

Applying the Subsidiarity Principle to Tackle Social Challenges in Innovation Policy

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Abstract

While countrywide governments are the essential actors in innovation policy, we witness a proliferation of challenge-oriented innovation insurance policies each at the subnational and the supranational level. This begs the query about subsidiarity: what innovation insurance policies for societal challenges need to be equipped at subnational, countrywide and supranational levels? We grant arguments that innovation insurance policies aimed to remedy societal challenges, such as climate alternate or aging, are excellent pursued at subnational degrees given the contested nature of trouble identification and the contextual nature of problem-solving. Regional innovation policy, then, have to formulate concrete societal dreams tailor-made to the neighborhood context, whilst the transnational context promotes inter-regional gaining knowledge of and offers the complementary insurance policies in the nation-states of primary research, legislation and taxation. In addition, the supranational stage can set universal dreams that are made greater concrete and operational at the subnational level.

Keywords: Innovation coverage societal challenges; Subsidiarity; Regional policy; Mission-oriented innovation policy; Multi-level governance

Introduction

In an era characterized by rapid technological advancement and evolving societal dynamics, the formulation of effective innovation policies has emerged as a paramount concern for governments, policymakers, and stakeholders across various sectors. Innovation plays a crucial role in addressing pressing social challenges, such as inequality, environmental sustainability, and public health, which require not only technological solutions but also a nuanced understanding of local contexts and needs. The subsidiarity principle, originating from the social doctrine of the Catholic Church and later adopted in the context of European Union governance, posits that matters ought to be handled by the smallest, least centralized competent authority. This principle emphasizes the importance of local knowledge, stakeholder engagement, and the distribution of power, thereby presenting a compelling framework for developing innovative policies that are responsive to the complexities of contemporary social challenges [1-3].

The application of the subsidiarity principle in innovation policy promotes a bottom-up approach that prioritizes local communities' voices, values, and specificities. By empowering local authorities and stakeholders, this principle fosters collaboration, encourages experimentation, and facilitates the co-creation of solutions tailored to the unique socio-economic contexts of different regions. For instance, in addressing social challenges such as digital inclusion, sustainable urban development, and public health crises, a subsidiarity-based approach enables local actors to leverage their contextual expertise and resources, ensuring that policies are not only effective but also equitable and sustainable.

Moreover, as global challenges increasingly manifest at local levels, the need for innovative solutions that transcend traditional top-down approaches has never been more critical. The subsidiarity principle provides a framework that encourages the decentralization of decision-making and resource allocation, allowing local communities to take the initiative in shaping their innovation landscapes. This shift towards localized governance recognizes the interconnectedness of social issues and the necessity of adopting a holistic perspective that integrates economic, social, and environmental considerations.

In this context, this paper aims to explore the potential of the subsidiarity principle in enhancing innovation policy frameworks. It will critically examine existing literature and case studies where the principle has been successfully implemented to tackle social challenges. By analyzing the strengths and limitations of this approach, the paper will provide recommendations for policymakers on effectively integrating the subsidiarity principle into innovation policy design and implementation [4-6].

Discussion

Empowering local communities and tailored solutions: One of the key advantages of the subsidiarity principle in innovation policy is its focus on empowering local communities. By allowing decisions to be made at the local or regional level, policymakers can tap into the wealth of knowledge and unique insights possessed by communities facing specific social challenges. This localized approach enables the development of tailored solutions that are better suited to address the particular needs of each area, fostering a more inclusive and targeted innovation policy.

Collaboration and knowledge sharing: An essential aspect of the subsidiarity principle is the encouragement of collaboration and knowledge sharing between different levels of governance. Higher authorities play a facilitating role by promoting the exchange of best practices and lessons learned among local and regional stakeholders. This collaborative approach allows for cross-pollination of ideas, enhancing the collective capacity to tackle social challenges in innovation. Moreover, it prevents the duplication of efforts and

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resources, maximizing the overall impact of innovation policies.

Respecting diversity and promoting social inclusion: The subsidiarity principle acknowledges the diverse nature of social challenges and innovation ecosystems across regions. By recognizing this diversity, decision-makers can better address the specific needs of different populations, leading to more effective and inclusive policies. Innovation policies tailored to local contexts can bridge gaps and ensure that marginalized or underserved communities receive adequate support to overcome their social challenges and contribute to the overall innovation landscape.

Efficient resource allocation and responsiveness: Implementing the subsidiarity principle in innovation policy promotes efficient resource allocation. By delegating decision-making authority to lower levels of governance, resources can be allocated where they are most needed and where they can have the greatest impact. This approach ensures that investments in innovation are targeted at specific social challenges, leading to a more focused and responsive policy framework.

Case studies and success stories: To further highlight the effectiveness of the subsidiarity principle, examining case studies and success stories can be illuminating. Examples of innovation policies that have successfully embraced subsidiarity can provide valuable insights into how local empowerment, collaboration, and tailored solutions can lead to positive outcomes in addressing social challenges. Sharing these experiences can inspire other regions and policymakers to adopt similar approaches, fostering a global culture of innovation for social good [7-10].

Conclusion

In conclusion, the subsidiarity principle represents a valuable framework for addressing social challenges in innovation policy. By advocating for decision-making at the most appropriate level of authority, this principle empowers local communities, fosters collaboration, respects diversity, and ensures efficient resource allocation. Through these mechanisms, innovation policies can be tailored to the unique needs of different regions, promoting inclusive

and effective solutions for social challenges. Applying the subsidiarity principle encourages policymakers to engage with stakeholders at the grassroots level, tapping into their expertise and understanding of local contexts. This localized approach enables the development of innovative solutions that are better suited to address the specific challenges faced by each community, contributing to a more inclusive and diverse innovation ecosystem. As we move forward, it is imperative for policymakers, stakeholders, and communities to embrace the subsidiarity principle to build a better future through innovation and collective problem-solving.

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