

University of Groningen

Factors influencing the performance of innovation contests

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Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:

2017

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Hu, F. (2017). *Factors influencing the performance of innovation contests*. [Groningen]: University of Groningen, SOM research school.

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1. Brief readability and brief length directly and indirectly influence innovation contest performance, and the indirect effects are through their effects on the number of high-skilled and low-skilled solvers an online contest attracts.
2. Innovation contests with a long and easy-to-read brief tend to have a better contest performance.
3. Not low, nor high, but having a medium diversified group of solvers contributes to better contest performance.
4. The uncertainty level of the brief moderates the curvilinear relationship between diversity and contest performance in such a way that as the brief becomes more uncertain, the inverted U-shape shifts horizontally from a smaller to a larger value of the diversity measures.
5. The number of solvers that have already joined the contest, and the number of high-quality solutions that have already been submitted influence new solvers joining the contest, and solvers submitting new high-quality solutions.
6. More solvers develop more high-quality solutions, however, the marginal returns on high-quality solutions decrease.
7. “Quality breeds quality”: Solvers are more likely to submit another high-quality solution if they already have submitted more high-quality solutions to the same contest.
8. The pursuit of a PhD degree is accompanied by frustration and failure. Thus, it is helpful to remain optimistic and proactive.
9. Overtime does not always mean success, but success mostly necessitates overtime.
10. When starting with a PhD study, you may feel that the future is long overdue. When finishing a PhD study, you may feel time is flying like an arrow. Never waste your time, and above all never waste your PhD period.