

Korea's Smart Factory Programme — Subsidised Automation Adoption for Manufacturing SMEs

City Innovation Library · Good practice · South Korea

Quality score: 71/100

Evidence strength: Quasi-experimental

Summary

Since 2014 South Korea's Ministry of SMEs and Startups has subsidised smart-factory conversions for SMEs. Government survey data and an independent matched-sample study both report double-digit productivity gains, though reviews find effects concentrate at the process level.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
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 2026-09-07

[Ministry of SMEs and Startups \(Korea Smart Manufacturing Office / KOSMO\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-07

[KED Global — Smart factories drive Korea SMEs to reshore overseas plants](#) — accessed 2026-09-07

[ScienceDirect — Performance analysis of promotion programs of the smart factory using propensity score matching](#) — accessed 2026-09-07

Cite this — Evidoria. *Korea's Smart Factory Programme — Subsidised Automation Adoption for Manufacturing SMEs*. Persistent ID: 03131564-0d09-49a6-9589-2a6677a6eac9.