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# Business networks and innovation in selected lagging areas of the European Union: A spatial perspective

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## Abstract

The present paper examines the operation of business networks and the associated level of innovative activity in rural areas of the European Union by adopting a macro view. The empirical evidence is derived from field work carried out in 12 European Union areas located in six member states in the framework of a European Union funded research project. Results show that the spatial extension of business networks and businesses' innovative activity are highly influenced by a region's accessibility to central markets taking into account its level of economic development.

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