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Territorial location of ICT cluster initiatives and ICT-related sectors in Poland

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Abstract

According to the definition of M.E. Porter, one of the key characteristics of clusters is geographical concentration of companies and other actors in a specific sector and inter-related sectors, which may be attributed to the phenomenon of the regional specialization. However, clusters should be distinguished from cluster initiatives, understood as more formalized actions undertaken by regional actors. The primary objective of this study is to verify if these two types of structures are overlapping each other, as there are a lot of emerging cluster initiatives in Europe and some of them may not represent real cluster structures. The study finds that not all of ICT cluster initiatives in Poland represent real concentration of ICT-related divisions included in NACE Rev. 2 classification, as measured by location quotients (LQ) for indicators on employment. Although not all emerging cluster initiatives possess the characteristics of real clusters, they are important elements of innovation systems and contribute to the creation of innovation friendly environment, which is tested on the basis of the results of the survey research conducted on 50 cluster coordinators and 350 member firms in Poland.

Keywords: clusters; cluster initiatives, ICT; location quotients; cluster-based policy; innovation

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