

Interpreting and measuring regional innovation performance in the learning-based economy

Zoltán BAJMÓCY

The spatial processes of today's economy is heavily shaped by the "learning-based" framework. In this peculiar frame on the key drivers of regional change is the technological change, which has evolutionary traits. The long term income-producing ability of the regions strongly depends on their ability to learn and to innovate, thus the issue of interpreting and measuring innovation performance (potential) has become one of the key research topics of regional economics.

Present paper attempts to explore the importance of regional innovation potential within the framework of the learning-based economy. On the basis of the modern evolutionary and systemic approach of innovation we interpret regional innovation performance as the operational effectiveness of the Regional Innovation System (RIS). We argue that this must be the starting point also for the measurement of innovation potential. The relevant approaches of innovation-measurement often apply complex techniques, however they have limited ability to undertake a real RIS-based approach.

Key words: regional innovation performance, Regional Innovation System, measurement of innovation performance, learning-based economy, evolutionary economics

Inactivity and agricultural employment in rural Hungary

László CZAGÁNY – Zsolt FENYŐVÁRI

The number of employed people declined in the post-transitional period dramatically in Hungary. On one hand the ratio of unemployed rose within the active population, while on the other hand the number of inactive population also grew. In today's Hungary 45% of the working age population is not in the labour force. In rural Hungary, the situation is even worse, this ratio exceeds 50% in some regions. Especially striking is the high number of disabled pensioners. The decline in agricultural employment was even more severe than the average. In such a situation, the significance of small and supplementary agricultural activities on small farms becomes more important.

Key words: agriculture, rural regions, inactivity

Spatial price differences of agricultural produces in Hungary

Tamás DUSEK – Éva SZALKA

Spatial price differences stem from the differences in local supply and demand and thus it can be treated as an indicator of the local economic situation. In the case of agricultural produces, the different local natural conditions and traditions lead to the differences of supply which is equalized by the transportation of goods from the places of production surplus to the places of consumption surplus. On the demand side the differences in local purchasing power lead to local price differences and to the deviation of real and nominal incomes.

In the paper a typology will be given about the factors which influence the supply and demand of agricultural produces. Then the spatial price differences will be shown with the help of monthly and yearly time series, on product level and aggregated level also. The theoretical lesson is that treating countries and regions as points, leads to various inaccurate theoretical results.

Key words: regional analysis, regional price differences, agricultural produces

Destination marketing in small regions – the case of Sárköz wedding show

János FOJTIK – Anikó SOMOGYI

In this paper the authors discuss the role place marketing can play in a small and relatively poor region. Destination marketing is in the intersection of two of marketing's specific areas: studying tourism marketing and place marketing may both be of interest. A destination is obviously a place (a settlement, a group of settlements or several settlements, or simply a „place”), which can accurately be defined in relation to tourism: a destination is a place at which tourism is aimed; a place where a tourist would like to get to and where he/she would like to spend some time in order to satisfy his/her needs. Therefore, potential destinations are places that are designed or (re)organised to be attractive for tourists and investors involved in the expansion of tourism. However, it is interesting to note that within the literature of tourism marketing, the approach emphasizing the aspects of destinations – which may also be called a place marketing oriented approach – does not have a long history to look back onto. In other words, tourism marketing and place marketing were „incompatible” for a long time, and the points of contact between tourism marketing and place marketing were not obvious.

After a short summary of some approaches to place marketing the authors argue that it is important for such a place to find an event or attraction as a field of competence to create a differentiate advantage in tourism market and establish the small region Sárköz, Hungary, as a region of particular ethnographic interest, gastronomic quality and competence. The paper illustrates how the Sárköz Wedding Show as a tourism marketing attraction (event) can be used in the service of creating sustainable small-scale production-consumption relations and, therefore, local cultural sustainability.

Key words: place marketing, destination marketing, event marketing, sustainable tourism

An interpretation of development and competitiveness in less developed regions

Éva G.FEKETE

Economists following approaches focusing on regional competitiveness define it as capability to achieve more economic results (incomes, investments, revenue) as other regions. They care less the social and ecological price of the results as well as connections to real human needs. However some new trends based on strengthened needs for nature, culture and safety have emerged and offer favourable opportunities for the less developed areas. The environmental and social aspects of economies are getting to have more power as well as the information society provides assets to break off the distances and these processes lead to reevaluate the rules of regional competitiveness and may change the term of underdevelopment.

Not only the situation of peripheries is changing but the development concepts for underdeveloped areas are also moving from the top-down to the bottom-up approaches. Development concepts for global peripheries are perceptible ones in local development, too. But the development initiatives of less developed areas within developed countries have remain the beliefs that the less developed areas can achieve their development only if they follow the way of developed regions.

Recognition of the new trends and the opportunities supplied by them provides new interpretations of the competitors, the main purpose, the object and subject of competition doing by less developed regions. These interpretations are different than in case of more developed regions. Listing the main differences give a chance to modify the pyramid model of regional competitiveness created for developed region by Imre Lengyel.

Key words: peripheries, spatial development, regional competitiveness, sustainable development

Knowledge creation and co-evolution: global and local level of university–industry–government relations

Balázs LENGYEL

The knowledge-based economy is one of the most popular phrase in nowadays economic policy documents, though a commonly accepted theoretical framework haven't been evolved yet. Spatial analyses of knowledge-based economy are in the focus of neoclassical, evolutionary and institutional economic literature. In this essay we use the innovation systems literature to work out a common framework for the problems of local and global knowledge creation, the two-way knowledge transfer between universities and companies, the correspondences between knowledge creation and the evolutionary development of economic systems, and the co-evolutionary relations among university- government- economy spheres. government- economy spheres.

Key words: knowledge creation, innovation system, evolutionary economics, Triple Helix

The metamorphosis of proximity in the knowledge-based local economic development

Imre LENGYEL

Present debates and analyses on the knowledge-based economy revealed the dual nature of innovation processes. On the one hand, the role of agglomeration economies has increased; knowledge producing companies and institutions form spatial concentrations mainly in metropolises in order to utilize the advantages of proximity. On the other hand, far-branching networks emerge among innovative companies and institutions of different countries and continents, which co-operations are successful in spite of the great geographical distances. These observations suggest that we should reconsider our knowledge on the economic role of distance and proximity in order to reflect to the changing global circumstances.

In present paper I survey the role of distance and proximity in forming and sustaining the innovation-based co-operations. After briefly outlining the conventional approaches I analyse the different forms of proximity characteristic to the knowledge-based economy. I put special emphasis on the organized proximity shaped by the info-communication technologies, and the problem of relational space / proximity. I touch upon the main characteristics of local innovative milieu in

detail, which should be worth-while to consider in the Hungarian knowledge-based local economic development as well.

Key words: distance, proximity, agglomeration economies, local innovative milieu

The issues of regional developments' evaluation in the European Union

Balázs LÓRÁND

The examination of the utilization, efficiency and effectiveness of the amounts spent on regional developments raises several questions. It becomes even more obvious for the European Union that the implementation of the cohesion policy is not completely a success story. That is why it is so important recently to evaluate the effects of regional developments, to reveal the complex relations, to study the current deficiencies of evaluation and to find the directions for further improvements.

Based on the foregoing researches it can be stated that there are numerous problems in connection with evaluation activity, a part of which derives from the characteristics of regional policy, the other part arises from the immature nature of evaluating methodology and its different utilization in member states. Having studied the evaluating practice of the European Union it can be set out that making an exact survey of the causes and effects, correct determination of the criteria used for evaluation, the choice between qualitative and quantitative tools and exploring the origin of perceived effects raise difficulties. The study presents two approaches to the evaluation of regional developments: it confirms the necessity of evaluating activity and it points out the wide range of problems related to utilization and provides recommendations for them.

Key words: regional policy, Structural Funds, the evaluation of regional developments

Analyzing the dynamics of the regional disparities in a complex way: evidence from Hungarian sub-regions

Miklós LUKOVICS

The enlargement of the European Union to 27 Member States highlighted the issue of regional disparities across the whole Union. Several economic theories and empirical analyses have been put forth about the nature and principles of regional disparities. Analysts often apply GDP per capita, as a quasi absolute indicator to explore regional disparities, albeit spatial processes have become more and more complicated and complex in the globalized economy. Parallel to the catching-up process of the countries at the national level, there is another spectacular process at the regional and local level: regional disparities are widening because the growth of the most developed sub-regions is increasing while the less favoured sub-regions are lagging behind. Consequently, regional analyses must devote increasing attention to studying sub-regions.

The present paper is aiming to develop a complex method on analyzing regional disparities, based on the notion of regional competitiveness and its closed logical system, correctly chosen theoretical model (the pyramidal model of regional competitiveness) and statistical data. To carry out the analysis, I use K-means cluster analysis, and its output. This is the first time ever that this has been used for this purpose.

Key words: regional disparities, Williamson-hypothesis, regional competitiveness

Locality and sustainable consumption

Szabolcs PRÓNAY – György MÁLOVICS

The overconsumption of modern societies is problematic from both social and ecological aspects. Making a move toward sustainable consumption is an even more urgent task. This process requires commitment from different actors of society, namely politics, business, NGOs and consumers. In our study we examine whether human needs can be satisfied in a more sustain-able manner. In order to answer this question we first define sustainable consumption and analyze its spatial aspects. Namely, we try to answer the question: what kind of spatial consumption patterns could be more sustainable than the present ones.

We conclude that the spatial aspect of consumption is a vital aspect of sustainable consumption and a localized consumption structure may be more sustainable than the present patterns. Afterwards we examine whether such a localized consumption structure is able to satisfy human needs. Namely, whether human needs can be transformed into more sustainable wants and so they are to be satisfied on a more sustainable way. Our conclusion - based on a secondary case study - is that needs which are nowadays satisfied by continuous overconsumption may be satisfiable on a more sustainable way.

Key words: sustainable consumption, locality, symbolic needs

Economics of patent systems

Benedek NAGY

The main purpose of the institution of patents is to provide adequate incentive for companies to incur the costs needed to perform R&D activities. It does so by granting property rights of the resulting invention, while balancing short run static and long run dynamic welfare effects. Nordhaus proposes a model which is capable of describing these effects, and which can track how parameters of the patent system modify these welfare effects.

The purpose of this paper is to show the different paths that research has taken starting from the simple Nordhaus-model and thereby present a kind of systematisation of the theory of optimal patents, especially regarding the case of sequential innovation, that is, the creation of innovations and its subsequent developments.

Key words: patent, innovation, theory of optimal patents

The restructuring of the resources of regional development: new focus on knowledge

János RECHNITZER

During the headway of globalization contradictory processes and phenomena can be observed. One of the most important processes in the less developed countries is due to the emergence of the multinational corporations: not only the consumer habits have restructured, but the formation of a new spatial structure can also be observed.

The classical centre-periphery relations are reproduced, new economic centres emerge mainly in large cities and their agglomeration, where the new factors of development are the production and exploitation of knowledge. In this knowledge-based economy the role of human resources has undergone great changes.

In present paper, after over viewing the peculiarities of globalization processes, I analyse the most important effects of knowledge on the spatial structure of the economy. I examine the relevant arguments of regional science with respect to their Hungarian validity, with a special emphasis on the new role and components of human resources.

Key words: globalization processes, regional development, human resources, changes in spatial structure

The application of regression analysis for subregional data

Izabella SZAKÁLNÉ KANÓ

Parallel to the process of the globalization becomes territorial competitiveness an increasingly more important notion. In the new EU programming period 2007–2013 deals in emphasized form with the competitiveness and with the factors influencing it. The direct consequence of this is, that the fundamental condition of the efficiency of the Hungarian regional development is the recognition of processes determining competitiveness of the micro-regions.

The quantifiability and modelling of the competitiveness becomes focus of regional studies. The competitiveness cylinder, the competitiveness tree and the pyramid model describe which are the conditions to be successful in the regional competition. Studies based on these models were made with the help of simple data analysis, and with the help of multiple variable analysis methods too.

The present paper aims to analyse the correspondence between the pyramid model's basis categories and development factors with the help of regression calculation, and detecting concrete connections between the realized competitiveness of the Hungarian micro-regions and factors affecting it.

Key words: the competitiveness of micro-regions, pyramid model, regression calculation, the method of weighted sum of squares.

Academic knowledge transfers and the structure of international research networks

Attila VARGA – Andrea PARAG

The geography of knowledge transfers from universities to industrial innovation has been widely researched in the relevant literature. One of the crucial results of this literature is that the effectiveness of university-industry knowledge related linkages are determined to a large extent by several external factors such as agglomeration, entrepreneurship or local business culture. However, the interest of researchers has just turned to the issue of the relationship between embeddedness in research networks and knowledge transfers from universities. Considering first that research productivity is strongly related to scientific networking and second that university patenting and quality research results do not necessary contradict to each other, the relationship between networking and patenting is an interesting issue. Our paper analyses the impact of international publication network structure (i.e., concentration, size, integratedness) on university patenting within the knowledge production function tradition using recently collected data on different research units of the University of Pécs.

Key words: academic knowledge transfers, network analysis, technological change, economical growth, regional development, knowledge production curve

Regional aspects of environmental accounting

Hajnalka VÁN

The environmental problems are in the focus of attention nowadays, this challenge has to be answered by accounting as well. This is the reason why environmental accounting is becoming more popular. The main aim is to integrate the environmental causes into accounting scheme. There is a great demand to involve not only at national and international level but also at regional level. The environmental accounting system at regional level can complete the traditional accounting scheme, and it provides a detailed analysis between the environment and economy.

My aim is to introduce the two aspects of environmental accounting system at regional level. On one hand the regional level can link the national and local level, on the other hand environment is one factor of the regional competitiveness.

Key words: environmental accounting, regional environmental accounting, cooperation

The performance of the university-industrial co-operations

Márton VILMÁNYI – Péter KOVÁCS

To provide the long term success of the relationships between innovative institutions – like universities, firms and intermediary institutions – has a key importance during the process of regional developments which developments are focused on the dynamisation of knowledge centres and increasing competitiveness. One of the elementary pillars is the long term co-operation between innovative institutions. In the case we focus on the success of co-operation, we ask two questions: How can we manage successfully the projects within the co-operation and how can we manage a co-operation containing range of projects? We are dealing in our research with the second one. We try to explore and present the economic results, benefits from the university-industrial R&D co-operation. Therefore, we analyze the approaches which describe the performance of the university-industrial co-operations, highlighted by the discrepancy of the different approaches. On the basis of our qualitative and quantitative research we make a motion of the adaptability of the discrepancy resolving performance model.

Key words: university-industrial co-operations, relationship performance