

# Persistence of R&D intensities in the world's top investors in R&D

by *Claudia Pigni* | *Francesco Valentini* | *Alessandro Sterlacchini* | *Università Politecnica delle Marche* | *Università Politecnica delle Marche* | *Università Politecnica delle Marche*

Abstract ID: 161

Inviato: 29/03/2023

Evento: XXI Workshop Annuale SIEPI

Argomento: 6. Innovazione, cambiamenti tecnologici e politiche connesse

Parole chiave: High-tech sectors, Innovation persistence, Large companies, R&D intensity

*Inserisci l'Abstract (max 200 parole).*

The empirical evidence points toward a within-sector heterogeneity in terms of firms' R&D intensity (share of expenditures on sales) which, moreover, does not converge to a common level over time. Using a balanced panel of the world's top R&D investors, we first investigate whether there is a different degree of time persistence along the R&D intensity distribution. Secondly, we analyse whether the persistence in and the transition to different levels is heterogeneous between four R&D-intensive sectors. As a general result, we find that companies with low R&D intensities are more likely to move towards medium levels than companies with high intensity of R&D expenditures. Hence, the persistence is mainly due to the behavior of the latter companies. Although company size plays the most significant role, differences across sectors emerge with respect to the persistence and the entry in the top and bottom 20% of the R&D intensity distribution.