

Territorial servitisation in Italy: towards territorial recoupling

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The integration between manufacturing and service activities currently represents a core source of competitiveness for firms and territories. A fast-growing literature analyses the phenomenon of territorial servitisation, namely the co-location in the same place of manufacturing and KIBS (Knowledge Intensive Business Services) activities.

The paper aims at investigating the process of territorial servitisation in Italy throughout the analysis of the diffusion of KIBS activities in the different types of national LLSs.

The dimension and the growth of KIBS activities and their co-location processes with manufacturing sectors are analyzed by means of firm employment, location quotients (LQs) and *co-location maps*, the latter revealing the spatial relation between the specialization of LLSs and the specialization of neighbouring LLSs.

Firm employment data is extracted from Statistical Archive of Active firms (ASIA) provided by Italian National Institute for Statistics (ISTAT). ASIA data is matched with ISTAT territorial identification and classification of Italian LLSs. The analysis is carried out over the period 2012-2018.

Italy is still experimenting a decoupling process between manufacturing and KIBS activities. Nevertheless, a dynamic recoupling process seems to be underway.