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Manuscript Abstract

From EU funding to entrepreneurial universities: the role of EU framework programmes in the development of entrepreneurial climate in European universities

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Full reference

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Abstract

This study examines whether participation in the European Union Framework Programmes (EUFP) for research and innovation influences the development of entrepreneurial climates that foster students' entrepreneurial self-efficacy (ESE). It focuses on both overall project participation in the EU Framework Programmes, and on differences in R&D orientation. Distinct R&D orientations are captured using Balassa indices reflecting universities' relative specialisation in European Research Council projects, Research and Innovation Actions projects, and Innovation Actions projects. The study relies on an original multilevel dataset combining university-level data with student-level data, covering 93,624 students across 133 European universities. The results indicate that EUFP participation is negatively associated with entrepreneurial climate and indirectly reduces students' ESE, suggesting a misalignment between research intensity and entrepreneurial development at the student level. However, R&D orientation towards Innovation Actions is positively associated with entrepreneurial climate and indirectly increases students' ESE, revealing potential synergies between later-stage R&D and the development of entrepreneurial university environments.