

## Call for Book Chapters

# **Global, Regional, and National Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: Exploring the Interplay Within the MENA Region**

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~~Chapter proposals (1-page): April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024~~

Extended deadline for chapter proposals (1-page): May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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Full chapter submission: September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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### **Editors (alphabetical order)**

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Dr. Boumedine Ramdani, Qatar University, Qatar

Dr. Evren Tok, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar

Dr. Allan Villegas, HEC Paris, Qatar\*

\*Handling book editor (all submissions to: [villegas@hec.fr](mailto:villegas@hec.fr)).

### **Background**

Governments and academics have become increasingly interested in understanding the entrepreneurial ecosystems (EEs) phenomenon as a comprehensive theoretical and practical framework to foster resilient economies in the last 15 years as a result of the need to promote entrepreneurship in various regions (Autio et al., 2018; Fernandes and Ferreira, 2021; Roundy et al., 2018; Spigel, 2017; Theodoraki et al., 2021). However, in the literature on EEs, still, there isn't a clear consensus on a stabilized definition and an appropriate method understand them, having different theories drawn by contributions from researchers ranging from innovation and regional economic development (Amin, 1999; Stam, 2015), regional innovation systems (Cooke, 2007; Sternberg, 2007; Ylinenpaa, 2009), industrial clusters (Delgado et al., 2010), inter-organizational networks (Dhanaraj and Parkhe, 2006), entrepreneurial sociology (Thornton, 1999) and business ecosystems (Adner, 2017; Jacobides et al., 2018). Feldman et al (2022) argue that at least these debates and contributions enrich and evolve the conceptualization that is still emergent but nonetheless highly relevant for policy and practice. In fact, EEs literature needs to further incorporate distinct compositions and dynamics (O'Connor and Audretsch, 2022), and this involves a closer inspection of their spatial configurations or configurational perspectives (Guéneau et al, 2023). In addition, Ramdani et al. (2022), argued that policies and programs to stimulate companies' access to resources in the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean are still missing.

For Theodoraki and Catanzaro (2022), addressing EEs as isolated analytical units delimited by political/administrative boundaries can cause an inadequate comprehension of how entrepreneurship-oriented relationships are organized across territories. In addition, the literature on the EEs is concentrated mainly on studies investigating more developed ecosystems with less evidence and understanding of ecosystem dynamics in regions with limited resources (Harima et al., 2021). In this regard, Cao and Shi (2021) argued that there are significant differences between advanced economy EEs and emerging economy EEs. This explains the need to increase the empirical contributions to the field of EEs in less explored regions. One of those regions is the Middle East & North of Africa (MENA), a region extensively characterized by oil and gas reserves and similar socioeconomic structures across the countries but with limited access to other resources like skilled human capital, fertile land, and water, among others (Villegas-Mateos, 2022), requiring contextual analysis furthermore. Therefore, studies on economic diversification and theoretical foundations of innovation and entrepreneurship in this region are unique in understanding different strategies (Tok, 2020). Some previous research has investigated the opportunities and challenges to accelerate entrepreneurship in the MENA region (Manzoor, 2017) and the dynamics in trends, policy, and business environment (Faghih and Zali, 2018). However, there is still a gap in other areas of research from the macro-level to the meso-level and to the micro-levels, as well as, in understanding the cultural effects on entrepreneurial activities, family businesses, entrepreneurship education, role of SMEs, policies, women entrepreneurship, knowledge transfer, diaspora effects and cross border flow of people and investments, among others.

This edited book, therefore, will include chapters with empirical and conceptual studies conducted in the MENA region (at any level of economic groups, clusters, countries, cities, small towns, etc.) on topics as well as theories and practices related to understanding the interplay of the stakeholders to support the development of entrepreneurial activities collaboratively. We envision book chapters that would be possibly related but not limited to addressing emerging questions concerning which EE resources are lacking in the region and which ones can be accessed through international programs? How do the migration (national and international) flows connect different EEs? What is the role of angel investors, venture capital, and family offices, and where are the deals coming from? How can innovation be fostered in this region to help in the economic transformation toward knowledge-based economies? What are the local and national EEs' configurations, and how do they impact entrepreneurial dynamics? Which are the main cultural constraints, and how do they affect entrepreneurial activities? How do women perceive and pursue entrepreneurial careers? Why are some countries in the region developing on a faster track than others? How are policies driving the EEs growth? Does the territorial scope of EEs change according to the perspectives/narratives of different groups of actors (entrepreneurs, policymakers, incubators, etc.)? If so, how and why?

## **Objectives and topics**

We aim to bundle together the key research activities on this critical topic and generate a contemporary body of knowledge providing a focused view on various topics that will serve as

fertile ground for future research. We invite either conceptual or empirical submissions without preference for specific theoretical or methodological approaches. High-quality conceptual, qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods submissions are welcome. More specifically, the main topics that the book will likely cover are:

1. Entrepreneurial ecosystems - i) analyzing how formal/informal institutional structures impact innovation activities, ii) examining the influence of context e.g. by analyzing innovation activities in different regions of the world, iii) exploring regional variations in the innovation process, iv) analyzing innovation activities within innovation clusters, tech-cities, etc., v) analyzing strategies for the economic transformation into knowledge-based economies.
2. Entrepreneurship and innovation activities – i) analyzing activities in different sectors e.g. services sector, food sector, technology sector, etc., ii) analyzing the innovation process and available access to resources needed, iii) adopting intersectional perspectives to analyzing innovation activities, etc., iv) R&D activities and knowledge transfer mechanisms, v) identifying primary and most effective sources of funding.
3. Entrepreneurship education and training – i) evaluating entrepreneurship education and training to capture the outcomes of the programs, whether as individuals, organizations, or government, ii) comparison of programs in different cultures or contexts, including the embeddedness of SDGs, iii) training effectiveness and novel methods conducted by incubators and accelerators, iv) analyzing the teacher or instructor preparation and background impact to reach goals, v) triple helix collaborations and linkages to the national, regional and global entrepreneurial ecosystems.
4. Public policies and regulations – i) analyzing the impact of corporate laws and bankruptcy in attracting foreign direct investments, ii) implementation of tax incentives, free zones, and easiness of doing business across different sectors, iii) analyzing the processes of attraction of risk capitals, human capital, and entrepreneurs, iv) evaluation and implementation of entrepreneurship education in economic development plans, v) policies and programs facilitating digital transformation among SMEs.
5. Sociocultural norms – i) analyzing the impact of religion, gender roles, and negotiations in the country, city and/or region, ii) analyzing family expectations, heritage and business succession impacting career intentions, iii) analyzing the religious embeddedness in the educational process and traditions impacting the development of an entrepreneurial mindset leading to establish and grow global businesses.
6. Networks and social capital – i) impact of transnational entrepreneurship to access dual ecosystem resources, ii) types, structure, and composition of the communities that can provide support for developing entrepreneurial activities, iii) the role of incubators and accelerators to connect with regional and global ecosystems to scale up; iv) network structure and configuration and their impact on entrepreneurial dynamics.

The previous topics are indicative, but not exhaustive, to recent developments in EEs. Authors are expected to suggest subjects relevant to the previous ones and following the book's spirit and objectives.

## Submission requirements

Chapter proposal (1-page excluding references) by ~~April 7<sup>th</sup>~~, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, indicating:

- The section to which the contribution is made.
- The primary aim and research question.
- The theoretical and practical focus and methodology to use.
- Expected results/contribution.

Authors of accepted book chapter proposals will be invited to submit a full chapter manuscript of up to 6,000 words by September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Submitted chapters must follow the [Author Guidelines for Emerald Series and Books](#).

Submissions and queries should be addressed to Dr. Allan Villegas at the following email address: [villegas@hec.fr](mailto:villegas@hec.fr)

SUBJECT: MENA Entrepreneurial Ecosystems Book

## Important dates

~~Submission of chapter proposal deadline: April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024~~

Extended deadline for chapter proposals submission (1-page): May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Acceptance/rejection notification for all chapter proposals: May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Full chapter submission deadline: September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Reviews and feedback to all submissions: October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Submission of revised chapters deadline: November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Expected publication: Mid of 2025

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