

Course 02 : definition of entrepreneurial ecosystem

Authors	Definition	Features
Isenberg, 2010	entrepreneurship ecosystem “consists of a set of individual elements—such as leadership, culture, capital markets, and open-minded customers—that combine in complex ways” [11].	The focus is on components of the ecosystem.
Acs et al., 2014	“dynamic, institutionally embedded interaction between entrepreneurial attitudes, ability, and aspirations, by individuals, which drives the allocation of resources through the creation and operation of new ventures” [4].	Emphasis the allocation of resources as an outcome, and dynamic nature of the ecosystem.
Mason & Brown, 2014	entrepreneurial ecosystem is “a set of interconnected entrepreneurial actors (...), entrepreneurial organisations (...), institutions (...) and entrepreneurial processes (...) which formally and informally coalesce to connect, mediate and govern the performance within the local entrepreneurial environment” [13].	The definition is quite comprehensive, nevertheless without specifying ecosystem outcomes.
Stam, 2015	entrepreneurial ecosystem is “a set of interdependent actors and factors coordinated in such a way that they enable productive entrepreneurship” [14].	Highlights productive entrepreneurship as the output of the ecosystem.
Mack & Mayer, 2016	entrepreneurial ecosystems “consist of interacting components, which foster new firm formation and associated regional entrepreneurial activities” [16].	Focus mainly on new ventures and regional aspect.
Audretsch & Belitski, 2017	entrepreneurial ecosystems defined as “institutional and organisational as well as other systemic factors that interact and influence identification and commercialisation of entrepreneurial opportunities” [17].	Emphasis the system-level context.
Bruns et al., 2017	entrepreneurial ecosystem represents a “multidimensional set of interacting factors that moderate the effect of entrepreneurial activity on economic growth” [18].	Highlights the role of interacting factors in entrepreneurial activity.
Spigel, 2017	entrepreneurial ecosystems are “combinations of social, political, economic, and cultural elements within a region that support the development and growth of innovative startups and encourage nascent entrepreneurs and other actors to take the risks of starting, funding, and otherwise assisting high-risk ventures” [15].	Emphasis the governance and the spatial constraint of the ecosystem, focusing on start-ups and high-risk ventures.
Spigel et al., 2020	entrepreneurial ecosystems defined as the “regional collection of actors (such as entrepreneurs, advisors, mentors, and workers) and factors (cultural outlooks, policies, R&D systems, and networks) that all contribute to the creation and survival of high-growth ventures” [19].	The definition involves a regional aspect and focuses on high-growth ventures.
Van Rijnsoever, 2020	entrepreneurial ecosystem is seen as “a set of actors that interact and exchange resources in a network under an institutional regime and an infrastructure” [20].	Implies a specific institutional regime and infrastructure.

Source: own elaboration.

characteristics of entrepreneurial ecosystem:

- There are various actors and factors involved;
- Interactions, interdependent relationships between different actors are essential in an ecosystem;
- The focus is on growth-oriented entrepreneurship;
- Dynamic and systemic nature of the concept;
- There should be an element of spatiality/locality.

The entrepreneurial ecosystem implies a shift from traditional economic thinking focused mainly on companies and markets towards new thinking about people and networks.