



ABSTRACT OF WORKING PAPER 4.0

THE TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITY OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES: A PRELIMINARY OVERVIEW

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The purpose of this paper is to offer a preliminary descriptive overview of the technological activity of the European Neighbourhood Countries (ENC) based on the few available information. Furthermore, we aim at making a comparison between EU and EN countries but also among EN countries and two geographical areas: South and East. The idea is to start developing a set of information to illustrate, even though partially and incompletely, the national innovation systems of each ENC (Lundvall, 1992, Pavit, 1994).

Technological indicators are usually divided into two main groups: input and output indicators. As the main input variable, we employ R&D expenditure (million of dollars and as a percentage of GDP) and as output indicators we use patents applications. R&D is considered to be the most important innovative input indicator and it is defined as the creative work undertaken systematically with a view to increase the stock of knowledge, and, thanks to its use, to devise new applications. As for output indicators, patents are expected to measure the return resulting from the technological activity of individuals and firms and are used as a proxy for R&D effectiveness. We consider both patent applications at the European Patent Office (EPO) and international applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) for each country. Patent statistics include breakdowns by applicants and inventors and by some selected sector.