

THE IMPACT OF EU-FUNDED FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES ON GREEK FIRMS

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ABSTRACT

Since their introduction in 1984, the Framework Programmes (FPs) have been basic pillars of European scientific and technological development by supporting all kinds of R&D, mainly in high technology sectors, favouring the participation in Research Joint Ventures (RJVs) of various organizations from different European countries^[1]. The study of FPs impact is attracting increasing attention. Impact was first included as a selection and award criterion for research in the 7th FP (2007-2013) and gained importance as a core evaluation standard in Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) and Horizon Europe (2021-2027). The European Commission systematically carries out ex-ante, mid-term, and ex-post evaluations of the FPs at a global level (i.e., these evaluations cover participant countries across EU Member States, associated countries, and third countries). Still, there is no requirement that FP evaluations should be undertaken at a national (or regional) level. However, for countries like Greece that exhibit a stable and intense presence in the FPs^[2], the need to shed further light on the impact of FPs is imperative.

This paper aims to investigate the impact of the H2020 programme on the participating Greek firms, focusing on two types of benefits-impacts that are related to both input and output additionality measures:

- First, tangible scientific, innovation, and economic outputs (e.g., patents, publications, prototypes, new products, processes, and services), the direct increase in business revenues, productivity, and employment, as well as the creation of new firms/spin-offs (output additionality)^[3].
- Second, the development of critical organizational resources and capabilities that can lead to tangible benefits at a later stage, such as human capital and technological knowledge, reputation, and market access, the building of permanent relationships and networking, and the improvement of research, technological, learning and project management capabilities (outcome-behavioral additionality)^[3].

The data for our empirical analysis are drawn from a large-scale survey conducted in 2022 in Greek business firms that had participated in at least one H2020 project. Our empirical results reveal interesting findings with significant managerial and policy implications.

KEYWORDS: FPs Impact, Research Joint Ventures, Large-scale survey

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