

The properties of local knowledge bases and entrepreneurship: Evidence from Italian NUTS 3 regions

Francesco Quatraro ¹, Alessandra Colombelli

¹ : Groupe de Recherche en Droit, Economie et Gestion (GREDEG)

CNRS : UMR7321, Université Nice Sophia Antipolis (UNS)

250, Rue Albert Einstein 06560 Valbonne - France

This paper investigates the relationship between the creation of new firms and the properties of the local knowledge bases, like coherence, cognitive distance and variety. By combining the literature on the knowledge spillovers of entrepreneurship and that on the recombinant knowledge approach, we posit that locally available knowledge matters to the entrepreneurial process, but the type of knowledge underlying these dynamics deserve to be analyzed. The analysis is carried out on 104 Italian NUTS 3 regions observed over the time span 1995-2011. The results confirm that local knowledge is important, and suggest that the creation of new firms in Italy is associated to the exploitation of well established technological trajectories grounded on competences accumulated over time, rather than to the commercialization of brand new knowledge.