

organization of value chains in selected business sectors was demonstrated (individual direct interviews). In the third part, a large heterogeneity and changeability of development effects of territorial units in Central Europe was demonstrated (cluster analysis).

### **The Belt and Road Initiative: A New Direction for the Development of the World Island?**

**Michael Dunford, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China**

Drawing on the concept of uneven and combined development I shall seek to compare two phases of Eurasian and global development: in the postwar Keynesian Golden Age and in the phase of neo-liberal globalization. In this light I shall ask in what sense the BRI offers the potential for new development trajectories.

### **Utilizing Knowledge for Adaptation in Furniture Clusters of Different Histories and Institutional Contexts.**

**Wojciech Dyba, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland**

One of the key factors of successful adaptation of firms and industries is new knowledge. It allows to adapt both to evolutionary and radical market changes. Special conditions for acquiring and utilizing new knowledge appear in clusters, where firms and institutions representing selected economic sectors are networking with each other and with institutions. Acquiring and utilizing new knowledge (both technological and business, explicit and tacit) may lead to positive results for firms: higher sales, and exports or innovativeness. The more successfully adapting firms, the more resilient the industry and region where they operate.

To investigate that issue empirically, research was conducted in two furniture clusters (districts) with different histories and institutional contexts: Livenza Furniture District in Treviso and Pordenone (Northern Italy) and Kęпно Furniture District in Wielkopolska (Western Poland). The first one, Livenza Furniture District – is a renowned worldwide and mature cluster – with long traditions of furniture production, operating in a shaped business environment. The second – Kęпно Furniture District – is younger, with potential for further growth, located in the economy where organisations cooperating with firms are still novel. Both clusters achieve good economic results and have gone quite mildly through the most recent economic crisis. The research consisted of a representative survey among furniture firms (213 firms from Livenza and 100 from Kęпно) as well as interviews with firms that had successfully adapted to market changes. The study showed differences in knowledge management in both clusters allowing to formulate variant paths of adaptation of firms and clusters.

### **New Regional Development Tools and Reindustrialisation in France: Territorial Stakeholders, Beneficiaries and Funding Agencies**

**Ildiko Egyed, HAS Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungary**

Despite the significant results of voluntaristic regional policy in the industrialisation of underdeveloped regions, France is among the most de-industrialised countries of Europe. The dominant trends of metropolisation, creating „non-places” in formerly integrated territories and the current transformations affecting production systems have led to the aggravation of socio-economic disparities between and within regions. The emergence of functional voids (sensitive urban zones,

abandoned sites, etc.) explains the declining performance of territorial production systems in regions most severely affected by deindustrialisation.

The decisive focus of regional and industrial policy on maximising the contribution of the most productive territories to national growth objectives reflects a paradigm change of regional policy previously dedicated to enhancing the attractiveness of less industrialised regions. The prioritization of key enabling technologies in regional smart specialisation strategies further contributes to the erosion of less technology-intensive firms and traditional industrial activities located in medium-sized and small settlements. SMEs' growth into intermediate-sized firms is impeded by various obstacles, and their innovative and export performance is deemed insufficient. The recent focus on intermediate-sized firms (250-2000 employees) notwithstanding, the French economy remains dominated by large groups.

The presentation, by assessing, through case studies and international comparisons, the success of new funding mechanisms for firms at the level of local and national strategies, will interrogate the role of the state in the identification of winning sectors and territories. Accordingly, funding schemes targeting SME growth, innovation support, the role of competitiveness poles, and a diverse set of different territorial production systems will be considered.

### **Spending on Arts Culture: Does it Really Impact Wellbeing – An exploratory Study into Local Government in Victoria**

**Meg Elkins, RMIT University, Australia**

**Bronwyn Coate, RMIT University, Australia**

Spending on Arts and Culture for local governments is often viewed as a merit good due to the externalities created. Previous research has demonstrated the relationship between regional economic growth and regional expenditure on arts, culture and heritage. However, there is a limited evidence to suggest there is a link between how much local governments are spending in arts and culture and whether this has any correlation with community wellbeing outcomes.

In this research we use expenditure data from several local government councils in regional and metropolitan Victoria and recognised measures on wellbeing; the Victorian Health Indicators Survey and an OECD's wellbeing measures to examine this relationship. The findings of this research have significant implications for policymakers at a time when public authorities are under increased scrutiny in the effective management of public finances. This paper can evidence as to the effectiveness of the spending on wellbeing for their constituents. In particular, how local governments can use their resources in human, social, economic and natural capital to enhance future wellbeing in their communities.

### **Land, is it a Resource or a Place-making Element? Urban Design for multi-lateral Approach of 'Pod Development' Crisis**

**Abeer Elshater, Ain Shams University, Egypt**

Further alteration in the morphological composition of urban districts is that from outward-facing urban blocks to inward-focused complexes of buildings often referred to as 'pods'. In 'pod' developments, each use; the fast-food outlet, shopping mall, office park, residential construction, hotel, housing cluster, etc., is considered as a separate part, enclosed by its allied parking and generally