



ABSTRACT OF WORKING PAPER 3.16

THE DETERMINANTS OF INVENTORS' INTER-REGIONAL MOBILITY BETWEEN EU REGIONS

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The aim of the present paper is to identify the determinants of the geographical mobility of skilled individuals, such as inventors, across European regions. Among a large number of variables, we focus on the role of social proximity between inventors' communities. Thus, we use a gravity model of immigration (applied to the subsample of knowledge workers) to test whether a set of regional 'attribute' and 'relational' variables influence talent mobility across regions in Western European countries. We use a control function approach to address the endogenous nature of networks, and zero-inflated negative binomial models to accommodate our estimations to the count nature of the dependent variable and the high number of zeros it contains. Therefore, our aim in the present paper is to determine (1) whether, after controlling for the fact that the spatial distribution of innovators is not random throughout space, migration costs associated to physical separation influence the mobility patterns of these skilled workers; and (2) whether other variables may explain this phenomenon, after controlling for physical distance as well.