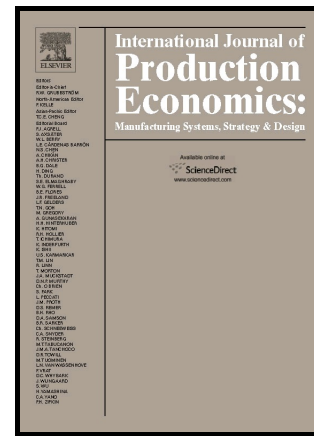


Author's Accepted Manuscript

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www.elsevier.com/locate/ijpe

PII: S0925-5273(17)30043-9
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpe.2017.02.013>
Reference: PROECO6662

To appear in: *Intern. Journal of Production Economics*

Received date: 15 February 2016
Revised date: 22 February 2017
Accepted date: 23 February 2017

Cite this article as: Emanuele Giovannetti and Claudio Piga, The Contrasting Effects of Active and Passive Cooperation on Innovation and Productivity Evidence from British Local Innovation Networks, *Intern. Journal of Production Economics*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpe.2017.02.013>

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The Contrasting Effects of Active and Passive Cooperation on Innovation and Productivity: Evidence from British Local Innovation Networks

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Abstract

This paper studies the contrasting effects on innovations and productivity arising from active cooperation in innovation activities among competitors and from passive cooperation induced by these activities' spillovers. A three-stage productivity function is estimated showing that firms' innovations are supported by their active cooperation within their local innovation network of suppliers and customers and by passive cooperation through sectors' spillovers. Contrary to this, active cooperation in innovation activities among competitors reduces their innovation rates and, indirectly, productivity. Hence, innovation policies and strategies aimed at restraining active cooperation among competitors, while encouraging it within a firm's local innovation network, may contribute to the system-wide introduction of process and product innovations and ultimately productivity.

Keywords: *Product Innovations; Process Innovations; R&D Spillovers; Cooperation; Local Innovation Networks; Productivity*

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