

Innovation and internationalization in the sphere of small and medium-sized enterprises (Main findings of an e-survey)

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The relationship between innovation and internationalization is bidirectional. Although there is no correlation between them, there are numerous indications that innovative firms are more interested in internationalization than non-innovative ones. The reverse correlation is also true. The presence of a firm on a foreign market may have the effect of promoting and stimulating innovation. All of these factors are mirrored in the fact that 80% of innovative firms in the sample are internationalized while only 43% of non-innovative firms have expanded beyond their borders. Altogether, it can be stated unequivocally that there are clear connections between responsiveness to innovation activities and internationalization. Investigating the world of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), it can be observed that while there are still firms operating on the closed innovation model, many choose instead the open innovation model similar to that used by large firms. Collaboration on innovations may occur inside the country or may go beyond national borders. Borderless research, development and innovation (RDI) activities of SMEs can be observed in different spheres of action, where they not only provide support to the RDI of multinational companies but also produce for other markets. Modern day internationalization in the world of SMEs is an aspect that has hardly been studied in the literature.