



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-EGOV**

Operating Unit on Policy-Driven  
Electronic Governance

# The impact of R&D on productivity at firms' level analysis: The case of internet-based content and application providers (ICAPs) company

Ibrahim Kholilul Rahman and Erik Bohlin

# Problem : The Europe-US Gap (past)

| Period/countries | Growth in |                |                   |
|------------------|-----------|----------------|-------------------|
|                  | GDP       | GDP per capita | GDP per hour work |
| 1950-1973        |           |                |                   |
| EU-15            | 5.5       | 4.7            | 5.5               |
| US               | 3.9       | 2.4            | 2.5               |
| 1973-1995        |           |                |                   |
| EU-15            | 2         | 1.7            | 2.4               |
| US               | 2.8       | 1.8            | 1.2               |
| 1995-2006        |           |                |                   |
| EU-15            | 2.3       | 2.1            | 1.5               |
| US               | 3.2       | 2.2            | 1.8               |

Source: van Ark, O' Mahony and Timmer (2008)

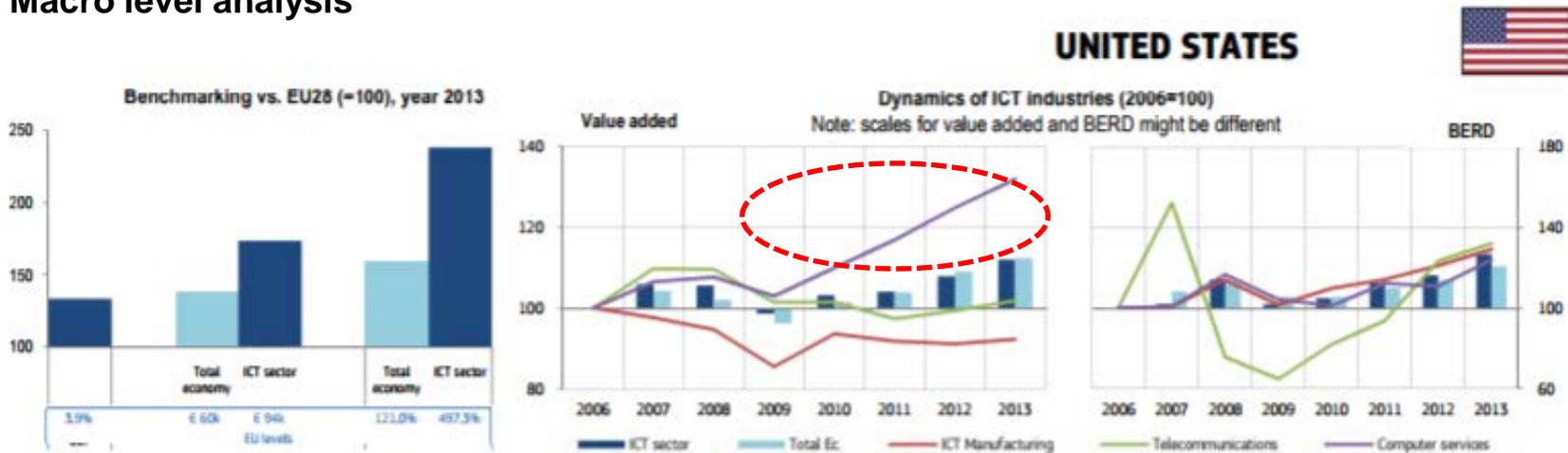


| No | Variables  | European Union |           |
|----|--|----------------|-----------|
|    |  | 1980-1995      | 1995-2004 |
| 1  | Market economy output (2)+(3)                                | 1.8            | 2.2       |
| 2  | Hours worked   | -0.6           | 0.7       |
| 3  | Labour productivity  | 2.4            | 1.5       |
|    | Composition  |                |           |
| 4  | Labour composition   | 0.3            | 0.2       |
| 5  | Capital services per hour                                    | 1.2            | 1         |
| 6  | ICT capital per hour   | 0.4            | 0.5       |
| 7  | Non-ICT capital per hour                                     | 0.8            | 0.5       |
| 8  | Multi-factor productivity                                    | 0.9            | 0.3       |
|    |  |                |           |
|    | Contribution of the knowledge economy to labour productivity | 1.6            | 1.1       |

Source: van Ark, O'Mahony and Timmer (2008)

# Problem : The Europe-US Gap (present)

## Macro level analysis



## R&D performance

Business expenditure in R&D (BERD - € mln)

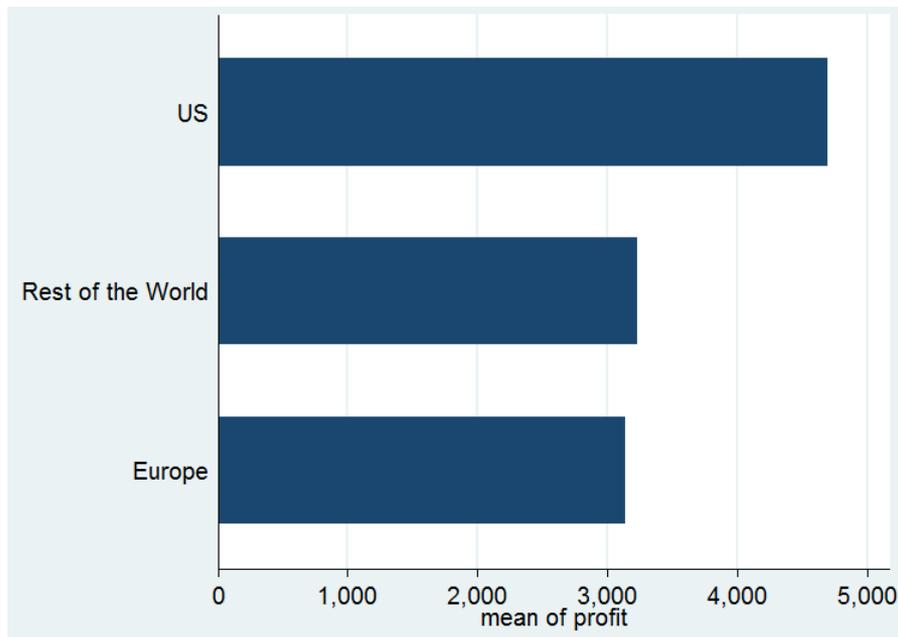
|                                   | 2011    | 2012    | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019   | 2020 | 2021 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|------|------|
| <b>Total economy</b>              | 201,462 | 218,474 | 227,082 | 212,408 | 212,939 | 221,906 | 229,797 | 243,541 | 148.6% | 121  | 126  |
| <b>ICT sector</b>                 | 61,514  | 62,800  | 70,301  | 62,606  | 64,519  | 69,344  | 71,536  | 77,976  | 296.5% | 127  | 111  |
| Manufacturing                     | 30,791  | 30,950  | 35,141  | 31,255  | 33,796  | 35,156  | 37,299  | 39,811  | 388.9% | 129  | 80   |
| Telecommunications                | 1,738   | 2,648   | 1,316   | 1,125   | 1,426   | 1,628   | 2,147   | 2,296   | 72.7%  | 132  | 82   |
| Computer services                 | 28,985  | 29,202  | 33,844  | 30,226  | 29,297  | 32,560  | 32,089  | 35,869  | 278.1% | 124  | 183  |
| <b>ICT sector as a % of Total</b> | 30.5%   | 28.7%   | 31.0%   | 29.5%   | 30.3%   | 31.2%   | 31.1%   | 32.0%   |        |      |      |

Source : [de Panizza & Rohman \(JRC, European Commission, 2016\)](#)

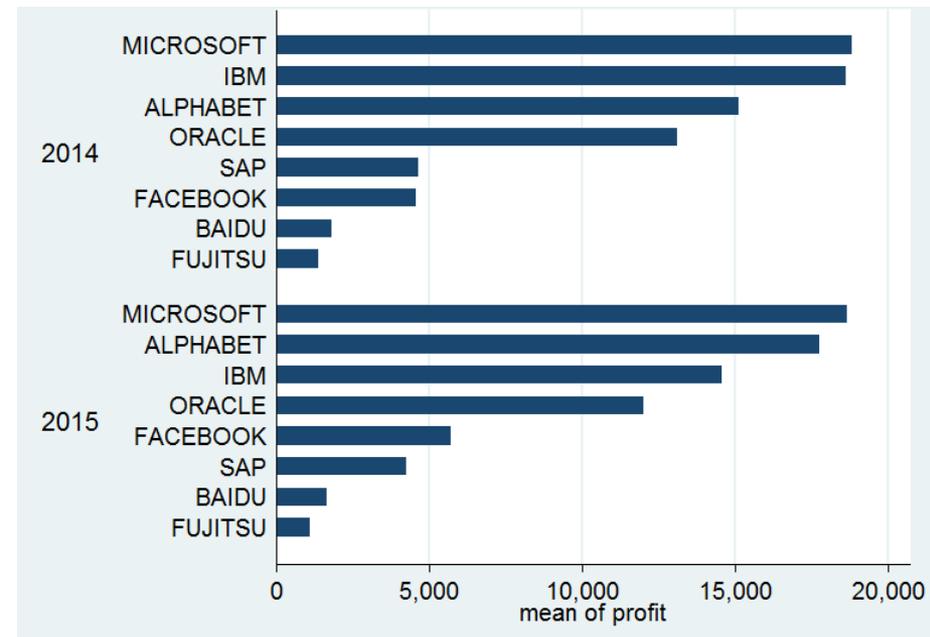
# Problem : The Europe-US Gap

## Industry level analysis

Profit made by the top 500 R&D performing companies (2014-2015)



Profit made by the computer services industry (2014-2015)



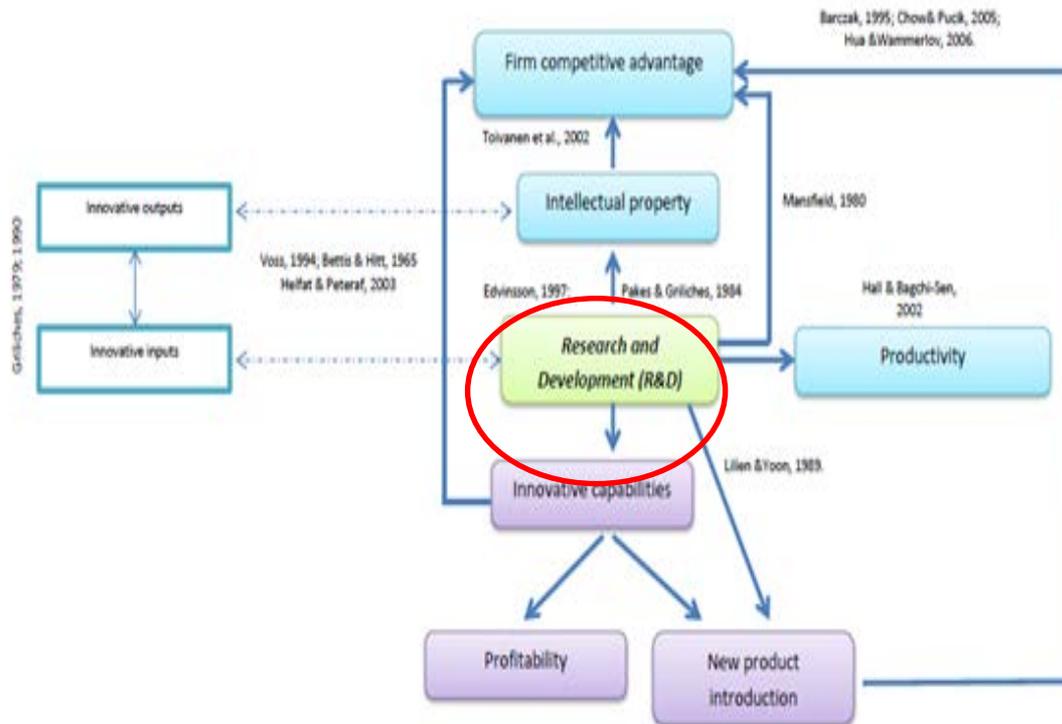
Source : [R&D Industrial Scoreboard \(European Commission, 2016\)](#)



## Research background

- ❑ Since the seminal work by Crépon, Duguet and Mairesse (1998), many studies analysed the relationships between R&D, innovation and productivity with a similar analytical framework, using what after their initials is now referred as the "CDM" model approach.
  
- ❑ The relationship that goes from R&D to innovation is quite straightforward (considering that the aim of R&D performance *is* to achieve some innovations, mostly of a technical nature). Other common determinants of innovative activity include :
  - ❑ ***the existence of cooperation, export orientation and foreign ownership*** (Crespi & Zuniga, 2012; Gazaniol, 2012; Resende, et al., 2014)
  - ❑ ***R&D collaboration***, Lee, et al., 2016; Maietta, 2015)
  - ❑ ***The industry life cycle*** (Tavassoli, 2015)
  - ❑ ***Market structure and degree of competition*** (Blazsek & Escribano, 2016)
  - ❑ ***The role of tacit knowledge*** (Romero, 2014)
  - ❑ ***Structure of labour markets*** (Wachsen & Blind, 2016).

# Research background



## Complementarities between different types of innovation

□ Jha and Bose (2015) : process innovation positively impacts product innovation but not vice versa; Hervas-Oliver et al. (2015): process innovations strengthen the impact of organizational innovation. Ballot et al. (2015): conditional complementarities between product and process innovations between organizational and product innovations, but no complementarities between all three forms of innovation.

## Covariates

□ Sun and Du (2010): the transfer of foreign technologies and foreign investment did not have any significant impact on product innovation in China high-tech manufacturing industries. Chudnovsky et al. (2006) came to similar conclusions for the case of Argentina.

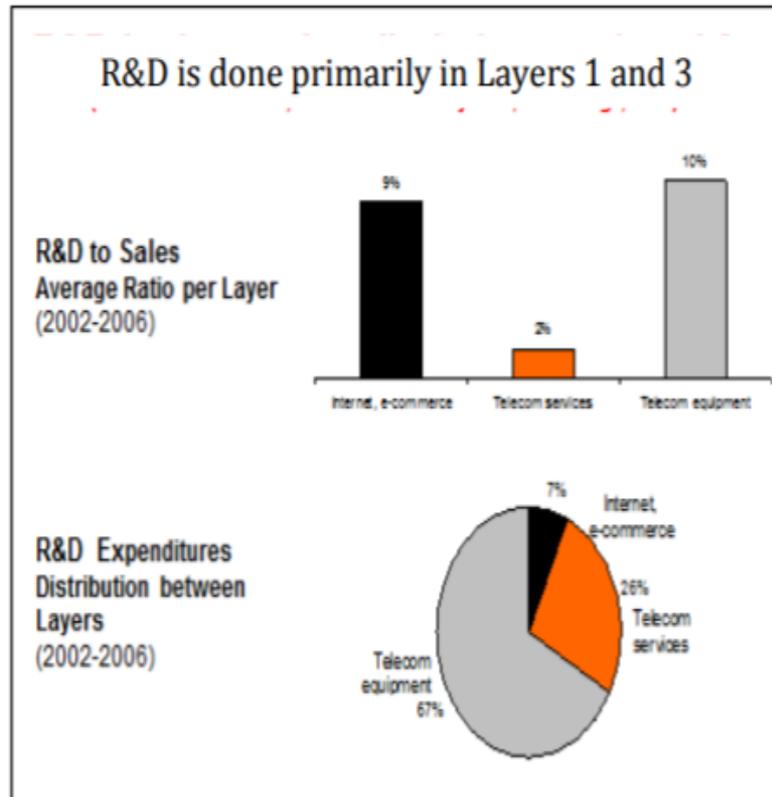
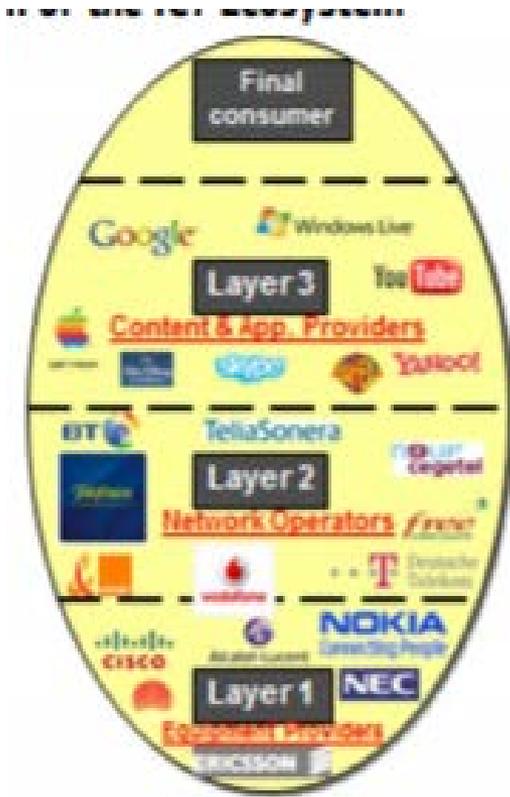
## Interaction between layers

**Layer 3** – the platform, content and applications layer – characterized by high intensity of entrepreneurship and innovation .

Six key characteristics:  
 open low-cost access  
 high marginal costs; high

**Layer 2** (the network economic forces) which are coupled with low margins and substantial entry by a small number of

**Layer 1** players (the hardware) which may be divided into established significant players and those that have not. This has been a different company that has driven the force for change as innovative competitors such as Huawei and ZTE



Source: Fransman. *The New ICT Ecosystem*. Cambridge, 2011

# R&D between layer

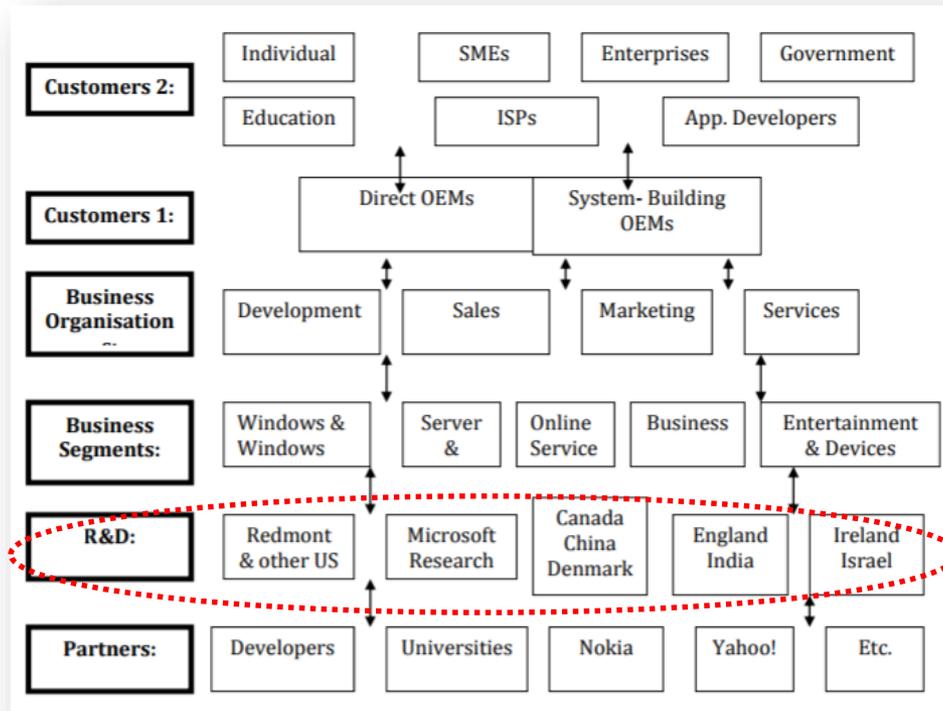
| Layer | Company Name             | Overall Rank | R&D Expend. (2011, Euro mill.) | R&D Intensity (Rank) | Profitability (Rank) |
|-------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| I     | Microsoft                | 2            | 7,583                          | 13.3 (4)             | 29.9 (3)             |
| I     | Samsung                  | 5            | 6,858                          | 6.2 (8)              | 9.4 (7)              |
| I     | Nokia                    | 15           | 4,910                          | 12.7 (5)             | -2.8 (14)            |
| I     | Sony                     | 18           | 4,311                          | 6.7 (7)              | -1.0 (13)            |
| I     | Ericsson                 | 29           | 3,657                          | 14.4 (2)             | 7.8 (9)              |
| I     | Huawei                   | 41           | 2,907                          | 18.6 (1)             | -                    |
| I     | Fujitsu                  | 49           | 2,370                          | 5.3 (9)              | 2.3 (10)             |
| I     | Apple                    | 59           | 1,877                          | 2.2 (12)             | 31.2 (2)             |
| I     | NEC                      | 70           | 1,611                          | 5.3 (9)              | 2.2 (11)             |
| I     | <b>AVERAGE LAYER I</b>   |              | <b>4,009</b>                   | <b>9.41</b>          |                      |
| II    | NTT                      | 47           | 2,664                          | 2.5 (11)             | 11.7 (6)             |
| II    | Telefonica               | 103          | 1,089                          | 1.7 (13)             | 17.4 (5)             |
| II    | AT&T                     | 115          | 925                            | 1.0 (14)             | 8.0 (8)              |
|       | <b>AVERAGE LAYER II</b>  |              | <b>1,559</b>                   | <b>1.7</b>           | <b>12.4</b>          |
| III   | Google                   | 26           | 3,990                          | 13.6 (3)             | 32.0 (1)             |
| III   | Amazon                   | 67           | 1,637                          | 4.4 (10)             | 1.8 (12)             |
| III   | eBay                     | 100          | 1,118                          | 12.4 (6)             | 20.4 (4)             |
|       | <b>AVERAGE LAYER III</b> |              | <b>2,248</b>                   | <b>10.1</b>          | <b>18.1</b>          |

Source : [Fransman's report for JRC European Commission](#)

| Company Characteristics                 | Company Names                                       |
|---|---|
| High R&D-Intensity – High Profitability | Microsoft, Samsung, Ericsson, Huawei?, Google, eBay |
| High R&D-Intensity – Low Profitability  | Nokia, Sony, Fujitsu, NEC, Amazon                   |
| Low R&D-Intensity – High Profitability  | Apple, NTT, Telefonica, AT&T                        |

# Where is R&D?

## Case of Microsoft



Source : [Fransman's report for JRC European Commission](#)

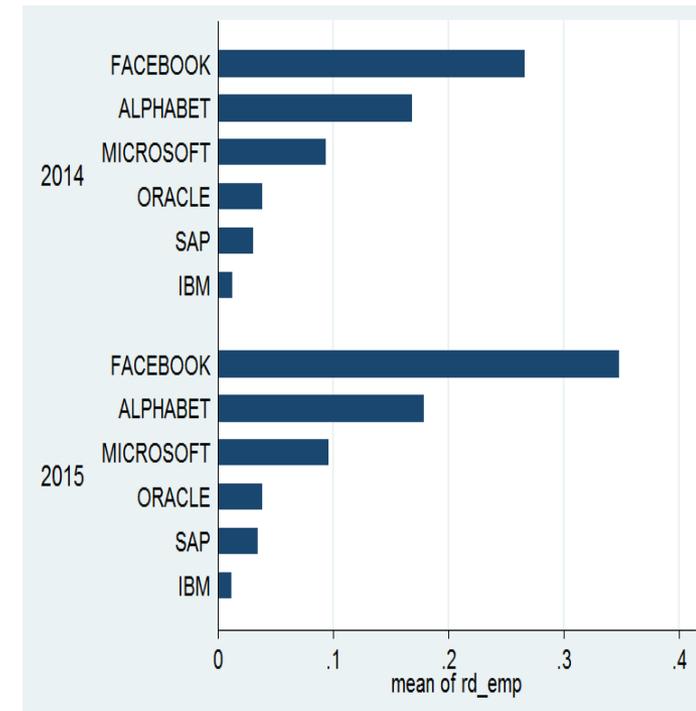
MICROSOFT

MICROSOFT

MICROSOFT

Microsoft

Microsoft



□ What is the role of R&D in building the dominant position of a company relative to the competitors?

□ Is R&D expenditure responsible for higher productivity level?

- The focus of this study is internet-based company which has shown the domination of the US firms at the third layer of Fransman's ICT ecosystem model.
- Google, Yahoo, Amazon and YouTube demonstrate the superiority of the US ICAPs compared with their counterparts in other countries and continents.

# Model building

[1]

$$D_{it} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \delta Z_{it} + \varphi_i + \varepsilon_{1it} > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } \delta Z_{it} + \varphi_i + \varepsilon_{1it} < 0 \end{cases}$$

[2]

$$R\&D_{it} = \begin{cases} \beta X_{it} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{2it} & \text{if } D_{it} = 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } D_{it} = 0 \end{cases}$$

[3]

$$INN_{it} = \gamma \widehat{R\&D}_{it} + \omega W_{it} + \theta_i + \mu_{it}$$

$$P_{it} = \vartheta \widehat{INN}_{it} + \rho Y_{it} + \sigma_i + \tau_{it}$$

Identifying determinants  
of R&D

Identifying determinants  
of innovation using (1)  
as a predictor.

Identifying the link  
between innovation and  
productivity using (2) as  
predictors



## JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

IRI - Economics of Industrial Research and Innovation

[European Commission](#) > [EU Science Hub](#) > [IRI](#) > [Scoreboard](#)

[Home](#) [About](#) [R&D Monitoring](#) [R&D Analysis](#) [CONCORD](#) [Seminars & Workshops](#)

### The EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard

The EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard provides economic and financial data and analysis of the top corporate R&D investors from the EU and from abroad. It is based on company data extracted directly from each company's Annual Report.

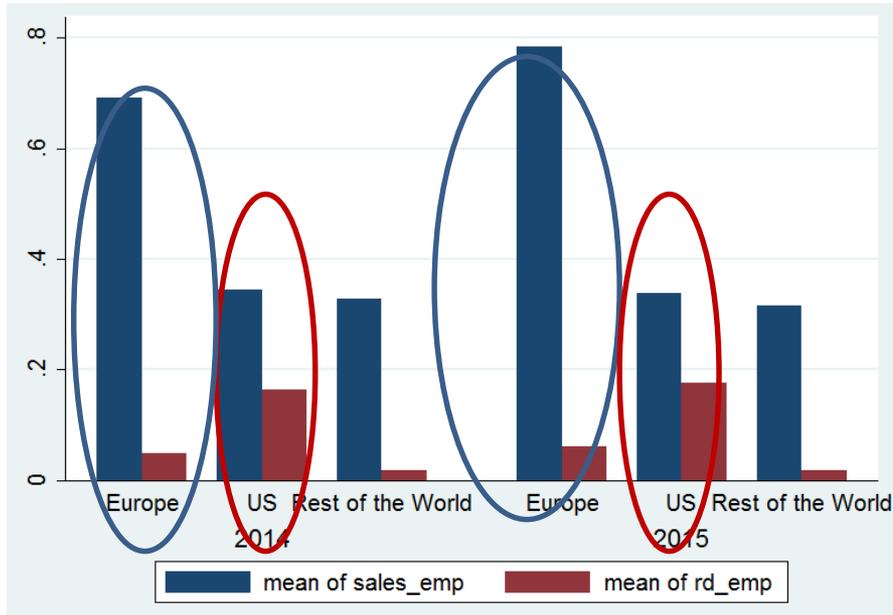
The Scoreboard is published annually in order to provide a reliable, up-to-date benchmarking tool for comparisons between companies, sectors, and geographical areas, as well as to monitor and analyse emerging investment trends and patterns.

It also aims to raise public awareness and support for R&D investment among individual companies and policy makers, and encourages companies to disclose information about their R&D investments.

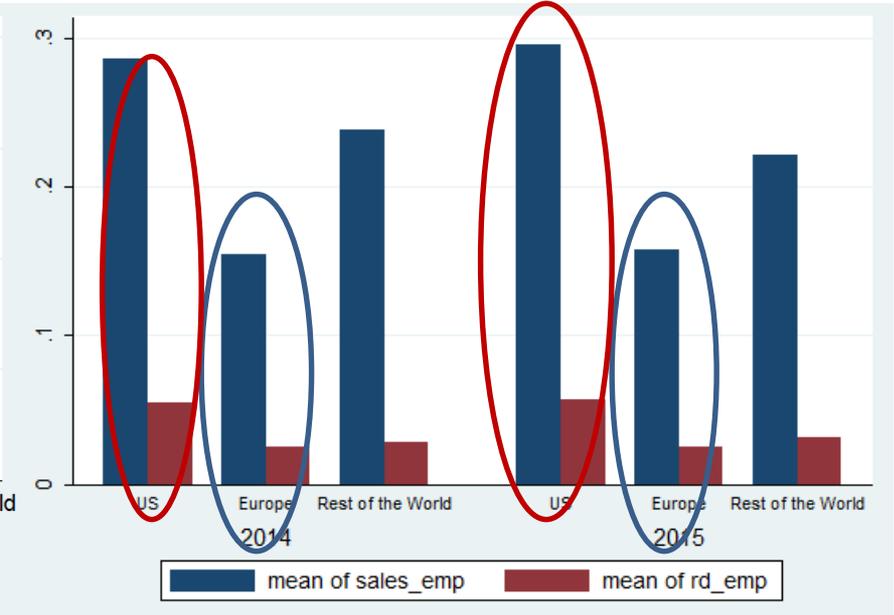
#### Previous Scoreboards

- [The 2016 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard](#)
- [The 2015 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard](#)
- [The 2014 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard](#)
- [The 2013 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard](#)
- [The 2012 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard](#)
- [The 2011 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard](#)
- [The 2010 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard](#)
- [The 2009 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard](#)
- [The 2008 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard](#)

**Between regions : all firms**



**Between regions : Software and computer services**

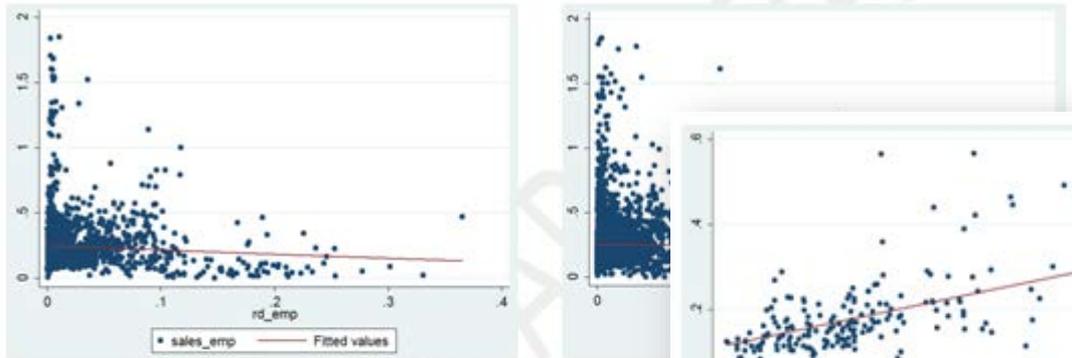




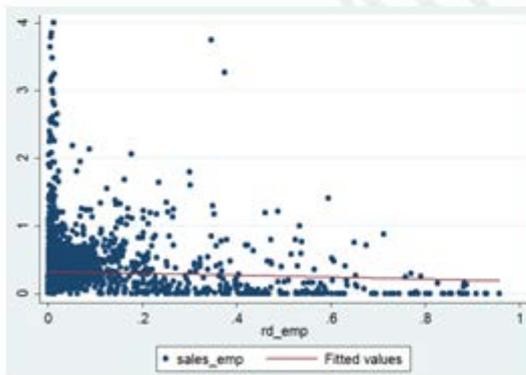


# R&D and productivity : dynamic

## All firms

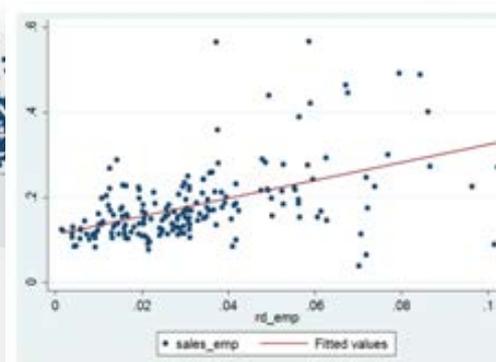


2000-2004

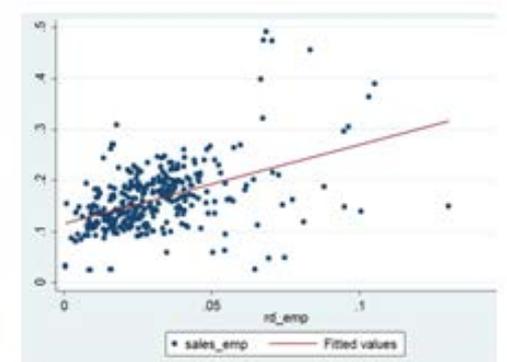


2014-2015

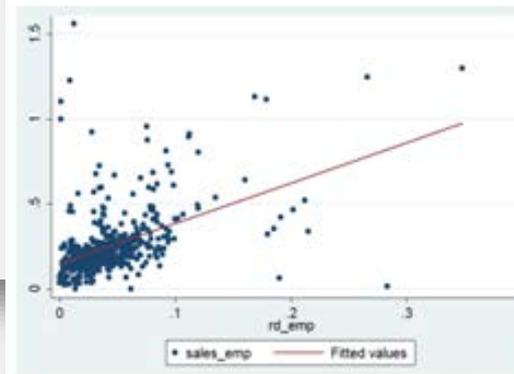
## Software and computer services



2000-2004



2003-2006



# Econometric results

## All samples and internet companies

| Variables                | 2000-2003 |                    | 2003     |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------|
|                          | all       | internet companies | all      |
| Research and development | 0.0930*** | 0.315***           | 0.141*** |
| Dummy country            | Yes       | Yes                | Yes      |
| Dummy sector             | Yes       | No                 | Yes      |
| Number of observation    | 1,913     | 154                | 3,635    |
| R-squared                | 0.32      | 0.496              | 0.365    |

## Dummy region

| Variables         | All companies | Internet base |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| R&D               | 0.0216**      | 0.254***      |
| Europe            | -2.148        | -9.266        |
| Rest of the world | -0.0996***    | -0.244***     |
| Control           |               |               |
| Capex             |               |               |
| Constant          | -1.344***     | -0.630***     |
| Observations      | 3,962         | 446           |
| R-squared         | 0.058         | 0.338         |

## Cross

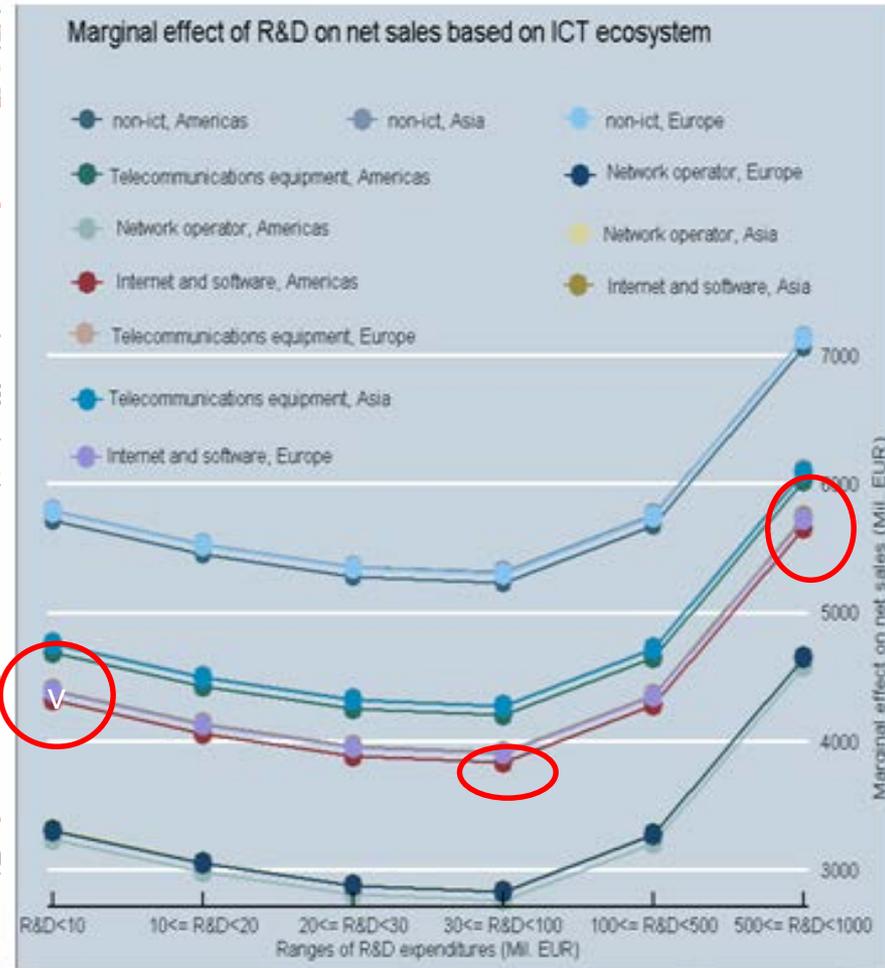
### Variables

R&D

Constant

Observations

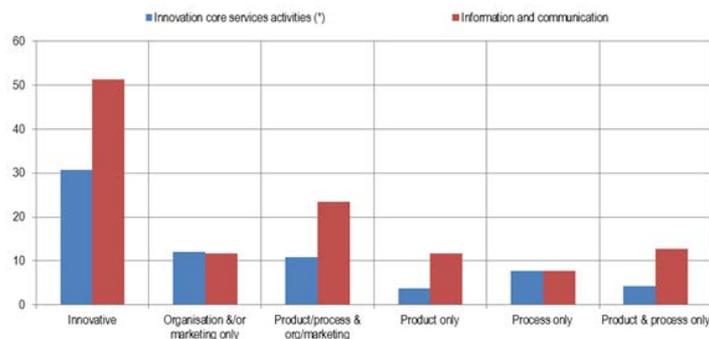
R-squared



- ❑ As productivity gap is generally regarded as the problem making the EU ICT sector lagging behind (compared to the US, for instance), the strategy to foster innovation and thus productivity should be correctly implemented.
  
- ❑ Firms' level analysis : most data about innovation are collected at firm-level. This is the case, for example, for data relating to R&D expenditure, patents, and science and technology related employment. Thus single firm is assumed to be the appropriate unit of analysis when it comes to relevant data regarding innovation (Fransman, 2014).
  
- ❑ The innovation behavior of groups of companies is greatly influenced by their symbiotic relationships with other groups. To exemplify, telecoms operators in Layer 2 are able to enjoy relatively low levels of R&D intensity because they are able to rely on the R&D performed by their ICT equipment providers from Layer 1 or simply outsourced their R&D activities.
  
- ❑ We found that:
  - Over the years the role of R&D on (presumably innovation) and productivity increases.
  - The role of R&D is more visible in software and internet services (3<sup>rd</sup> layer of ICT ecosystem) than for all firms.
  - The parameters are bigger among the US firms, BUT:
  - Controlling the covariates the marginal impact of investment is greater among the EU firms.

## Future direction

❑ To understand the second block of the CDM model on how R&D affects innovation capabilities? Are all type of innovation going hand-in-hand? Do the types of innovation differ by layer?



❑ Are there any different patterns of innovation between innovation families (technical vs. non technical?)

❑ The investigation will also be carried out to see the different of funding schemes. An important aspect is to see the impact of structural fund and to compare the performance of the ICT and non-ICT firms as the recipients of such funding schemes.

❑ The conventional view is that a reduction in taxes (e.g. through R&D tax allowances) and/or the granting of subsidies may be used as effective policy tools increasing the incentive to innovate. We will test whether the fiscal measures, can be used to supplement the other incentives to innovate.

**THANK YOU.  
ANY QUESTIONS?**