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

East-Central European cities within global production networks in 2013

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Référence à la session / reference to the session

(S6) European territories within the 'Global Production Network': between integration and disparities

Résumé / Summary

Throughout the last centuries Central and Eastern Europe has been a territory dominated by different Empires and countries, contributing to shape certain tradition of exchanges (Brunet&Rey, 1996; Castles, 1995). After the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989, the transition to market economy has stimulated a significant inflow of foreign capital towards East-Central European cities (Hamilton et al. 2005). The purpose of this paper is to investigate the role of cities of this region within the global production networks in 2013 (Carstensen&Toubal, 2004) and understand the state of hierarchical structures and regional disparities nowadays (Domański, 2011).

The originality consists in referring to the main questions by the means of the ORBIS database. The method applied is graph theory. The study shows that economic relations regarding Central Eastern European remain very asymmetric. The capital cities predominate as management and commandment centres in the region attracting the most of foreign investment as in the previous years (Bourdeau-Lepage, 2004), although few headquarters of the biggest international companies are located in East-Central Europe (Csomós&Derudder, 2014). Results indicate that mainly Budapest, Prague and Warsaw play a redistribution role within investment networks between Western European enterprises and firms outside European Union (ex-URSS and ex-Yugoslavia). As for other cities they remains mostly marginalized within these extremely competitive networks which opens a debate on the growing inequalities between East-Central European metropolises and medium-sized cities (Gál, 2013).

Keywords: Central and Eastern Europe, cities, investment networks, spatial integration, inequalities

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