

INTER-FIRME COOPERATION AND SPILLOVER

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This paper tests the empirical significance of spillovers in explaining co-operation. Thanks to micro-economic quantitative and qualitative data, we use specific dependant variables: the budget devoted to co-operation and the turnover augmentation due to innovation. We are also able to test for original econometric specifications. In particular, we differentiate internal factors from external ones, international from national spillovers, and inter-firm co-operation from other forms of spillovers. The econometric method differs from the traditional fixed effect estimation (Within and Between methods) by pooling individual information rather than simply aggregating it. Our results show that: 1) national spillovers are more important than international spillovers; 2) formal co-operation exerts a very minor, albeit significant, influence on innovation; 3) firms that co-operate are also those that have the most important knowledge capital and market share, but the former effect exceeds the latter.

Keywords : Spillovers, , Innovation, Inter-firm co-operation, panel data.

JEL : C1, C2, F3, L2