FME HighEFF

Centre for an Energy Efficient and Competitive Industry for the Future



Deliverable D5.1_2019.06c Centre Innovation

Delivery date: 2019-12-11

Organisation name of lead partner for this deliverable:

Nord University

HighEFF- Centre for an Energy Efficient and Competitive Industry for the Future is one of Norway's Centre for Environment-friendly Energy Research (FME). Project co-funded by the Research Council of Norway and Industry partners. Host institution is SINTEF Energi AS.				
Dissemination Level				
PU	Public	х		
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium			
INT	Internal (restricted to consortium partners only)			

Deliverable number:	D5.1_2019.05c
ISBN number:	Conference in Bologna: The future of conducting and publishing research in entrepreneurship, innovation management and strategy https://events.unibo.it/future-of-research
Deliverable title:	How public R&D subsidies alter firm activities and behavior
Work package:	5.1
Deliverable type:	Conference article
Lead participant:	Marianne Steinmo at Nord university

Quality Assurance, status of deliverable				
Action	Performed by	Date		
Verified (WP leader)	Jens Røyrvik			
Reviewed (RA leader)	Ingrid Camilla Claussen	2019-12-12		
Approved (dependent on nature of deliverable)* ⁾				

*) The quality assurance and approval of HighEFF deliverables and publications have to follow the established procedure. The procedure can be found in the HighEFF eRoom in the folder "Administrative > Procedures".

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Abstract

Public R&D subsidies are often used to increase firms' R&D investments and innovation efforts. However, relatively little is known about how such firm-level additionalities emerge and how different types of additionalities interrelate over time. This study examines 15 cases of successful R&D projects to explore the additionality effects firms might achieve as a result of public subsidies. We find that the effects of public R&D subsidies depend on firm characteristics and occur at different stages (start of project, during project and after project). For science-based firms, the subsidy appears to increase innovation and knowledge development after the projects and to enhance firms' organizational goals regarding strategic R&D orientation. For engineering-based firms, the subsidy is used to leverage internal collaboration and leads to output from R&D activities, mainly during the projects. We assess different types of additionality effects from public R&D subsidies, and we identify sub-dimensions of output and behavioural additionalities and theorize on their interrelations. Our study provides guidance for policy and practice related to how different types of firms can benefit from subsidized R&D projects.

The paper has not been published yet.