The Geography of New Employment Dynamics in Europe

Territorial patterns of the knowledge economy (KE)

Pull factor: KE increasingly relevant in affecting territorial polarisation and mobility patterns

Highly competitive and KE-based economy

Competitive and KE-related economy

Less competitive with potential in KE

Less competitive with low incidence of KE

Expected future evolution of employment dynamics and the role of the KE

High and evenly distributed growth

Fortresses of Treasure

Scenario: Prosperous economies (high-growth, high-degree of political stability and desire of attracting resources from abroad, high-skilled or diaspora migrants. Prosperous metropolitan centres attractive to young highly skilled migrants. Skills shortages in others (post-Brexit UK at risk).

Hardship and Harmony

Scenario: Low and/or uneven growth, but relatively high political stability and public policy support of migration. Highest in northern and western Europe than eastern countries.

Warmth of 27 Suns

Scenario: Inclusive, high-growth scenario and high degree of political stability and desire of attracting resources from abroad, especially youth mobility. More likely homogeneous centres, but also in some peripheral regions and countries. Struggling countries unlikely to experience the same level of growth.

Barren Wastelands

Scenario: Low and uneven growth, unstable political regimes in Mediterranean regions and EU peripheries. Intensification of a ‘two-speed’ Europe. Lower demand for high skilled work.

Integrated, and multisectoral approaches adopted at regional level

Strategies to motivate the return of skilled workers living abroad or to support diaspora-centred strategies are instead less widespread

Monetary or non-monetary incentives

Building KE opportunities through urban development (Berlin, London, and in the city of Lasi in Romania).

‘Oasis Strategy’: supporting KE sector(s) with highest potential given existing competences and structures (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern strategy for the health sector).

Branding in well-established KE economies (‘The world in one city’ London; ‘poor but sexy’ Berlin).

‘Build a magnet’ strategy: exploiting some unique territorial resource, in very remote areas with rather low potential of attracting resources from abroad (GSSI, Abruzzo).

Selective migration (UK) and diaspora strategies (Romania, Italy) to exploit the skills and resources of emigrants.

Fortress of Treasure

Growth and public policy support

Expected future evolution of employment dynamics

Politically unstable, protectionist policies and migrant attitudes

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Implications for Cohesion Policy post 2020

Increase focus on lagging regions and on employment and social policies

Valorise existing local assets, provide services and infrastructures of general interest, and foster vertical/horizontal cooperation

Tailored measures to find ‘new’ solutions to territorial problems

Develop governance and implementation mechanisms to support capacity building, and multilevel and interregional networking

KE increasing driver of high-skilled labour mobility and territorial imbalances