

Dynamics and Trade Patterns of Export Intermediaries. A Case Study of the Polish Regions

Barbara Szejgiec-Kolenda, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

Globalization processes make that international aspects of company activity are growing in importance, with an increasing number of companies being involved in international exchange. The study involves analysis of indirect exports of intermediaries in foreign trade, which represent the first stage of internationalization of companies' activity – requiring lower institutional, organizational or financial commitment thus more flexible in setting up businesses. It aims to show from a spatial perspective the complexity of problems associated with activity of intermediaries in foreign trade in the period 2007-2015 based on firm-level data, in particular: geographic diversification of exports, product concentration of exports or the dynamics of export activity.

The results show, among others, that: a) export intermediaries are characterized by a high flexibility of its activity, responding to market demand by adjusting the range of products and trade partners; b) the nature and importance of their activities are strongly spatially differentiated (e.g. border areas vs. agglomerations); c) intermediaries are marked by high volatility in terms of entering and stopping of export activity and d) the number of intermediaries in foreign trade is systematically growing.

The study is a result of a research project Regional diversity of intermediaries' activity in foreign trade – competitiveness and role in local economy (2014/13/N/HS4/03413) financed by the National Science Centre (Poland).

The Relevance of Quantity and Quality Entrepreneurship for Regional Performance: The Moderating Role of the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

László Szerb, University of Pécs, Hungary

Esteban Lafuente, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Barcelona Tech), Spain

Krisztina Horváth, University of Pécs, Hungary

Balázs Páger, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary

While entrepreneurship has long been believed to be a major determinant of economic outcomes, even latest empirical studies provide mixed and unconvincing evidence about the ultimate relationship between entrepreneurship and various economic performance metrics. According to various empirical studies, results vary according to the selection of performance measure chosen, the definition and the measure of entrepreneurship, the analysed geographic unit, and the modelling strategy. Research on the entrepreneurial ecosystem (EE) portrays the emergence of productive entrepreneurship as a result of interconnected actors and factors within a focal territory. The EE approach differentiates between environmental, ecosystem elements, outcome and output measures. Within the framework of EE, this study analyses how the entrepreneurial ecosystem and different types of entrepreneurship impact regional performance. For measuring EE we use the Regional Entrepreneurship and Development Index (REDI). For measuring entrepreneurial output we deviate from the conceptually problematic Total-early phased entrepreneurial activity (TEA) and developed two other Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) data based activity ratios. By analysing 121 European Union regions between 2012 and 2014, we find that quantity (Kirznerian) entrepreneurship negatively impacts regional performance, while this effect turns positive in the case of quality (Schumpeterian) entrepreneurship. Also, regions with a healthy entrepreneurial ecosystem have a greater capacity to materialize the effects of high business formation rates, regardless of their