

Unlocking the benefits of Framework Programs in the area of Information and Communication Technologies: testing the relationship between participation, intangibles investment, and business performance

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This paper analyzes the impact of firms' participation in framework program (FP) in the area of information and communication technologies (ICTs) on intangible investment, revenue growth, and employment growth. It also examines how the heterogeneity of FP participants affects the outcomes of funded activities. The study uses a sample of firms that participated in framework programs and a control group of firms that did not participate. It is shown that firms that participate in framework programs in ICT-related themes achieve greater growth in intangibles and employment growth than firms that do not participate. It turns out that the heterogeneity of participants plays a significant role in determining the success of funded activities. Projects with diverse participants are more likely to succeed because they are better able to leverage the knowledge and skills of heterogeneous pools of knowledge to create innovative solutions. These findings have important implications for policymakers and companies seeking to improve their performance through participation in framework programs. By ensuring the diversity of FPs participants, these programs are likely to be more beneficial for companies' competitiveness and growth.