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SPACE SECTOR ENTREPRENEURIAL CHALLENGES IN THE THE MENA REGION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Abstract

The paper will compare, study, and analyze the different challenges entrepreneurs face in countries in Africa and the Middle East. The work is based on a series of hackathons, trainings, and events led by the authors to facilitate entrepreneurship opportunities with young people and underserved communities in Africa and the Middle East. The research is based on a unique training program to provide access to and the use of open space data in countries in Africa and the Middle East. The study encompasses entrepreneurs from a variety of backgrounds: professional, college students, and community members; and from both developed and developing countries. The authors themselves bring a diverse perspective on these issues. The study highlights cross-cultural similarities and differences in entrepreneurs in the MENA region, while offering a unique and insightful perspective on commonalities these entrepreneurs share. An in-depth analysis of entrepreneurs in the U.A.E. is also provided. Importantly, this paper identifies the commonalities and challenges in nation-specific entrepreneurship while presenting practiced and accessible solutions.