Continuity (or discontinuity) in the choice of smart specialisation domains

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Inserisci l'Abstract (max 200 parole).

The implementation of the Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) represented a major novelty in the European context as a key feature of the reformed cohesion policy within the Europe 2020 strategy. While requiring European regions to identify technology sectors where they had shown superior innovative capabilities, the assumption of an S3 was a prerequisite for accessing funds under Thematic Objective 1 (TO1 - Research and Innovation) of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

In the 2021-2027 programming period, European Regions has already a consolidated experience in the S3 exercise. Given the absence of a binding "ideal model" for regional innovation policy and the specificity of the local challenges, this paper reviews if (and how) Italian regions maintained or modified the foreseen development trajectories set in 2014-2020 when designing S3 for the 2021-2027 programming period. The analysis explores the S3 priority domains chosen by a sample of Italian regions by using a text mining approach on the S3 documents approved by Italian regions in the two programming periods.