

Rule of law as an export's determinant of Italian provinces

by Claudio Di Berardino | Iacopo Odoardi | Davide Quaglione | Dario D'Ingiullo | Università "G. d'Annunzio" Chieti-Pescara | Università "G. d'Annunzio" Chieti-Pescara | Università "G. d'Annunzio" Chieti-Pescara | Università "G. d'Annunzio" Chieti-Pescara

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International trade is a key economic strength related to development and economic resilience. Export in particular can be supported by the quality of the institutions that regulate it, or more generally by the efficiency of the set of factors that impact at the socioeconomic level, known as the rule of law. The latter should act to protect, promote and make it easier to trade. We analyze the effect of the rule of law on the export of 103 Italian provinces and consider three macroareas with different levels of socioeconomic development, economic specialization and quality of institutions (North-Centre-South). The main findings, besides revealing an important role associated to this institutional dimension, seem to indicate that such an investigation of the economic effects of rule of law at provincial level can provide useful insights to explain the different export performance between regions of the same country. In fact, by distinguishing the set of provinces, we observe that only the more developed northern provinces obtain direct benefits from the rule of law.