Qeios

Peer Review

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

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1. The paper is well-written with a logical progression from the introduction to the conclusion, which enhances readability and comprehension. Each section builds on the previous one, making it easy for readers to follow the argument.

2. Regarding the goal of the paper, I think that it tackles 2 different things without stating clearly the difference: Digitalization and AI adoption. The research questions (RQ1 and RQ2) highlight the "confusion"!

- **RQ1:** What is the current landscape of the implementation of AI techniques and digitalization in SMEs using the sample of 36 organizations operating in 14 industries?
- **RQ2:** What could be a possible framework for AI implementation in SMEs?

The authors need to clarify the goal of the research (title: <u>Assessing AI Adoption and Digitalization in SMEs: A Framework for Implementation</u>). Is it about AI adoption or digitalization? Please clarify this and make the goal and the research questions coherent.

3. The literature review section outlines the existing research on AI applications in SMEs and emphasizes the need for further study. It adequately contextualizes the current study within the broader academic discourse. However, it could benefit from a more expansive review of contemporary literature beyond the foundational works cited.

4. The research includes interviews with managers from a diverse set of SMEs, ensuring varied input from multiple sectors. The sample design reflects a thoughtful approach to data collection, enabling a comprehensive understanding of digital maturity and AI adoption across different industries.

5. References are relevant, though the paper would gain from more recent citations to reflect current trends in AI and digitalization. Some foundational works are strong, but they should be supplemented with up-to-date studies from the past few years to enhance credibility.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.