Qeios

Peer Review

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

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In my opinion, the work starts from a relevant and very current intuition, as well as being useful in the practical context of the Italian business landscape. The study could contribute to directing the managers of Italian SMEs, in fact.

In any case, some limitations are noted that should be declared, and some gaps from a methodological point of view that could be filled by the authors:

1. A very large number of industries is noted compared to the number of companies that make up the sample; it could have been more useful to focus on fewer industries, defined on the basis of previous literature or observations emerging from the analysis of the diffusion of AI in larger companies. The authors should explain why the selection of the 14 identified industries was made and include this aspect as a limitation of the study within the Discussions.

2. It would be ideal to highlight the list of questions asked to companies in the questionnaire.

3. It would be useful to explain the motivation for defining each interview question: each indicator that emerges from the questions should have a justified meaning, in particular based on existing literature.

4. It would be ideal, in the exposition of the framework, to justify the definition of the factors that compose it in a more direct way, that is, by connecting them with the results that emerged from the interviews in a more rigorous way.

5. The approach to defining the framework is not very clear, in logical terms, in particular also on how the cited study was used (beginning of chapter 5. Framework).

doi.org/10.32388/IZEKXD

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.