Public policies to support the development of innovation ecosystems: evidence from the PNRR NODES project

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Over the past 20 years, European regions have followed technological specialization patterns driven by localized interactions between academic research and industrial innovation activities, enabled by the contextual presence of financial and public institutions. A novel econometric analysis of the evolution of patent portfolios of Universities and firms operating in the same European regions confirms the relevance of technology transfer in sustaining the competitiveness of local industrial systems. Moving from this evidence and based also on the recent scientific literature on innovation ecosystems, the contribution illustrates and discuss the design and the activities of the PNRR project NODES (Nord-Ovest Digitale e Sostenibile). In particular, the nature and incentives of the different partners and stakeholders involved in project are discussed with the aim of identifying relevant policy insights.