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EU Framework Program participation and innovation: The role of regional development

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Abstract
This paper investigates the influence of regional development on the extent to which knowledge transfers mediated by European Framework Program participations affect regional patenting. The selected time span is 1998-2009 while the research area in this study is information science and technology (IST). We found that with respect to the role of localized knowledge flows and FP network learning in patenting clear and marked differences exist between lagging regions located in Central and Eastern Europe and the rest of the European Union. While knowledge transferred from FP networks acts as an additional source of patenting in CEE-Objective 1 regions, network knowledge is not related significantly to patenting in regions of the old member states. On the other hand it is clear that while localized learning in patenting is important for regions located in the EU 15 knowledge flows from neighboring regions play only a marginal role in CEE Objective 1 regions’ innovation.

The Case-study of 5 functioning EU-EECA thematic research networks was carried out via a specially elaborated questionnaire addressed to EU and EECA partners of ongoing research projects under the 7th EU Framework RTD Programme.

The Case-study contributed to analysis of the effects of EU-EECA thematic research networks, formed in the course of FP7 projects including identification of added value, success stories and barriers to EU-EECA collaboration. It helped to understand what barriers scientists face implementing joint research projects under EU Framework RTD Programme.