

Inter-organisational technology/knowledge transfer: a framework from critical literature review

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Abstract This paper aims to provide, through a literature analysis, a solid theoretical foundation that allows identifying the critical factors for technology/knowledge transfer. The literature review allowed to summarize the main contributions collected, to identify the main critical factors for technology/knowledge transfer and to frame them in a simple framework, carrying out a rationalization and classification. We built a reference framework, called “model of technology/knowledge transfer”. The proposed structure considers six categories related to the actors involved (sources, recipients and intermediaries), the relationship between them, the object of the transfer, the channels and mechanisms and the reference context. The factors represent all the main parameters and levers to consider in the design and implementation of an activity of technology/knowledge transfer. This can direct also future research by deepening these factors or the relationship among them.

Keywords Technology transfer · Inter-organisations · Literature review

JEL Classification · L2 · O3

1 Introduction

This paper deals with the literature on technology/knowledge transfer from an inter-organisational point of view, i.e. the transactions among different organisations (and not within the organisation) (Argote et al. 2003; Kumar and Ganesh 2009; Autio and Laamanen 1995; Grosse 1996).

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