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Title

Evolution of startup policies of the last decade – a case study from a CEE country

Abstract

Startups are agile but vulnerable, innovation-driven companies that can contribute to economic stability and growth. In Central-Eastern Europe, a bottom-up approach for creating a vibrant startup ecosystem faced several barriers, as the historical patterns made the region short of capital, knowledge, experience, and role models of such scalable entrepreneurship. The paper focuses on Hungary, where the aim is to understand how public policy goals and actions unfolded and what (knowable) factors influenced them from a historical perspective, using the „unfreezing” eventful history research method. Results show that three leading organizations can meaningfully influence startup-related public policy-making based on evidence and scientific results. However, final decisions are often made based on the personal influence of certain actors, which often leads to delays in introducing appropriate incentives and legislation.