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Les défis de développement pour les villes et les régions dans une Europe en mutation

An analysis of the link between French cities and their surrounding areas: a focus on employment over the 2004-2010 period

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Référence à la session / reference to the session

S1 - Metropolitan areas: the economic divide/Métropoles: la fracture économique

Résumé / Summary

Introduction, objectives

The idea that cities are sources of economic growth is generally agreed and rests about the existence of dynamic agglomeration economies. An abundant literature tests the relationship between agglomeration on one hand and growth or productivity on the other. This paper is narrowly connected with this field of research inherited from Jane Jacobs's hypothesis. We however adopt another perspective since the proposed article focusses on the relationship cities growth and the performance of surrounding areas. This research contributes thus to the literature studying the linkages between cities and urbanization on one hand and economic growth on the other focusing on agglomeration economies and spillover effects. This research is based on an empirical approach carried out using geo-referenced data. The analysis will reveal a set of explanatory factors which shed light on the question of the distribution of the metropolitan effect on the productive system.

The novelty of the paper consists in the introduction of spatial autocorrelation effects to assess the impact of the development of metropolitan areas, a process barely considered in the literature.

Data sources and method

This research involves modelling the growth of employment, taking into account the effects of spatial autocorrelation. The selected field of analysis is as follows:

- the competitive base comprises all industries and business services, freight transport and the wholesale trade

- the metropolitan areas (Aix-Marseille, Bordeaux, Brest, Grenoble, Lille, Lyon, Montpellier, Nantes, Nice, Paris, Rennes, Rouen, Strasbourg et Toulouse) and the surrounding cities (urban and suburban areas)

To estimate the existence and the strength of the relationships between metropolitan areas and the neighbouring regions, we use a unique dataset extracted from the CLAP file (Connaissance locale de l'appareil productif) provided by the French National Institute of Statistics (INSEE). This dataset enables us to compute the annual growth rate of employment at the local level over the 2004-2010 period, an information necessary to the estimation of spillover effects between the main metropolitan areas and the surrounding cities.

In order to take into account the spatial dimension, we implement spatial econometric techniques which make it possible to identify factors which promote the growth dynamics of a given area, taking into account not only the local characteristics specific to that area but also the characteristics of neighbouring areas. It also shows whether the development of neighbouring areas benefits or suffers from the proximity of a city, and it reveals the scale of such effects.

Results, conclusions

Thanks to this approach, the overall issue of metropolitan development, its determining factors and its impact on the other cities will be analysed from different aspects. The expected results are:

- An estimation of the spatial interactions between big cities and their surrounding areas
- A typology of metropolitan areas considering the sign of the influence they have on the surrounding areas
- An estimation of the role of the location in the employment growth process
- A precise mapping of the influences the cities growth have on the surrounding areas

We conclude providing some recommendations for the development of public policy measures to support employment and firm growth at the local level.

Bibliographie / Bibliography

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