



ABSTRACT WORKING PAPER 3.13

RESEARCH NETWORKS AND INVENTORS' MOBILITY AS DRIVERS OF INNOVATION: EVIDENCE FROM EUROPE

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We investigate the importance of the labour mobility of inventors, as well as the scale, extent and density of their collaborative research networks, for regional innovation outcomes. Specifically, among the questions addressed in this study are the following: What is the contribution of inventor networking and inventors' labour mobility to the regional intensity of patenting? Do cross-regional mobility and cross-regional networking play an important role? What impact is attributable to mobility and networking once spatial interactions have been controlled for?

To do so, a knowledge production function framework at the regional level is used. The results point to the existence of a robust positive correlation between intra-regional labour mobility and regional innovation, whilst the relationship with networks is less clear.