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STARTUP ECOSYSTEM AS A DRIVER OF INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT IN UKRAINE

The relevance of this study stems from the need to identify new sources of innovative renewal for Ukraine's industry under conditions of full-scale war, damaged production capacities and restricted access to conventional instruments of technological development. The startup ecosystem — encompassing accelerators, venture funds, technology hubs, the special Diia.City legal regime and a network of university- and corporate-based support institutions — is increasingly regarded as an alternative and complementary channel for generating and commercialising industrial innovation, capable of partially offsetting limited public funding for research and development. The purpose of the article is to assess the potential role and possible interaction mechanisms of the startup ecosystem with Ukraine's industrial enterprises in stimulating their innovative development, and to substantiate directions for strengthening this interaction. The study applies methods of systemic analysis, comparison, generalisation and structural-logical modelling, drawing on D. Isenberg's six-domain entrepreneurial ecosystem framework (policy, finance, culture, supports, human capital, markets) and H. Chesbrough's open innovation concept. The dynamics of innovation activity among Ukraine's industrial enterprises for 2021–2024 were analysed, showing growth in the share of innovation-active enterprises from 9.6% to 16.2%, alongside a 3.8-fold increase in the volume of sold innovative products. Statistics on the functioning of the Ukrainian venture market and the Diia.City regime were examined, in particular the attraction of at least USD 310.5 million in investment by startups in 2024 and the accession of 880 new residents to the special tax regime. The main models of interaction between industrial enterprises and startups were identified — corporate accelerators, venture investment, spin-off projects, technology scouting and innovation clusters — together with barriers restraining such interaction in Ukrainian conditions, including the shortage of sector-specific acceleration programmes, low trust of traditional industrial companies toward external developers, insufficient intellectual-property protection mechanisms, and limited access of small technology teams to production infrastructure. Drawing on the logic of the open innovation model, a theoretically grounded proposition is put forward that industrial enterprises which systematically integrate startup-based tools into their own innovation strategies may gain faster access to external technological solutions compared with relying solely on an in-house R&D unit, although empirically testing this proposition on Ukrainian data requires a separate study. Directions for developing interaction between industry and the startup ecosystem in Ukraine are proposed, in particular the creation of sector-specific corporate accelerators, broader application of the Diia.City Invest regime for

financing industrial technology startups, the formation of industrial technology parks based on operating enterprises, and the development of technology-scouting programmes. The results can be used by public administration bodies in shaping innovation policy and by the management of industrial enterprises in developing open-innovation strategies.

Keywords: startup ecosystem; industrial enterprises; innovative development; open innovation; venture financing; Diia.City; corporate accelerators.