



GROWTH POLES. RELATED CONCEPTS

Emilian M. DOBRESCU¹, Edith Mihaela DOBRE²

¹CPI, Professor PhD., Institute of National Economy, Scientific Secretary on Economic, law and sociology Section of Romanian Academy, Romanian Academy, Romania, ¹E-mail: dobrescu@acad.ro

²Research Fellow, PhD. Student, Institute for World Economy, Romanian Academy, Romania, ²E-mail: edithdobre@gmail.com

Abstract

In the economic and political international community, the term "growth pole" began to be used more often in recent years, referring to an economy whose growth spills over to other economies, and thus helps in the process of growth in other economies, the quantitative contribution of the economy leading to global growth, supported by the power of internal links. In this way, a growth pole is not just a hive of economic activity, but is also able to stimulate economic activity in the countries with which it has strong ties. The concept of terminal growth may be analyzed from the point of view of power distribution and polarization. The concept of global growth poles differs somewhat from that of growth poles conceptualized regional, national or geographic space, to the extent that the nature of international economic relations differs economic ties in the national or regional level, and not just in the scale. Even when used on a global scale, the term "growth pole" is not always used consistently. Some generalizations, however, can be made to understand the term also in qualitative sense.

Key words:

Growth poles,
economic growth,
economic integration,
global economy

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1. Introduction

The term "growth pole" was introduced in the context of economic growth, was initially used to refer to urban areas or industries where growth was concentrated where there were links between them and other peripheral industries. Since then, the term has been applied to a whole set of most various concepts related to the "growth pole". The concepts differ mainly in terms of the space in which the poles are identified.

2. The concept of growth pole with the most common related concepts

Value chain

The concept of value chain was introduced by Michael Porter. Porter seeks to identify the sources of competitiveness of enterprises. To do this, he proposed to decompose rational activity of a company or an organization as a series of sub-activities strategically important for the company, that is to say important for the competitiveness of the business. The value chain is defined as a sequence of activities to create a valuable product on the market and thereby create value. Thus, to be competitive, a company must identify its component activities that are sources of value. Porter distinguishes two types of activities that are supporting activities and main activities: 1. support activities: enterprise infrastructures, activities related to human resources, research and development, procurement; 2. main activities: inbound logistics (internal),

production/operations, logistics downstream (external), marketing and sales services.

Cluster

A cluster is "a group of companies and institutions" that share the same field of expertise, geographically close, interconnected and complementary" (Porter, 1999). The "cluster" is a group of companies within the same industry (same area of expertise) and are rooted in a territory or geographically localized. This grouping allows companies to benefit from competitive advantages thanks to the "externalities" that creates.

Competitiveness and competitive advantages

There are two types of competitiveness (Michalet, 1999, Porter, 1990). They correspond to low and high channels industrial restructuring proposed by Pyke and Sengenberger (1992) and low and high Storper and Walker (1989) competitions.

A. The cost competitiveness: It is characterized by a strategy to reduce production costs (including labor costs) of up to a deregulation of the labor market. This competitiveness is based on the idea that firms compete only by cost. Its advantage is that the cost reduction can increase productivity and profit. The disadvantage (risks) is that precarious jobs (reducing wages and working conditions) and causes risk of migration of labor and therefore skills. According, medium or long term, due to lack of skills and skilled

labor, companies are forced to focus their production activities with low added value or uncompetitive activities.

B. Competitiveness through differentiation of the offer: It involves strategies of quality and innovation to increase the capacity to create new products. In this case, companies do not compete in producing the same products at lower cost, but by producing new products with new opportunities and new technical performance potential (Asheim, 1997). Joseph Schumpeter was the first to have stressed this point. The glossary is made from materials developed especially in document A. Marciano, produced at the request of the National Commission SPL DIACT 2005

Industrial districts

The district is a mode of organization of production based on a narrow division of labor among several (small) specialized companies.

Externalities (externalities)

The externality or external effect are when the production possibilities of a firm depend on the choice made by one or more other companies (external effects of production) or with the choices made by other individuals (consumption externality). In the presence of externalities, production techniques firm or consumption patterns of an individual affect the behavior of other firms or individuals. These externalities are unavoidable: they are the necessary product interdependencies between economic actors. Moreover, these externalities are just external to market transactions and they escape to the market.

Negative externalities

Pollution is the term usually used to describe the negative externalities in the production process; a firm rejects pollutants that negatively affect the activity of farmers and fishermen, for example.

Positive externalities

An example of a positive externality was proposed by British economist Meade (Nobel Prize 1977): "Suppose an orchard planted with apple trees, adjacent to the site of a beekeeper. Bees are foraging latter flowers neighboring orchard. Honey they produce is of good quality and sells expensive. Apple blossoms are for the owner of the orchard, an output that gives free his neighbor because he can not charge the bees (we say that the use of flowers is improper). For the beekeeper, flowers are free input: the beekeeper has free byproduct of the culture of what apple pollen because it is unable to identify the flowers that bees foraged and unable to tell them what flowers foraging, so it may not

pay the owner of the orchard. "There is positive externality because a company (in this case the beekeeper) enjoys free activity of another (growing apple trees).

Industrial Clusters

It is possible to condense the various definitions of "clusters" as follows: a cluster consists of united by common interests (common needs and constraints) enterprises, complementary or interdependent and developing voluntarily cooperative relations in one or more area. Among the "organizations" with which companies develop collaborations, we may place the institutions of research and education.

Governance

Management of a cluster involving the process of steering.

Innovation

Process by which, from an original idea, a system develops a product, process, service , taking into account the different aspects that affect its implementation, that is to say, the technical, financial , commercial and humans.

Innovative environments

A medium is " territorialized all open to the outside, that is to say on the technological and market environment, which integrates and mastery of skills, rules, norms and values and relational capital ... (and) attached to a localized production system, that is to say a group of actors as well as human and material resources." Therefore, an approach by the media insists that companies are rooted in their environment.

Territorial offer

All locally available resources "Territorial offer is constituted by a set of socio-economic characteristics of an area having a more or less direct impact on the reception and the maintenance of economic activities. It can be very heterogeneous elements: physical characteristics of a territory, infrastructure (in the broadest sense), demographic characteristics, industrial structure, competence brainpower and research , tax policies and financial incentives, quality of local interdependencies and intensity of the local animation "territorial therefore offers a more or less given or constructed, as appropriate character.

Poles

A pole of growth based on the existence of one (or more) unit dominant and motor. These motor units are either a firm or an industry or group of industries. There is growing because there is a power unit that drives and

allows economic development: the growth of the motor firm spreads (in quantitative or qualitative motor effects) to other firms - including to subcontractors. Relations between firms (motor and other) are not competitive. Moreover, these power units are localized or regionalized, "agglomerated" (aggregated) to other companies in a territory. Hence the double dimension of growth pole "As development theory, the pole is an inducer of growth mechanism, as spatial theory, the division explains the spatial concentration of growth." We can say it differently: a growth pole, the territory is supporting the growth and the engine is essentially productive organization.

Centers of excellence

Notion of science, that refers to a concentration of world-class specialists who have acquired a "geographical visibility" with a synergy between research and teaching.

Practice Areas

They are concentrated in an "industrial" cluster, supported by technological platforms involving educational institutions, and recognized as attractive with aggregate knowledge.

Competitiveness centers and clusters (in their international sense)

They involve not only among businesses, but linking them to training, higher education and research in a logical innovation.

Competitiveness cluster (in France)

The desire to develop clusters was decided in the context of a proceeding initiated by the DIACT on the state of French industry and the interest for the government to launch industrial policy thinking. To be certified, a cluster must meet the "next status": "Representing a combination of a given geographical area, businesses, training centers and public or private research units, engaged in a partnership approach for to create synergies around common projects of an innovative nature." International visibility is another key element.

Tacit and explicit

We can distinguish two types of knowledge or knowledge:

A. *The tacit knowledge* is informal. It does not exist in a specific or particular form, but is embedded in interactions or practices. Tacit knowledge is highly localized. Tacit knowledge is resulting from these interactions or practices. So it is dependent. This type of informal knowledge is considered usable and

transferable by participating in repeated interactions. It is therefore difficult to transfer, communicate and formalize explicitly. This knowledge is more of a way to understand the problems that real knowledge.

B. *Explicit knowledge* is formal. It takes the form of written knowledge, explicitly formalized. Therefore, it is not incorporated into the individual interactions and practices. The transformation of tacit knowledge into explicit knowledge (when possible) or the creation of explicit knowledge can overcome the limitations of a purely local knowledge. However, by generalizing, it loses flexibility.

System

A system can be defined as "a totality, a unit or a global entity organized interrelationships between "elements" (natural or artificial objects, concrete or abstract), actions or individuals that operate and evolve in one or environment with respect to projects, aims, objectives or goals".

Territorial production system (or local or localized production system)

Territorial production system is a set characterized by the proximity of productive units in the broad sense (industrial and service companies, research centers and training, interfaces, etc.). Maintain that intensity more or less strong relationship (Gilly, 1987) and generate a productive dynamic assembly (Gilly and Grossetti, 1993). These reports can not be reduced to those of traditional subcontracting as non - market relations play an important role. The intensity of the latter varies depending on the organization and operation of the production system. Their market or nonmarket formal or informal, as well as the subject of these links (tangible or intangible exchanges) determine their territorial anchorage. In functional terms, the production system is based on six components: technology, markets, productive capital, knows-how, technical knowledge and representations (Crevoisier and Maillat, 1989). To maintain its independence, he articulates three levels of organization: an industrial sphere, a sphere territorial and institutional sphere (Grosjean, 2001).

Local production systems

Real and lasting cooperation are between competing companies, which usually results in an intensity of formal and informal links, tangible and intangible, market and nonmarket. Term used by Datar in 1998 to promote, in a perspective of economic development and strengthening territorial cohesion, cooperation of geographically close actors. SPL is defined as a "group of companies and institutions that are geographically

close together in a same industry." More specifically, it identifies a SPL from five elements:

- 1) the existence of a concentration of SMEs;
- 2) belonging to the SME sector, a product / market;
- 3) the existence of strong linkages;
- 4) access to a range of market services and non-market so that companies gain an advantage to be in the system;
- 5) the idea of a common culture.

Conclusions

In view of the global economy, growth pole is defined as an economy whose domestic growth determines the growth process in other economies. This definition is motivated by the understanding of both sides of the expression of growth pole.

If the last part of the phrase "growth" means focusing on economic importance, dynamism and progress, in the first part, the "pole" has the important role of externality process, understood as a contagion, the transfer of knowledge, earnings, exchange. However, given the lack of consensus on the definition of a "growth pole", it is useful to examine alternative conceptualizations of the term. From the definitions, and related concepts presented above, growth pole is a generator of economic activity and its role is to enhance these activities. In economic terms, a growth pole can be an economic activity, an industry.

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