

Actor's re-positioning during innovation ecosystem evolution – The role of ecosystem leaders for sustainability transition



Idea:

Actors in innovation ecosystems have several options and strategic choices to position themselves to generate and capture value. Although the literature discusses actor roles and dynamics in ecosystems in general, it would benefit from a discussion of the role of ecosystem leaders in the context of sustainability transitions. Using secondary data (e.g., publications, patents, and company reports), this thesis will relate actor roles to value chain positions and identify reliable indicators for assessing ecosystem leaders and their role in the evolution of the ecosystem. By applying the indicators to a sustainable innovation ecosystem (e.g. green hydrogen, renewable energy or electric vehicles), we aim to uncover structural strengths and weaknesses of the ecosystem, leading to business opportunities and policy implications.

Study design:

Exploratory

Data:

Publication data, patent data, company reports

Relevante Literature:

Dedehayir, O., Mäkinen, S. J., & Ortt, J. R. (2018). Roles during innovation ecosystem genesis: A literature review. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 136, 18-29.

Thomas, L. D., & Ritala, P. (2022). Ecosystem legitimacy emergence: A collective action view. *Journal of Management*, 48(3), 515-541.