

Regional green-tech diversification and inter-regional green knowledge flows: EU evidence

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We address the role of green knowledge exchanges among regions in fostering their green-tech diversification. By contributing to recent research about the diversification effects of externally acquired knowledge, we maintain that inter-industry flows of commodities, in which new green knowledge gets embodied, represent a channel through which regions can increase their opportunities of diversifying green technologies and in a more exploratory manner. We test these expectations with respect to 237 EU (NUTS2) regions over the period 2000-2011, for which we measure the centrality (in and out-degree) in the network of inter-regional flows of embodied green knowledge, obtained by combining the EUREGIO input-output database with patent data from OECD RegPat. By plugging this centrality in a model of related diversification for green-technologies, our expectations are confirmed, but mainly for outward flows of green knowledge towards other regions, while with respect to inward ones results are more nuanced.