



Aims and Objectives

- To find determinants for innovation and entrepreneurship in rural and peri-urban regions.
- To contribute to policies for smart (rural) development.
- To contribute to strategies for the survival and competitiveness of firms in rural regions.

Methodology

The results and conclusions of WP 4 are based on several case studies for Sweden, Austria, and France. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches have been applied to analyze the relationships between renewal, i.e. innovation and entrepreneurship, and their determinants. This implies use of registered (micro) data and survey data for statistical analyses, as well as interviews. Previous empirical research as well as theories provide the framework for the empirical studies conducted within this WP.

Contribution to smart development

This WP shows the importance of policy that supports various types of collaboration, e.g. across (regional) borders and with universities, that smart policies for rural regions are related to human capital, that the importance of smart industry specialization can be down-played, and that place-based amenities are important rural resources that local entrepreneurs can exploit through new firms.



Innovation
 Entrepreneurship
 Relatedness
 Collaboration
 Amenities

Results

The results show that, i) the drivers for innovation and entrepreneurship often differ between rural and urban regions, ii) external knowledge and collaboration, especially extra-regional interactions, are important for innovation in rural regions, iii) despite being a potential knowledge source, there is a lack of collaboration between universities and firms in rural regions, iv) related variety in education rather than industries is an important knowledge source for firm innovation in rural regions, v) both related and unrelated variety in industries are positively related to new firm formation, and vi) the supply of nature- and culture-based amenities is important to explain new firm formation in rural regions.

Conclusions / Recommendations

Different factors seem to have impacts on various types of innovation, as well as on innovation and entrepreneurship in various types of regions, which calls for national innovations policies that are flexible enough to enable « tailor-made » innovation policies at local level.

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