

Entrepreneurial culture and effective support and accompaniment measures: An analytical study of the Algerian experience

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Abstract---The Algerian experience in supporting and accompanying entrepreneurship is still in its early stages. However, we acknowledge the efforts made by the state to support youth and create job opportunities at the national level to promote the national economy and liberate it from absolute dependence on the rentier economy. On one hand, this involves assisting youth and activating their capabilities, as well as investing in their innovative talents. On the other hand, achieving this goal and ensuring its success requires significant, serious efforts, continuous monitoring, and field audits to guarantee the success of the entrepreneurial concept in society.

Keywords---entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial culture, accompaniment.

1. Introduction:

Since the end of the twentieth century to the present day, the world has witnessed a wide proliferation of micro, small, and emerging enterprises, to the extent that they have become a hallmark of various national economies. The topic of entrepreneurship has gained significant attention in recent years compared to the past, emerging as one of the most important sources for achieving comprehensive development in countries. This has attracted the interest of academics and researchers, as evidenced by the increasing number of projects, scientific research, and international conferences discussing the subject in various global forums. However, ensuring their sustainability and success is contingent upon the maturity of entrepreneurial thinking, known as entrepreneurial culture, which is a driving force for establishing enterprises.

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If we want to increase the percentage of these enterprises and encourage young people to become entrepreneurs, it is necessary for various stakeholders to cultivate the entrepreneurial spirit and instill this culture as a fundamental necessity for improving the economy and creating added value. The success of this direction also depends on the existence of a real political will, which includes the implementation of mechanisms and policies that encourage and guide youth towards this option. It is also essential to adopt the idea of business incubators, which have proven their effectiveness and success in many countries around the world.

Algeria, like other countries, has its own path and objectives in the field of entrepreneurship. Although this phenomenon is relatively new, the efforts made are considerable and untiring. The first objective is, of course, to reduce unemployment and ease the pressure on the labor market, and the second is to find alternatives to hydrocarbons in order to boost the Algerian economy. This is being achieved through the establishment of various strategies and measures overseen by strong and specialized structures and bodies capable of fulfilling the tasks assigned to them in order to achieve the desired objectives.

1.2 Research problem:

From this point of view, and given the importance of the subject, we pose the following question: What is the path of entrepreneurship pursued by the Algerian authorities and what are the main support and accompanying measures implemented in this regard?

1.3 Research hypotheses:

The hypotheses of the study are as follows:

- Entrepreneurship projects contribute to the creation of economic and social development.
- Entrepreneurship helps to reduce the severity of unemployment.

1.4 Importance and objectives of the study

The importance of this research paper lies in highlighting the role that entrepreneurship plays in promoting the national economy. It also aims to market entrepreneurial thinking in the society and create awareness among the youth.

1.5 Research methodology:

We adopted a descriptive and analytical approach to address the theoretical aspect of the topic. For the practical aspect, we presented and analyzed statistical data related to the Algerian experience in this field until the year 2022.

1.6 Structure of the study:

This research paper is divided into three main sections:

- **Section One:** Theoretical framework of entrepreneurship.
- **Section Two:** Mechanisms adopted in the support and promotion of entrepreneurship in Algeria.
- **Section Three:** The reality of entrepreneurship in Algeria, with reference to the National Agency for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship.

Section One: Theoretical Framework of Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is considered one of the important and promising fields in the economies of countries. It is a widely used and circulated concept, making it a significant area of research due to its economic and social importance in providing job opportunities and contributing to local development through the establishment of entrepreneurial projects. It is also regarded as one of the main pillars of the economy and a driver of its growth. This topic has garnered considerable attention from governments and decision-makers, as evidenced by the subsidies and facilities offered by the state to encourage it.

1. Definition of Entrepreneurship:

Below are some of the key definitions provided for the concept of entrepreneurship:

Entrepreneurship refers to the ability to create new projects and recognize available opportunities. It can also be viewed as the behavior and mindset of individuals who have the capability and willingness to undertake new ventures. (Lamine Faltah, April 6-7, 2010, p. 07)

It can be said that entrepreneurship is a collection of individuals with initiative and a love for adventure, possessing the necessary capabilities and resources to establish a new project for profit. Alain Fayol views entrepreneurship as a special state through which economic and social wealth is created, characterized by uncertainty or risk, necessitating individuals who can embrace risk. For Americans, the term has been used since the 1990s, with Professor Howard Stevenson of Harvard University clarifying that entrepreneurship lies in recognizing available business opportunities by individuals or organizations to pursue and realize them. (Belkhir, 2017, p. 348)

Beranger defines entrepreneurship as the establishment and development of activities. (Shata, November 2017, p. 13). Hisrich and Peters define entrepreneurship as a type of behavior that involves striving for innovation, organizing, and reorganizing economic and social mechanisms. (Qanit, April 2018, p. 222)

Entrepreneur: There are several definitions of an entrepreneur, with researchers agreeing that an entrepreneur is a person who has the will and ability to turn a new idea or invention into reality despite the risks involved, which may be financial or psychological. An entrepreneur has the will and ability to turn a new idea or invention into a practical innovation, relying on information to achieve financial returns through risk-taking. In addition, an entrepreneur is characterized by a number of traits such as boldness, self-confidence, managerial knowledge, innovation and creativity, energy and dynamism, desire for success, acceptance of failure, and willingness to take risks, among others. (Ali, 2015, pp. 21-22)

2. Entrepreneurship as a Necessity for Achieving Economic and Social Development

Entrepreneurship is considered a support for the economic and social development of countries, and its role and importance in the development process can be highlighted through several key points:

2.1 Contribution to Increasing National Output:

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) increase savings and investments, which leads to a rise in national output by directing small savings towards investment and mobilizing capital that would otherwise be directed towards consumption. Additionally, they contribute significantly to the total value added (Koujil, 2017, p. 16).

2.2 Contribution to Reducing Unemployment:

The primary source of job creation in both developed and developing economies is SMEs and micro-enterprises. In Western countries, large corporations dominate in terms of size, while it is noted that more than 50% of the workforce is employed in small enterprises, thereby providing around 50% of job opportunities in the economy. The significant contribution of these small enterprises to national economies is evident in their provision of job opportunities, and they serve as an effective tool for localizing activities in remote areas, making them essential for promoting and enhancing local wealth and a means of regional integration and balance (Mbaraki, April 8-9, 2002, p. 85).

2.3 Poverty alleviation and development of underserved areas:

Small and micro-enterprises can be seen as an effective means of combating poverty by reaching small investors, both men and women, and quickly circulating in remote areas in need of development. This creates opportunities for the development of these regions through the establishment of projects.

2.4 Contribute to the development of talent and innovation: Experience has shown that large enterprises need small enterprises to carry out thousands of tasks and activities that would be very costly for large enterprises to carry out alone. Thus, small enterprises support the workforce when they are managed as subsidiaries of larger industries, strengthen industrial integration among small, medium, and large enterprises, and diversify and expand the production structure. In addition, these firms serve as nuclei for the formation of large firms, as historical business data show that many large firms began as small projects before evolving into larger firms through self-growth or merging with other projects (Bounmour, 2013, p. 36).

2.5 Supply the market with local products: Entrepreneurial projects help supply the local market with local products and achieve self-sufficiency, thereby reducing the import bill. They also contribute to achieving a surplus in the balance of trade by exporting their products to the international market.

3. Entrepreneurial Culture and Entrepreneurial Youth

Entrepreneurial culture is the engine for the establishment of enterprises, as culture and entrepreneurship are phenomena related to human behavior. Culture is an effective tool to guide the behavior of individuals in society and help them discover their potential for creativity and self-confidence by stimulating psychological and financial motivations for entrepreneurship. The main focus for the development of entrepreneurial culture is to emphasize the importance of entrepreneurship, which plays a significant role in achieving development due to its ability to create new activities and jobs, especially among the youth demographic.

3.1 Entrepreneurial culture Entrepreneurial culture refers to the set of skills and knowledge acquired by an individual or a group of individuals and the attempt to exploit them by applying them to capital investment through innovative “new” ideas and creativity in various sectors. It also involves an organizational management structure that includes behaviors, motivations, entrepreneurial responses, as well as planning, decision making, organization and control. There are four primary environments in which this culture is cultivated: family, school, organization, and community.

Thus, entrepreneurial culture can be seen as a coherent set of habits, attitudes and behaviors shared by individuals in the field of entrepreneurship. It also refers to the set of values, symbols, ideals, beliefs, and assumptions that guide perceptions. It embodies the spirit of entrepreneurship and is the main driving force behind its establishment.

3.2 Elements of Entrepreneurial Culture:

Need for achievement: This refers to the desire and drive to work, to commit to the best performance, to strive to achieve goals, to take responsibility, and to focus on continuous innovation and improvement. Therefore, an entrepreneur constantly evaluates his or her performance and achievements against standard and exceptional benchmarks.

Confidence:

This includes confidence in one’s self, one’s abilities, the ability to think critically, and the willingness to undertake projects. It also includes making decisions to solve necessary problems and face future challenges that come from a state of confidence and trust in one’s abilities.

Future Vision:

Looking to the future with optimism and the potential to achieve excellence and increased profitability.

Sacrifice and Perseverance:

The success of projects comes from hard work, diligence and dedication.

Desire for Independence:

This refers to self-reliance in achieving goals and objectives, continuously striving to establish independent projects that do not involve partnerships, especially when sufficient financial resources are available. Entrepreneurs tend to avoid working for others in order to fully express and realize their ideas, opinions and aspirations. Establishing private enterprises provides them with adequate income for living and wealth accumulation, as well as control over their employees, giving them independence in their work, which Schumpeter referred to as a “small kingdom.

3.3 Components of Entrepreneurial Culture:**- The State and Its Supporting Bodies:**

The state plays a major role in establishing an entrepreneurial culture through its public policies and plans. This is achieved by providing various measures, such as offering institutions to entrepreneurs that focus on reception, information, guidance, support, and training.

- Social Environment:

This is an important element in establishing a business due to its complex structure.

- Family:

Families play a significant role in enhancing the entrepreneurial capabilities of their children by encouraging them to think about starting businesses as a career path, especially if the parents own private projects. They can motivate their children from an early age by engaging them in various activities and assigning them simple responsibilities.

- Religion: It provides ethics and values such as the importance of doing work well, work as a form of worship and duty, the importance of self-reliance, and the pursuit of an honest income through hard work and perseverance.

- Customs and traditions: These are influential factors in the tendency to start businesses. Rural communities are involved in agriculture and animal husbandry with their children, while traditional industries and commercial activities are passed down from generation to generation.

- Universities and training centers: These are essential for fostering entrepreneurial thinking. Educational curricula should focus on encouraging youth to develop independence, perseverance, self-confidence and other skills. Universities and training centers make a significant contribution to building knowledge about entrepreneurship and teaching the concepts and scientific foundations on which it is based. This is embodied by various universities in Algeria through Entrepreneurship Centers that aim to promote the culture and spirit of entrepreneurship among university youth through seminars, workshops and study days for those interested in starting their projects.

- Schools (different levels of education):

Schools are not isolated from the socio-economic dynamics of society. They should evaluate links with businesses in addition to their usual educational and formative role. Schools act as drivers of development by opening up to businesses and promoting an entrepreneurial culture among young people. This highlights the importance of transferring knowledge to the community to create wealth within an entrepreneurial perspective for education and training.

Second Axis: Mechanisms Adopted to Support and Promote Entrepreneurship in Algeria

There are several mechanisms that Algeria has adopted to support and promote small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the most notable of which are:

1. Business Incubators:

These are public institutions with an industrial and commercial character, possessing legal personality and financial independence, and are under the supervision of the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises. They were established in 2003 through the issuance of Executive Decree No. 03/78 dated 25/02/2003, which includes the basic law for business incubators.

Business incubators serve as a place for those with new business ideas. They act as a supportive body for project holders and are known as the entities that receive and host project initiators (Boukhmoum Abdel Fattah, 2011, p. 400).

Forms of Business Incubators: Business incubators take three forms (03/78, dated 25/02/2005, p. 22):

- **Incubator:** This type supports small and medium-sized enterprises in the services sector.
- **Linkage Workshop:**

This is a support structure for project holders in the small industries and crafts sector.

- **Business Hotel:** This structure supports project holders engaged in research.

Objectives of Business Incubators:

- Encourage the emergence of innovative projects.
- Provide support for new enterprises.
- Ensure the sustainability of supported enterprises.
- Encourage better organization among businesses.
- Participate in the economic dynamics of their locations.

2. Facilitation Centers: These are public institutions of an administrative nature, with legal personality and financial independence, also under the supervision of the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises. The Facilitation Centers were created in accordance with Executive Decree No. 07/103 of 02/07/2007, which includes the creation of Facilitation Centers for Small and Medium Enterprises in Algeria.

Objectives of the Facilitation Centers:

- Establish a one-stop shop tailored to the needs of business creators and entrepreneurs.
- Develop an entrepreneurial culture.
- Ensure the management of files that receive assistance from the funds established under the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Promote and develop modern technology among project holders.
- Support the integration of small and medium enterprises into the national and international economy.
- Reduce the time required for the establishment of enterprises and effectively distribute them.

3. Subcontracting Exchanges Recently, subcontracting has become a strategic model that allows large companies to accelerate their growth rate and improve their performance, thereby increasing wealth (value added) and creating jobs, while specializing in their core activities. In this context, subcontracting and partnership exchanges serve as a tool between contracting companies and subcontracting companies, mainly composed of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which play a crucial role in promoting, developing and facilitating subcontracting and partnerships, as well as in establishing business relationships.

In September 1990, an agreement was signed between Algeria and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to create the Algerian Subcontracting and Partnership Exchange. It was officially created in September 1991 and approved on 12.04.1992. Subsequently, the Eastern Subcontracting and Partnership Exchange was established on May 18, 1993 and approved on January 8,

1994, followed by the Western Subcontracting and Partnership Exchange on April 20, 1998 and approved on October 3, 1999 (Ahmad, 2007, p. 54).

In addition, the guiding law for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, Law No. 17/02, issued on 11/01/2017, established subcontracting as a preferred tool to strengthen the network of SMEs that contribute to the promotion and development policy. The National Agency for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises was tasked with implementing the State's policy on subcontracting, with the aim of increasing the competitiveness of the national economy through the promotion of subcontracting.

4. Measures of Law 17/02 for the Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises

The measures for the assistance, support and promotion of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) outlined in Law 17/02 aim to achieve the following (2017, p. 6):

- Disseminate and disseminate information on the industrial, commercial, legal, economic, financial, professional and technological aspects of the SME sector.
- Promote any initiative that facilitates access to land for SMEs.
- Work on the establishment of tax systems adapted to small and medium enterprises.
- Promote and improve the entrepreneurial culture, modern technologies and innovation in SMEs.
- Facilitate SMEs' access to tools and services that meet their needs.
- Strengthen coordination among agencies involved in the creation and support of SMEs at both the central and local levels.
- Prepare and implement modernization programs for SMEs as part of improving their competitiveness and promoting national products.
- The Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises, in coordination with other relevant ministries and authorities, will take all initiatives aimed at identifying the financing needs of SMEs and developing appropriate financial resources for them.
- The State is committed to developing partnerships between the public and private sectors and is working to expand the scope of concessions in public services for the benefit of SMEs.
- With regard to the award of public contracts, the State authorities and their affiliates shall ensure that a portion of such contracts is reserved for competition among SMEs, in accordance with the conditions and procedures established by the regulations in force.

5. Measures of Executive Decree 20/254 Establishing a National Committee for Granting the "Start-up" and "Innovative Project" Labels, and "Business Incubators"

As part of the public authorities' ongoing efforts to implement their policy of promoting start-ups and innovation, a dedicated ministry has been created, the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises, Start-ups and the Knowledge Economy, along with a delegated ministry in charge of start-ups. This underscores the importance that the Algerian state attaches to expanding the areas of intervention of the support fund for the development of the economic system for start-ups.

The state's policy to improve the environment for start-ups and innovation culminated in the issuance of Executive Decree No. 20/254 of 15/09/2020, which established a national committee to grant the "Start-up" and "Innovative Project" labels, as well as "Business Incubators". This decree outlines the functions, structure and operation of the Committee and includes support measures for these entities. The goal is to differentiate these entities from other companies and projects and to enable them to benefit from support mechanisms in recognition of their contribution to the national economy, society and scientific research. In addition, the ecosystem for these institutions and projects will be strengthened through the creation of a label for business incubators, which will be in charge of promoting and supporting them, allowing these incubators to benefit from support measures and government assistance as specialized structures (Executive Decree No. 20/254, 2020).

In addition, the Algerian government has developed a strategy to promote start-ups and their financing methods, which includes the creation of an investment fund to support them. This strategy includes:

Establishment of an Investment Fund for Supporting Start-ups:

- Creation of a Dedicated Investment Fund: This fund is aimed at financing and supporting start-ups. The official launch of the start-up financing fund will address the funding challenges faced by these enterprises, relying on an investment-based funding mechanism rather than traditional loan-based financing. This mechanism “ensures risk-sharing,” with the understanding that one cannot discuss a start-up without considering the risks involved in capital.

- Establishment of a High Council for Innovation: This council will be the cornerstone for strategic direction in valuing innovative ideas and initiatives, as well as the national capabilities for scientific research, serving the development of the knowledge economy.

- Creation of a Legal Framework: This framework will define the concepts of start-ups and incubators, as well as the terminology specific to the knowledge economy ecosystem, to facilitate the establishment of these entities. Additionally, there will be a process for preparing related regulatory texts, leading to a revision of existing texts to adapt funding mechanisms to the growth cycle of start-ups.

- Transformation of the National Agency for the Promotion and Development of Technological Parks (ANPT): This agency will be converted into the Ministry of Small Enterprises, Start-ups, and the Knowledge Economy.

- Conversion of the Regional Technological Hub for Start-ups: This hub, currently being developed by Sonatrach at the Grand Wind Park “Dunia Park,” will be transferred to the Ministry of Small Enterprises, Start-ups, and the Knowledge Economy.

- Enabling Innovative Project Holders and Start-ups: They will benefit from available spaces within institutions affiliated with the youth and vocational training sectors at the national level.

- Preparation of Local Communities for Designated Spaces for Start-ups:

Priority will be given to areas with significant potential for innovative project holders, particularly in the provinces of Béchar, Ouargla, Constantine, Oran, Tlemcen, Sétif, and Batna, before expanding this initiative nationwide. In order to ensure mutual synergy between sectors in the implementation of the Start-up Development Strategy, the Ministry of Small Enterprises, Start-ups and the Knowledge Economy has been tasked with overseeing the contributions of all sectors.

6. Supporting and Accompanying Bodies for the Entrepreneurship Sector in Algeria

The Algerian state has issued several laws and decrees to encourage the development of the entrepreneurship sector, in addition to creating a new institutional framework aimed at achieving the desired objectives. This has been achieved through the establishment of a comprehensive set of specialized bodies to overcome the obstacles and challenges hindering the growth of this vital sector. The most notable of these bodies are (Boukaïdir Rabia, 2019, p. 273):

6.1 The National Agency for the Support and Development of Entrepreneurship (ANSEJ):

Established in 1996, this agency is in charge of encouraging and supporting unemployed youth who have ideas for starting a business and entering the entrepreneurial world.

6.2 National Unemployment Insurance Fund (CNAC): Created on May 26, 1994, this fund plays a role in supporting unemployed youth and financing their projects.

6.3 National Agency for Microcredit Management (ANGEM): Created on January 22, 2004, this agency is responsible for managing the microcredit system, assisting youth, providing counseling services, and offering interest-free loans.

6.4 National Investment Development Agency (ANDI): Established on August 20, 2001, its mission is to promote, develop and monitor investments, as well as to welcome and assist national and foreign investors. It also seeks to streamline procedures through a unified one-stop shop.

6.5 Credit Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises (FGAR): Established on November 11, 2002, this fund provides essential guarantees for obtaining bank loans and transforms the role of the state from a provider of funds to a guarantor of the loans granted.

6.6 National Fund for the Guarantee of Investment Loans for Small and Medium Enterprises (CGCI-PME): Created on May 26, 1994, its mission is to support unemployed youth and finance their projects.

Third axis: The reality of the entrepreneurship sector in Algeria, with reference to the National Agency for the Support and Development of Entrepreneurship (ANSEJ) 1. General presentation: We can present the main data and statistics related to the entrepreneurship sector in Algeria, specifically micro, small and medium enterprises, until the year 2022, through the following tables, along with an integrated analytical perspective.

Table (1): Shows the number of small and medium enterprises and micro-enterprises in Algeria as of 31/12/2022.

1193339	Total number of small and medium enterprises
20550	Number of inactive small and medium enterprises
243	Number of private small and medium enterprises
103693	Number of public small and medium enterprises
2885651	Employment (employees)
41934,12	Imports (million dollars)
35823,54	Exports (million dollars)

Source: Ministry of Industry; General Directorate for Strategic Monitoring, Economic Studies and Statistics; Statistical Information Bulletin for SMEs No. 36, April 2023, pp. 1-40.

This table (1) shows that the total number of enterprises in the entrepreneurship sector will reach 1,193,339 by 2022. Entrepreneurship in Algeria has contributed to the creation of 2,885,651 jobs, and the various forms of enterprises within the sector are essential components of employment programs and policies, serving as a lifeline for many job seekers. They have played an important role in creating employment opportunities for those who want to start their own business.

Table (2): Shows the distribution of enterprises in the entrepreneurship sector as of 31/12/2022.

Percentage	Number	Types of Enterprises
97%	1157539	Microenterprise (Fewer than 10 employees)
%2,6	31027	Small enterprise (Between 10 and 49 employees)
%0,4	4773	Medium enterprise (Between 50 and 249 employees)
%100	1193339	Total

Source: Ministry of Industry; General Directorate of Strategic Monitoring, Economic Studies and Statistics; Statistical Information Bulletin for SMEs No. 42, April 2023, pp. 1-40.

Table (2) shows that microenterprises are in the lead with a total of 1,157,539 microenterprises, accounting for 97%. Small enterprises follow with 31,027 units, representing 2.6%, while medium-sized enterprises come last with 4,773 units. This brings the total number of these enterprises to 1,193,339 by the end of 2022. This underscores the importance and effectiveness of the measures, as well as the material and financial resources, that the Algerian government has devoted to promoting entrepreneurship and inculcating its culture among Algerian youth. The government supports this sector as an alternative to hydrocarbons by using agencies, funds and bodies that work to overcome obstacles, challenges and difficulties. This is achieved by adopting qualification and support programs for these companies in order to make the sector fertile and vibrant.

Table (3): Shows the evolution of employment rates in the entrepreneurship sector over the years between 2021 and the end of 2022.

Development	Percentage (2022)	Number (2021)	Percentage (2022)	Number (2021)	Type of enterprise
4,82%	57,92%	1671473	58,53%	1594614	Employee
7,73%	41,35%	1193093	40,65%	1107453	Worker
6,01%	99,27%	2864566	99,19%	2702067	Total
5,01-%	0,73%	21085	0,81%	22197	Public SMEs
5,92%	100%	2885651	100%	2724264	Total

Source: Ministry of Industry; General Directorate of Strategic Monitoring, Economic Studies and Statistics; Statistical Information Bulletin for SMEs No. 42, April 2023, p. 140.

Through our analysis of Table (3), we observe an evolution of job creation within the entrepreneurship sector in Algeria from 2021 to 2022, indicating that the employment rate is continuously increasing. The number of employees will increase from 1,594,614 in 2021 to 1,671,473 in 2022, representing a growth rate of 4.82%. In addition, we note an increase in the number of workers from 1,107,453 in 2018 to 1,193,093 in 2022, a growth rate of 7.73%. Thus, entrepreneurship has become one of the main pillars contributing to the creation of jobs and, consequently, to the reduction of unemployment. The Algerian state has attached great importance to entrepreneurship, as it is considered the fundamental nucleus for employment and an effective tool for achieving economic and social development.

Table (4): Shows the distribution of businesses by region at the end of 2022.

Regions	Total number of micro, small, and medium enterprises	Percentage
North	830438	%69
High plateaus	262340	%21
South	100561	%8,43
Total	1193339	%100

Source: Ministry of Industry; General Directorate of Strategic Monitoring, Economic Studies, and Statistics; Statistical Information Bulletin for SMEs No. 42, April 2023, p. 1-40.

It is evident from Table (4) that micro, small, and medium enterprises are predominantly located in the northern region, accounting for 69% with a total of 830,438 enterprises. This is followed by the high plateaus region at 21%, where the number of enterprises reached 262,340. Lastly, the southern region accounts for 8.43%, with 100,933 enterprises.

2. The National Agency for Support and Development of Entrepreneurship as a Mechanism for Activating Entrepreneurship

In order to address economic issues and improve living and social standards in Algeria, the state created the National Agency for Youth Employment Support with several objectives to achieve these goals. One of the most important is to encourage young entrepreneurs to initiate projects that create jobs and generate wealth.

The Agency's main objectives can be summarized as follows:

- Encourage youth to create innovative and valuable projects and accompany them throughout the project lifecycle, from implementation to operation and expansion.
- Providing all necessary and appropriate conditions for the creation of small, medium and micro enterprises, promoting entrepreneurship and providing all financial, technical and legal support.
- To ensure the sustainability and continuity of small, medium and micro enterprises through the establishment of programs, plans and field studies to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of these enterprises.
- Contribute to the creation of permanent employment opportunities to reduce unemployment.

Before delving into the support and accompaniment procedures, we must understand the qualification conditions, which are as follows:

- The young person must have qualifications or professional skills appropriate to the chosen activity.
- The young person must be employed or affiliated to the Social Security Fund at the time of registration, i.e. he/she must be considered unemployed.
- The young person must be unemployed, looking for work and registered with the National Employment Agency, i.e. have a jobseeker's card.
- The young person must be registered as an apprentice or student at an institute, university or training center.
- Finally, the young person must provide a personal financial contribution that meets the minimum amount set according to the value of the project.

Table (5): Shows the number of projects financed by the Agency by activity as of 31/12/2022.

Activity	Number of Funded Projects	Impact on Employment	Total Financing (DZD)
Agriculture	58141	137498	216230359728
Traditional Industries	4313	126514	110871903821
Construction and Public Works	34889	101121	143870488891
Irrigation	560	2057	3323563996
Industry	27352	78721	129921151276
Maintenance	10573	24350	29204228877
Fishing	1131	5549	7499507851
Liberal Professions	11917	26714	32084560550
Services	108561	252806	354292552702
Refrigerated Transport	13385	24132	33767158812
Freight Transport	56530	96237	145557153559
Passenger Transport	18997	43698	46707206849
Total	385166	919397	1244329836912

Source: Ministry of Industry; General Directorate of Strategic Monitoring, Economic Studies, and Statistics; Statistical Information Bulletin for SMEs No. 42, April 2023, p. 1-40.

From Table (5), we observe that entrepreneurship projects in Algeria span various activities and sectors; however, the services sector is the most prevalent and sought after in terms of quantity. This trend reflects entrepreneurs' inclination towards the most profitable and least risky activities, with the number of funded projects in the services sector reaching 108,561, contributing to the creation of 252,806 jobs.

Following this, the agriculture sector ranks second as it is vital and strategic, with the state relying on it by encouraging youth to invest in this field to achieve food security and reduce import costs. This sector contributed to the creation of 137,498 jobs.

In third place is the freight transport sector, with 56,530 funded projects. The youth's interest in and investment in this area is attributed to the ease of this activity, which does not require a high level of training and is profitable, resulting in the creation of 96,237 jobs.

In fourth place is the construction and public works sector, with 34,889 funded projects, achieving 101,121 jobs. The fifth position is held by the industrial sector, particularly light industries, with 27,352 funded projects and 78,721 jobs created.

Finally, we note that the remaining sectors, as shown in the table, are relatively close in terms of the number of funded projects, and the entrepreneurs in these remaining activities are modest compared to the previously mentioned sectors. When analyzing the impact of these sectors on employment, we find that they have significantly contributed to reducing the unemployment rate in Algeria.

General Conclusion

The topic of entrepreneurship has received special attention from all countries, whether developed or developing, recognizing the important role it plays in achieving economic growth. Micro, small, and emerging enterprises have unique characteristics that distinguish them from larger economic firms.

Given the advantages of these enterprises, such as their small size and ease of establishment, they face numerous challenges, the most prominent being the issue of financing. Consequently, most countries strive to remove the obstacles hindering their establishment and growth. They also work on accompanying and developing these enterprises to ensure their position, continuity, growth, and expansion.

In Algeria, the entrepreneurship sector did not receive significant attention after independence due to the socialist orientation. However, currently, under market economies, entrepreneurship has been recognized as a solution to many economic and social problems. Thus, it has gained considerable importance in the state's development policies due to its effective role in the Algerian economy, such as employing youth and preparing them to carry the torch of economic, industrial, and service diversification, which serves as an alternative to the rentier economy.

Suggestions:

1. Promoting Entrepreneurial Culture: Market the entrepreneurial culture and work diligently to establish and ensure its success in society through awareness campaigns and timely dissemination of essential information to the relevant stakeholders.
2. Creating a Stimulating Legislative and Regulatory Framework: Establish a legislative and regulatory system that encourages the entrepreneurship sector.
3. Simplifying Procedures: Remove all legal and administrative obstacles that hinder the establishment of micro, small, and emerging enterprises
4. Implementing Incentive Systems: Develop an incentive system that addresses the tax and financial aspects of this sector.
5. Educating and Training: Promote education and training in entrepreneurship and encourage it in universities and training centers.
6. Utilizing Scientific Research and Innovations: Value and ensure the exploitation of scientific research and innovations related to this field and incentivize their creators.
7. Ensuring Ongoing Support: There is a necessity for effective and continuous support for micro, small, and medium enterprises, as well as startups, considering them as the foundation for development, growth, and progress.

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