

Our method is based on the creation and analysis of a detailed LEADER LAG database. As available EU data sources are incomplete, this step needs a time-consuming desktop research through the dissection of local integrated development plans of LAGs. A supplementary questionnaire research based on the methodology of Robert Lukesch is purposing to highlight the governance characteristics of LAGs in different countries. In order to compare local communities of the V4 countries with those of the rest of Europe, the questionnaire was sent to a sample of LAGs of other EU countries.

We aim to highlight national/regional specialties of local action groups in the realm of governance. Our results may help future LEADER/CLLD groups to implement their plans more successfully.

SPATIALITY AND THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN WORKFARE STATE

Márton Czirfusz, Hungarian Academy Of Sciences, Hungary

State formation and its spatialities have become one of the focal topics in recent political-economy-inspired regional studies. This growing interest has been triggered by the fact how post-Fordism and a new round of globalisation reconfigured capital-labour relations and scales of state formations spatially unevenly.

Central and Eastern European states (and scholars), however, have remained largely outside of this debate. Although regulation theory and the varieties of capitalism literature indicated differences of the nation-state in post-socialist countries vis-à-vis Western Europe, these often fell short of explaining these differences or the multi-scalar character of these state formations. There are only few accounts which aimed at understanding how the differences of Central and Eastern European states are determined by the different structural positions of these countries in geographically uneven political-economies of global capitalism. The theoretical contribution of this paper is to bring forward this latter approach.

Empirically the paper is considering the post-2008 workfare states in Central and Eastern Europe, with a specific focus on Hungary. Although many countries in the region introduced new labour policies following the 2008 economic crisis, the Hungarian reform – with a rapid and broad roll-out of the workfare state – is largely unprecedented.

First, the paper argues that the geographically uneven integration of Central and Eastern European countries into global capitalism resulted in the fact that several parts of these countries have had to face serious and long-term unemployment, with more severe outcomes following the 2008 crisis. The nation states in many cases opted for policies either explicitly directed to these parts of the respective countries (as some kind of regional policy), or for an aspatial workfare policy with spatially variegated effects.

Second, processes of state rescaling are taking place connected to the previously mentioned policies. These involve a reconfiguration of the competencies of the local, the regional and the national level. In the case of Hungary, the processes are often referred to (in an oversimplifying way) as a growing power of the (nation) state.

The paper foresees to further theoretical debate about inherent spatialities of states – by taking into account the specificities of Central and Eastern Europe –, and calls for a broader acknowledgement and usage of the political-economic approach in Central and Eastern European regional studies.

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THE ROLE OF THE SMART SPECIALISATION IN PERIPEHRAL REGIONS IN POLAND – A FAD OR A NECESSITY, A CURSE OR A CHANCE TO CHANGE THE CURRENT PATH OF DEVELOPMENT?

Anna Dąbrowska, University of Warsaw, Poland

The main aim of the article is to evaluate the importance of the concept of the smart specialization for the development of peripheral regions in Poland. In particular, there will be made an attempt to answer the question, whether intelligent specializations can provide a sufficiently strong impulse (Pendall, Foster & Cowell 2010), to divert the region from its current development model (Martin 2011; Sydow, Schreyoegg & Koch 2009).

Case studies of three peripheral voivodeships in Poland – Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Podlaskie and Podkarpackie – is used for a detailed analysis of this problem. Although the empirical study concentrates on Polish regions, it may have a wider significance for other less developed regions in other countries in the European Union.

The idea of smart specialization (Foray 2009, 2015) implemented in all regions of the EU in the form of RIS3, implies high expectations for a development model based on a business-science cooperation. The idea of "entrepreneurial discovery process", which can be considered as the "principle of creating" smart specialization, has been applied in regions for a discussion of a endogenous potential (Leydesdorf 2012).

The development of less developed regions is often based on traditional economic sectors driven by endogenous resources, in particular natural and environmental resources (Kudełko 2013). Nowadays abandoning the narrow understanding of innovation and opting for an inclusive definition of smart specialization is observed. It means in case of less developed regions giving every sector a chance to be present in the strategy through a good project (Foray and Goenega 2013) and applies also to sectors which are not traditionally considered to be innovative.

Consequently, it seems reasonable to believe that this new approach to development may be an opportunity for the less developed regions to divert from their current path of development. The concept of smart specialization implemented in developed regions is clearly perceived as an opportunity to strengthen their competitive advantages. However, in case of less developed regions (with lower level of economic development, innovation potential and poor experience in science-business cooperation as well) the role of smart specialization is definitely more questionable. There are some doubts if the low-innovation regions will not treat the process of identifying smart specialization merely as a formal requirement for EU funding?

The analysed polish regions differ significantly in economic potential and experience gained in business-science relations and are characterized not only by different identified smart specializations but also by a slightly different approach to the RIS3 building proces. On the one hand – Podkarpackie Voivodeship with high level of business enterprise expenditure on R&D (due to the dynamic development of the aerospace industry and significant foreign capital involved), great potential of science in the area of aviation and main smart specialisation in Aeronautics and Space Technology. On the other hand – Warmińsko-Mazurskie with all three smart specializations based on natural resources