

Analysis of the Effectiveness of Public Investments in Research and Development in the Republic of Slovenia

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The aim was to analyze the effectiveness of public investments in research and development (R&D) activity by size (3 categories: micro-small, medium-sized and large enterprises) and technological development of enterprises (2 groups: high-tech and low-medium-tech). An online questionnaire was designed and sent to a non-random sample of subjectively selected Slovenian companies – we searched for those companies which received assistance in the form of public funds. As part of the analysis of 47 respondents, we were interested in the following: analysis of investment effectiveness, reasons for cooperation (non-cooperation), advantages/disadvantages/obstacles of cooperation and suggestions for improvements, achieved effects of cooperation, duration and forms of further cooperation.

The most important effects of cooperation between companies and PROs are related to increased value added per employee, increased number of newly created jobs, increased complexity at workplace and higher education of employees. The long-term effects, such as the establishment of start-ups and spin-offs, as well as the benefits of patents and licenses, were perceived by companies as insignificant collaborative effects. Following the completion of joint projects, companies and PROs collaborate again in the form of new project work, development and final production of new products, or assistance in analysis and testing. Collaboration with PROs usually lasts for the duration of a joint project, and some continue to build on this collaboration for more than 10 years.

We can conclude that public funds significantly stimulate cooperation between PROs and the economy and bring about a number of positive effects, which differ slightly between high and low-tech companies. At the same time, there are even more opportunities for improving cooperation or more efficient use of public funds.

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