# The Impact of Participation in Publicly Funded Rd Projects on Firm Competitiveness




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# THE IMPACT OF PARTICIPATION IN PUBLICLY FUNDED RD PROJECTS ON FIRM COMPETITIVENESS

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GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 130 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.8in. x 0.3in.Masters Thesis from the year 2011 in the subject Business economics - Investment and Finance, grade: 5. 5, University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland, language: English, comment: University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland and amp, Anglia Ruskin University Cambridge, UK 170 , abstract: This thesis studies the involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in publicly funded research and development (R and D) projects. SMEs represent 99 of all companies in Europe and are important drivers of innovation, yet many lack the necessary resources to engage in formal research activities. Providing these firms with the possibility to make use of public funding programmes for R and D projects therefore constitutes a way of stimulating them to innovate. Reviews of such programmes, however, show that SME participation is frequently lower than desired by policy makers. This raises the question of the benefits SMEs can gain from such projects and the barriers that negatively influence their ability to participate. The author hypothesises that taking part in publicly funded R and D projects can positively influence an SMEs competitiveness through a specific set of advantages gained from participation. The second hypothesis is that companies with previous experience in such projects evaluate their participation positively. Finally, the author puts forward that a number of specific barriers limit SMEs ability to participate. The hypotheses were tested by means of an online survey among Swiss SMEs in the field of renewable energy, as well as interviews with representatives of national and EU funding bodies. The results support all three hypotheses and confirm the importance of the public measures. Participation in publicly funded R and D projects can indeed have positive impacts on an SMEs competitiveness. Also, companies tend to evaluate their participation...

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