

Peer Review

Review of: "Assessing AI Adoption and Digitalization in SMEs: A Framework for Implementation"

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The paper addresses a relevant topic, and the proposed framework feels practical for SMEs, but the evidence base needs to be presented more clearly. Because the empirical part relies on responses from 36 Italian SMEs, the conclusions should stay descriptive and avoid implying that the results represent SMEs broadly; it would help to explain how the firms were recruited and any potential selection bias. The maturity assessment is a good idea, but the scoring process needs to be transparent so readers can judge and replicate the classification.

Finally, the findings section sometimes moves quickly into advice; the paper would be stronger if it clearly separates what the data show from what the authors recommend, and explicitly shows how each part of the framework is grounded in the patterns observed in the sample.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.