

Entrepreneurial ecosystem and business registration during the COVID-19-pandemic: the Italian case

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The main aim of this paper is to empirically analyse the COVID-19-pandemic impact on new business formation at the Italian NUTS-3 provincial level. Data revealed that the overall level of business formation sensibly decreased during the first year of the pandemic, especially during the March-May period. There has been a slight recover in the following months, but over the 2020 the number of start-up firms declined by 17.2% compared to the previous year. Most importantly, the effect of the pandemic has been geographically and sectoral uneven. In this paper we estimate the impact of the pandemic on business registration and assess how such heterogeneity is accounted for by variables at territorial level. The empirical results show that such heterogeneity can be explained by the entrepreneurial ecosystems and other factors at local level.