

are increasingly significant political actors, and particularly in relation to conflict and post-conflict situations, have often become highly politicised. In certain diaspora groups, particularly stateless ones such as the Kurds, Tamils, Palestinians and Sikhs, engagement in economic activities is often informed by, and intimately related to, the evolution of a highly politicised diasporic identity.

Yet this relationship between diaspora politicisation, business development and processes of regional economic development has to date remained both under theorised and under researched. This paper has two objectives. First, it develops a conceptual understanding of the relationship between politicisation and regional economic development within highly politicised diasporic contexts through considering the particular emergence and development of politicised diasporic entrepreneurship. Second, it explores the practice of politicised diasporic entrepreneurship through analysis of a range of transnational Kurdish entrepreneurial ventures, rooted within Kurdish communities in Europe, and their linkages into homeland areas in Kurdistan in Iraq. This analysis raises important implications for policy and practice in relation to processes of economic development and reconstruction in post-conflict and conflict areas in unstable political conditions and the role of host communities within these processes.

CHARACTERISATION OF INNER PERIPHERIES IN EUROPE: COMMON FEATURES AND REGIONAL SPECIFICITIES

Gergely Tagai, MTA KRTK, Hungary

Joan Noguera, University of Valencia, Spain

Bálint Koós, MTA KRTK, Hungary

Hector del Alcazar Indarte, University of Valencia, Spain

Annamária Uzzoli, MTA KRTK, Hungary

Although, the phenomenon of inner peripheries is present in academic and policy literature, there is no common European understanding and comprehensive knowledge on their nature and characteristics.

With the support of observations of an ongoing research project – ESPON, Processes, Features and Cycles of Inner Peripheries in Europe (PROFECY) –, the paper aims at presenting several key evidences on the socio-economic status of inner peripheries in Europe. The analysis of different (demographic, labour market, SGI availability etc.) characteristics of areas regarded as inner peripheries, identified by PROFECY project, might answer the question whether they form such a type of territorial reality, which has entirely unique features in the socio-economic space of Europe.

Analyses exploring this objective focus on two main questions. Firstly, what makes these territories differentiable from other areas in terms of various socio-economic characteristics? In this case, the status of inner peripheries compared to regions with geographical specificities and other European regional typologies is investigated. Secondly, do inner peripheries form a group with common characteristics or these areas are rather different from each other, with having different reasons to be peripheral? In this latter case, the analysis of ‘profiles’ of inner peripheries is in the centre of interests.

Besides these thematic aspects, the paper also intends to explore geographies of socio-economic features of inner peripheries and changing positions of today’s inner peripheries in the recent past (as a reflection on the dynamic nature of the concept).