

ABSTRACT**INNOVATION AT REGIONAL SCALE: AN INVESTIGATION ON THE
KNOWLEDGE DYNAMICS AND NETWORKING BETWEEN SMEs AND LOCAL
STAKEHOLDERS OF NUTS LEVEL 2 TR61 REGION****Onur SUNGUR**

Suleyman Demirel University, Department of Economics, Master Thesis, 192pages,
June 2007

Supervising Professor: Assoc.Prof.Dr. Murat Ali DULUPÇU

The aim of this study is to examine the interactions of the manufacturing SMEs in the NUTS Level 2 TR61 Region -namely Antalya, Isparta and Burdur provinces- with local, regional and national actors in terms of knowledge dynamics and networking. This study also aims to determine cooperation and knowledge exchange level of firms in 3 provinces with various local, regional and national actors and to determine whether there is a differences between there provinces in term of networking.

This study comprises 4 sections.

In the first part, conceptual and theoretical framework related to innovation is discussed. In this section, firstly, definition of “innovation” and then innovation types according to various categories is discussed. After the innovation definitions, the development of technological change and innovation concepts in history of economic thought is mentioned. Besides, the importance of innovation both firms and nations in terms of three key concept -competitiveness, productivity and growth- is studied.

In the second part, National Innovation System (NIS) and Regional Innovation System (RIS) concepts are examined. In this part, definitions of NIS and RIS, main actors, success criteria are discussed.

In the third section, the various concepts such as learning, knowledge, knowledge accumulation and creativity which constitutes the background of innovation are mentioned. Firstly, the definition and types of these concepts, then the relation of these concepts with innovation is studied. Then, cooperation and knowledge flow mechanisms between firms and actors in Innovation Systems, and network theory is discussed.

In the final section, in accordance with the aim of this study, the findings of survey which was applied to the manufacturing firms in Antalya, Isparta and Burdur provinces are presented.

Study ends with conclusion and suggestion.