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Desafíos, políticas y gobernanza de los territorios en la era post-covid

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How Does Urban Spatial Structure Affect Productivity Growth? Evidence from Italian Municipalities

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Subject area: Growth, convergence and development.

Abstract. This paper analyses the relationship between the urban spatial structure and the productivity growth of 7,272 Italian municipalities over the period 2012-2018. We focused our attention on medium-sized cities, and, specifically, on whether proximity to them has an impact on the productivity growth of neighbouring areas. To capture their influence, we used a spatial lag model, and we built the spatial weight matrix by considering municipalities within a certain distance from them as neighbours. Moreover, in order to evaluate whether agglomeration has an impact on growth, both a-spatial concentration measures and spatial autocorrelation measures were included in the model. The results indicate that proximity to medium-sized cities has a positive effect on productivity growth; and that the more monocentric an area, the lower its productivity growth.

JEL Classification: C21, R11, R12

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