

Female self-entrepreneurship and role models: an empirical analysis of Italian Municipalities

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In this paper, we investigate whether the more intense involvement of women in politics leads to more women starting an independent job, and setting up a business as an entrepreneur. We do so at the municipality level in Italy, by investigating whether the election of female mayors and top-level female politicians had a spillover effect in stimulating starting up a business by women. The channel we claim is the role model channel, according to which women are more likely to aim at higher positions in society and business if they are exposed to additional female role models in top positions.