

INARTICULATE IDEAS ON DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION FROM CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE - ANALYSING CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN NETWORKING ACTIVITY IN EU TERRITORIAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

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Macro-regional differences in Europe, and especially the differences between former socialist EU member states (cited many times as Central and Eastern European Countries) and the rest of the EU is frequently referred in professional and research conversations on development policy. We believe that analysing networking ability of Central and Eastern European organisations inside European-wide setups may useably contribute to this wider Central European development discourse.

This study analyses principally the performance of Central and Eastern European countries (hereinafter CEE countries) through their project activity in transnational and interregional programmes supported by the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) objective of the EU Cohesion Policy. These programmes may serve a suitable research field of examining networking performance in European context. Projects supported by these programmes shall be implemented in a partnership consisted of organisations from several different countries. The subsidies of these programmes are available under basically the same circumstances for organisations of all EU member states and even in some countries outside of the EU. Therefore, in this context, networking performance can quite purely reflect the abilities and the intentions on joining the European (EU) ideas.

According to the hypothesis of this study, a considerable difference exists between programme activity of the CEE organisations and the Western European (WE) ones. This study examined activities of partners on an empirical base. Data sets on partners published by management authorities of the programmes were used. A common data base was built and its quantitative data was analysed. Beyond the quantitative data analyses it was a great advance during completing this study that the author participated in several ETC projects before and even coordinated partnership on national level. This knowledge on the mechanisms of these programmes was also involved into this study by the author and by interviews with other experts with similar experiences. It helped to understand the general attitude, mission and approach of the participating partners.

The study partly proved the correctness of its pre-assumption: a difference was verified between the activities of CEE and WE. Another major difference was also detected between the activities of ordinary partners (having only partial responsibilities in a project) and the activities of so called 'lead partners' (generating and governing projects). The latter group is overwhelmingly dominated by WE organisations. Therefore, there is only a small room for CEE organisations to express and implement own project ideas.

TOWARDS STRENGTHENING SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED COMPANIES (ADAPTING FRENCH PRACTICE IN HUNGARY)

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The French state mobilizes innovative instruments to promote the development of its regional small and medium-sized companies, thereby it significantly contributes to enhancing the territorial competitiveness of the national industry. Having acknowledged the dangers of the excessive domination of multinational companies, it has opted for the reinforcement of the local

entrepreneurial milieu via instruments such as granting favorable loan constructions or encouraging interfirm networking.

The study has two main focuses. By reviewing the institutions and instruments designed to support French SMEs the authors' aim is to evaluate the role that firms, their various alliances, interest representing organs may play in shaping the supporting environment, to examine the flow of information between the governmental and the local entrepreneurial sector and the instruments that may contribute to raising its efficiency. The authors recognize the merits of the French model, which prompts them to seek ways to adapt the model or various of its elements to the Central Eastern European context. Do efforts to boost regional competitiveness via strengthening the local and regional entrepreneurial milieu at the peripheries of the core area produce similarly positive results, is it possible to attain organic regional economic growth in less developed areas?

DOES THE MATRYOSHKA PRINCIPLE APPLY TO RESILIENCE?

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The state of the economy is strictly related with an increase in output combined with improvement in social welfare of people within a country. Policy debate around economic development at regional and local scales is increasing. Regional and local territories are usually equipped with special endowments, resources and competences, which affect economic growth of entire countries positioning them with a key sustainable competitive advantage over others. Policies are converging on the objective of reinforcing regional specialisations, by addressing leading regions to spread their potential over neighbourhoods or lagging regions to reinforce their economic system, and supporting local business clustering. This prioritization to regionalism and localism has also expanded to the debate on resilience capacity, which has emerged with greater emphasis after the onset of the financial crisis, drawing attention to resistance and recovery of territorial economies to different exogenous shocks. The concept of resilience is very broad and is associated with several definitions and alternative interpretations related to different strands of literature, (among others, regional and spatial economy, economic geography, macroeconomics, etc.). We refer to Martin and Sunley (2014) who proposed the following clear definition for resilience: "the capacity of a regional or local economy to withstand or recover from market, competitive and environmental shocks to its developmental growth path, if necessary by undergoing adaptive changes to its economic structures and its social and institutional arrangements, so as to maintain or restore its previous developmental path, or transit to a new sustainable path characterized by a fuller and more productive use of its physical, human and environmental resources".

It is widely recognized that strong national identity, integrated national market and effective national and international economic policies can result in strengthening local economies and their capacities to adapt and recover after shocks.

Our research project, in the context of the LUISA Territorial Modeling Platform, aims at investigate to which extent national and regional characterizations can shape the local level and its resilience dimension in the European Union. This could probably address policy strategies in terms of reorienting their targets and financial resources to the territories which would generate higher benefits for the whole countries. The Matryoshka principle asks for a recognizable relation of "object-within-similar-object" that in our opinion can be applied to better understand the EU structure and dynamics. To the