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Manuscript Abstract

Do entrepreneurial universities have entrepreneurial students? Connecting meso- and micro-levels using a merged ETER-GUESSS dataset

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Full reference

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Abstract

Entrepreneurial universities are characterised by their external orientation, i.e. by their focus on translating knowledge into economic activity to achieve sustainable regional innovation (Etzkowitz, 2022). To this end, higher education institutions (HEI) work collaboratively with external actors and implement dedicated policies. In relation to students, the latter consist primarily in developing entrepreneurship education and support structures for student entrepreneurship. Beyond these direct measures, however, it remains unclear whether the broader external orientation of HEIs itself stimulates student entrepreneurship. From an institutional logics theory perspective, such an orientation, manifested for instance through collaborations with non-academic partners or patenting activity, may reinforce the legitimacy of entrepreneurship within universities and support the development of entrepreneurial identity scripts among students, thereby encouraging entrepreneurial activity. To test the influence of HEI external orientation on student entrepreneurial outcomes, this study relies on a merged dataset bringing together HEI-level data from the European Tertiary Education Register (ETER) and from the Global University Entrepreneurial Spirit Students' Survey. The final sample covers 20,360 students nested in 98 HEIs across Europe.