

The Emilia region bets on research. The top ten innovative companies

The winners were selected by the Intesa Sanpaolo programme

by Marco Bettazzi



The Emilia-Romagna region ranks first in Italy for innovation in its economic system. This comes down to competitiveness, patents, portion of GDP invested in R&D and innovative start-ups. But despite attracting many graduates from the rest of Italy, it suffers from brain drain abroad, like the rest of the country.

These are some of the issues which emerged yesterday in Bologna during the ninth stop on Intesa Sanpaolo bank's "Imprese vincenti" (winning companies) roadshow of events celebrating excellent SMEs, which saw awards given to ten companies from the Emilia-Romagna and Marches regions that stand out for their ability to bet on innovation.

The data show that Emilia-Romagna is in third place in Italy behind Trentino-Alto Adige and Lombardy for the prevalence of digital technologies, and in first place ahead of Piedmont for the proportion of GDP invested in R&D, over 2% compared to an average of 1.46%, although this lags behind Germany at 3.16% and Europe as a whole at 2.22%. It also boasts double the nationwide average of patents (146.7 per million inhabitants, against 68.6 for Italy as a whole), and in 2020 a total of 47% companies introduced technological innovations, compared to an average of 45.9%.

Our region is then in fourth place in Italy with 1,100 registered start-ups, and boasts a large number of science graduates as well as attracting graduates from other regions, with a positive balance of over 3,000 people, despite registering a net negative with abroad, like the rest of the country.

In this context, Intesa has selected ten “Imprese Vincenti” (winning companies) from the Emilia-Romagna and Marches regions, which will be supported in their development processes. *“These are companies which have stood out for maintaining their level of competitiveness, even in uncertain situations, by investing in innovative projects,”* highlights Alessandra Florio, Intesa Sanpaolo's director for the Emilia-Romagna and Marches regions.

The Emilian companies recognised were **Cereria Terenzi Evelino** from Rimini (perfumes and cosmetics), **Cyberoo** from Reggio Emilia (IT security), and **Nordmeccanica** from Piacenza (lamination and metallisation machines). But also, from Ravenna, **Astim** (defence technology services) and **Diemme Enologia** (grape processing machinery), and **Zaccanti** from Bologna

(healthcare equipment). The companies from the Marches region were T&C (truffles), Fiorini International Italia (sustainable packaging), **Eurocarbo** (industrial and automotive components) and **Italtorniti** (precision components).

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