

EUROPEAN R&D GRANTS: ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF SME INSTRUMENT ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITY

by Saverio Barabuffi | Valentina Cucino | Alberto Di Minin | Andrea Piccaluga | Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna | Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna | Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna | Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna

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This paper analyzes the impact of the Horizon 2020 SME instrument on technology transfer and commercialization of knowledge. This policy combines market-focused innovation with market-driven approaches to boost competitiveness to provide financial resources and promoting innovation in SMEs.

We examine SMEs that applied for funding to the Horizon 2020 SME Instrument (SMEi) program Phase 2, during the period 2014-2018, by means of propensity score matching and interaction-weighted estimators for dynamic treatment effects. We compare the innovative performances of SMEs funded by SMEi with the correspondent performances of a counterfactual group of similar non-funded SMEs by accounting for treatment effects heterogeneity and variation in treatment timing. SMEs funded by SMEi experiences higher knowledge production and market commercialization of innovation.

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