

The innovation system operating in the West-Transdanubian region from the view of the supporting and background institutions

Amarilla Lukács
Assistant lecturer

Faculty of Economics, University of West-Hungary

Abstract

My study is dealing with the regional innovation system operating in the West-Transdanubian region to explore its capabilities, innovation potential and effect on the economic actors' competitiveness. I am examining the role of the University of West-Hungary in the processes of knowledge generation and technology-transfer, research and development and training of the skilled workforce that meets the expectations of firms. Regional innovation systems (RIS) have been become increasingly popular among economic geographers, regional studies scholars, and regional development policy makers in the recent years as adequate answers for the challenges arising from the increased intensity of international competition in the globalising economy. Regional innovation systems provide a good framework to enhance the regional innovation potential and the local firms' competitiveness and contribute to the growth of the regional economic performance. Many surveys emphasize the importance of institutions are included in the RIS especially if networks or clusters are operating in the examined region because these organizations are intended to encourage profit-oriented, competitive companies, academic institutions and civil establishments to collaborate with each other in favour of realization a common goal and take advantages of geographical proximity and of coordination of capacities contributing to the knowledge generation and spill-over processes. The West-Transdanubian region is one of the most attractive regions in Hungary because it creates good possibilities to establish cluster initiatives and promote existing ones and this fact is reflected in the number of the organizations. Since a regional cluster ensures the geographic concentration and proximity of actors operating in the same industry branche I selected the potential partners for the University of West-Hungary representing innovative industries and their actors to explore their needs and searching for specific fields lead to joint-actions and common research and development activities. Not only the chosen cluster initiatives but other supporting and background institutions in the West-Transdanubian region have been measured in the framework of the survey. The results of the 21 interviews will be summarized and presented in my lecture.