

SME Productivity Revolution Promotion Programme — Japan's IT and Productivity Subsidies

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Japan

Quality score: 71/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Japan's METI-led SME Productivity Revolution Programme has run since 2018 (JPY 340bn FY2024 budget). Results are mixed: the IT subsidy gave a 3.4% labour-productivity gain, while the flagship manufacturing subsidy showed slightly negative value-added growth by 2022.

Key dimensions

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

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-07-23

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) & Small and Medium Enterprise Agency, delivered via SME Support Japan (SMRJ) — accessed 2026-07-23

OECD case study: Japan's SME Productivity Revolution Programme (2026) — accessed 2026-07-23

METI — Regarding the SME Productivity Revolution Project (2022) — accessed 2026-07-23

Asian Productivity Organization (2025) — SME Productivity and Innovation in Asia — accessed 2026-07-23

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