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Manuscript Abstract**

Strategic Resource Alignment: The Impact of Centres for Entrepreneurship on Student Ventures

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Full reference

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Abstract

Objective: This study investigates the alignment between the resource requirements of student entrepreneurs during their entrepreneurial journey and the support Centres for Entrepreneurship (CfEs) provide at higher education institutions (HEIs). It addresses student entrepreneurs' diverse challenges and the essential understanding that CfE staff requires to meet these needs.

Approach: A qualitative multiple-case study approach was adopted, examining seven HEIs in Flanders, Belgium. Primary data were collected through semi-structured interviews with 14 student entrepreneurs and 12 CfE staff members. Methodological triangulation, including document analysis and member checking, ensured the study's credibility.

Findings: The findings indicate a complex landscape of resource alignment between student entrepreneurs' needs and the offerings of CfEs. While CfEs provide comprehensive support, there is a significant gap in students' awareness of and access to these resources. The study highlights the importance of tailored support mechanisms, enhanced communication strategies, and ongoing evaluation to meet the evolving needs of student entrepreneurs.

Implication and value: This study extends the Resource-Based View (RBV) theory by contextualising it within CfEs at HEIs, focusing on the alignment between provided resources and the specific needs of student entrepreneurs. It contributes to the literature on entrepreneurship in higher education by offering practical recommendations for enhancing CfE effectiveness, ultimately fostering a more conducive ecosystem for student-led ventures.