The Role of Regional Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in the Presence of Productive Firms in the CEE Regions

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The regional entrepreneurship ecosystem consists of a set of interconnected actors, organizations, institutions and processes. Entrepreneurial activity serves as an output of this ecosystem, and provides the background for individuals to create opportunities for innovation. In this way, value creation serves as a final outcome of the ecosystem. However productive, high growth entrepreneurial activities also vary across regions, as the regional conditions of individual and institutional factors within entrepreneurship ecosystems are different.

This paper addresses the question whether the quality of the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem has impact on the presence of productive firms. Data were collected from the regional dataset of Global Entrepreneurship Monitor on 2007–2014. In this case, the a modified rate of high-growth oriented firms serves as a measure for productive entrepreneurship, as the high-growth orientation has been characterized not only by the number of newly created workplaces, but also innovation-orientation, technology use and export-orientation. The quality of the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem is determined by different regional socio-economic measures that have also been applied for the calculation of the Regional Entrepreneurship and Development Index. In order to have a more comprehensive picture on these processes in Central and Eastern European (CEE) regions, they have been compared to Northern and Western European and Southern European regions, respectively.

The very first results show that the lack of efficient institutional systems may hinder the presence of high-growth oriented firms in CEE regions, while regions with more efficient institutions may rather provide a supportive environment for high-growth oriented firms.

Knowledge Workers and Workplace Mobility – Death of the Office, or a New Meaning for Employment Location?

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With the pervasive use of laptops, tablets, mobile phones, e-mail and communication platforms, and cloud computing, knowledge workers are able to perform their work whenever and wherever. This paper addresses two popular beliefs: one, that all knowledge workers are mobile and flexible, and two, that the office is moribund (Mulcahy 2017). Based on semi-structured in-depth interviews with knowledge workers in Canada's Innovation Corridor we present a typology of mobile workers, highlighting the different factors affecting a worker's ability to move around as they perform work. In addition, we reveal a turning point in conceptualizing employment location as non-traditional places adopt multiple roles and functions, including that of the office. We argue that these are important elements to consider as we design planning policies with the future of work in mind.

Governance Turn in Local Economic Development in Hungary

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The common conviction of institutionalist researchers and policy makers is that „governance matters". However it is hard to measure the direct impact of the quality of governance, although there are

several successful attempts using mostly quantitative indices. There are many experiences and evidences also on special agencies and the institutional setting of Local Economic Development (LED) concluding to the general consensus that place-based, open, participative solutions are easier able to contribute to the efficiency of local development interventions.

Less attention is paid to the general governance context of these institutions and actors dealing with local economic development. Hungary is an appropriate case to highlight the importance of the public governance context. The paper introduces the general turn in the governance model of Hungary, and seeks to identify the consequences concerning the arena of LED. The focus will be on the dramatic weakening of local governments as concerns not only the decreasing resources and competences but also the limited space of movement and independency. Based on the former and ongoing empirical researches in CERS HAS, several empirical elements can be presented which show that the ideal model of LED is strongly contradicting to the very centralised and closed nature of governance structure and practice emerged after 2010, however the roots of this statist approach can be found already in the longer history of Hungarian state and society.

Networking Towards Sustainable Tourism: Regional Development between Green Growth and Degrowth Strategies

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Since the 1980s an immense body of literature has emerged considering entrepreneurial networks crucial for the economic success of businesses. In the light of increasing global challenges like environmental degradation and social injustice, however, calls have become louder for a great transition towards more sustainable modes of living that are not only based on economic performance but are also socio-ecologically compatible. Yet, with regard to entrepreneurial networks that promote sustainable development, there is a lack of understanding of the nature of participating businesses, in which ways they collaborate and what the outcomes are. In contrast to the economic-driven networks literature, my paper uses a network analysis to investigate features of a regional network of tourism enterprises in Ireland that pursues socio-ecological goals alongside the economic goals. Acknowledging the heterogeneity of sustainable entrepreneurs, member businesses are categorized by their ideological orientation towards sustainability ranging from strict green growth to rigid degrowth approaches. Following, the paper identifies advantageous and disadvantageous features for the creation of social capital and innovations in the context of a regional sustainability transition. It argues that, depending on the actors' positioning between green growth and degrowth strategies and their specific prestige within a network, there is a tendency for certain types of cooperation. The paper concludes that business networks can only be of significance regarding a clear shift away from business as usual if degrowth strategists are represented in adequate numbers and have influence in terms of communication and joint activities in the long-term.