Losers: How not to win in a global interconnected world

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The paper illustrates the results of a research carried out on the topic of collaboration among international research groups/institutes/organizations. The aim of this research is to understand if the structural characteristics of network of collaboration are more important than experience and quality of a research group and then to investigate the impact of network structure of collaboration at inter-organizational level on a not positive outcome. Scholars has widely recognized the importance of network structure of collaboration in research performances (Mart et al., 2002; Subramanyam, 1983). However, when studying its negative impacts, literature is still scant and shows unexplored and emergent research areas. Consequently the question which has driven our research is:

Is it the quality of partners and/or consortium or the network structure characteristics that determine negative performances?

Our sample contains network data for 3363 research organizations which applied for a EU framework program, but in three different calls (time points): respectively 1000, 788 and 1575. Among these only 378, 335 and 590 were funded for at least one project. Preliminary results, which have to be further analyzed, seems to show that network characteristics are better predictor of not positive outcomes than the research consortium quality.

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