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**The role of the universities in the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem**

In the learning economy, and with the emergence of the regional development agenda, the role of the entrepreneurial university includes a third task - entrepreneurship - and plays an integral role in the growth of the entrepreneurial ecosystem (Cunningham, Guerrero and Urbano, 2017). The dynamics and interrelationships between the local context, entrepreneurial activities and regional development offer significant potential for job creation and economic growth in the regions. Universities play a role in strengthening the operation for innovation and entrepreneurship, thus developing a win-win relationship within its regional entrepreneurial ecosystems (Ierapetritis, 2019). furthermore, by the institutional isomorphism perspective developed by DiMaggio and Powell (1983), the role of higher education institutions has evolved from a supporting role to a key partner, amplified synergies to stimulate knowledge in the spatial context (Leydesdorff, 2012).

This study is for regional economic growth; by emphasizing the importance of universities as entrepreneurial institutions and the need to create linkages to increase their impact, including in third mission activities (spin-offs, spin out…). For those reasons, we put down the following research question: how are universities involved in developing regional entrepreneurial ecosystems? Several research questions have emerged from this central question: What role does an entrepreneurial university play in the growth of a region? What role do the entrepreneurial ecosystem and geographical factors play in developing entrepreneurial universities? What role does the entrepreneurial ecosystem play in regional growth? We plan to use a mixed-methods approach, with a quantitative component in the form of a survey aimed at academics in Moroccan universities in three regions: the Eastern, Souss Massa, and Casablanca-Settat, and a qualitative aspect in the form of interview guides for regional entrepreneurial actors.

***Key words:*** learning region, entrepreneurial university, regional entrepreneurial ecosystem.

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