems and start-up programs?
What activities do various stakeholders pursue in actively shaping entrepreneurial ecosystems and start-up programmes?

How do entrepreneurial ecosystems and start-up programs interact and evolve over time?

How do entrepreneurial ecosystems and start-up programs contribute to the success of start-ups in tackling grand societal challenges, such as climate change or social injustice?

We encourage theoretical and empirical research papers that extend and develop our understanding of how entrepreneurial ecosystems and start-up programmes shape entrepreneurship and start-up development. We welcome research that uses a variety of empirical methods (e.g. surveys, web analytics, social media analytics, qualitative research, action research, network analysis or agent based models) and encourage interdisciplinary research that applies new perspectives on entrepreneurial ecosystems and start-up programmes.

The deadline for submissions is 15th June 2019.
All submissions must use the submission template and use the submission procedure on the webpage otherwise they will not be considered for review.
Download the submission template here
Submit your paper here

The registration for the conference is open until 31st August 2019.
Register here