

Why regions matter for innovation policy today (Regions and Innovation Policy)

OECD member countries identify innovation as the major driver in new models of growth, which aim to increase productivity and raise standards of living. Regions are key actors in this context but their role in innovation is complex. Regions cannot simply replicate national policies. Empirical evidence provided in this chapter shows that: i) regional innovation systems follow varied development paths; ii) heterogeneity can sometimes be more pronounced within countries than between countries; iii) while R&D and patenting are mostly concentrated in key regions in top OECD innovative countries, new regions are emerging as knowledge hubs; iv) regional collaboration and networks are becoming increasingly relevant for innovation; v) firms carry out both technological innovations (new products and processes) and non-technological innovations (such as new business models and organisational methods); and vi) design and creative industries are strongly shaped by regional factors and are vital for regional competitiveness. However, better metrics are needed to account for innovation processes in such industries.

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