

Kohsetsushi — Japan's Century-Old Network of Local Public Technology Centres for SME Manufacturers

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Japan

Quality score: 76/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Japan's ~180-260 prefecturally funded Kohsetsushi centres have tested, advised and trained small manufacturers since 1902 — but a 2003 reform is shown to have cut centres' patent-licensing income by ~14%, shifting effort from diffusion toward research.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	3/3
Sustainability / continuity	3/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-27

[Prefectural and municipal governments \(national network historically coordinated under Japan's SME and industrial-technology agencies\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-27

[ITIF \(2011\): International Benchmarking of Countries' Policies and Programs Supporting SME Manufacturers](#) — accessed 2026-09-27

[Fukugawa \(2022\), Heliyon: Effects of incorporation on Kohsetsushi patent-licensing performance](#) — accessed 2026-09-27

[CEPR/VoxEU: Roles of Japan's local public technology centres in SME innovation](#) — accessed 2026-09-27

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