

WEBINAR

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The spatial diffusion of web technologies in the European Union regions, 2010-2022

Abstract: While new internet technology creators receive great attention, less devotion is paid to those businesses that only adopt and use these new technologies. The digital revolution is characterized by accelerated speed of the rate of digital product diffusion, however, digital technologies diffuse at a much slower speed at the organization level than in the population. We are in the mid of the fourth industrial revolution and the productivity growth in the most advanced countries is declining and the productivity gap between the leading top 5% of the businesses and the rest has been widening highlighting the importance of the digital technology adoption. In this paper, we are researching the spatial effect of web-based technology diffusion where we identified a research gap. The importance of our approach is further strengthened by the fact that published empirical papers on IT technologies focus more on the adoption than on the diffusion side of tech transmission. Here, we are extending our knowledge about the spatial factors by examining the diffusion of ten web-based technology groups using a large panel dataset in the European Union NUTS2-level regions with the Crunchbase dataset. Our results show significant spatial effects of web-based technology diffusion in eight out of the ten web-based technologies. These technologies diffuse from the classical development center of France, Netherlands, West German, Belgium, Swedish, Danish regions where Ile de France (Paris) dominates. Per capita GDP has positive effect on web-based technology diffusion; however, the coefficient is significant only five times and nonsignificant in another five times. The development effect is significant in the cases of more widespread and used web-based technologies.

Short bio: Dr. László Szerb is a full professor at the University of Pécs, Faculty of Business and Economics in Hungary. In addition, he is the leader of the Regional Policy and Economics Doctoral School, and together with Zoltan Acs the founder of the Global Entrepreneurship and Development Institute. Szerb is also the editor of Small Business Economics. His research work is devoted to entrepreneurship ecosystem, small businesses, entrepreneurial finance, and most recently he is dealing with the measurement of small business competitiveness and digital entrepreneurship. His publications include 78 journal articles (including Journal of Technology Transfer, Journal of Small Business and Enterprise Development, Regional Studies, Research Policy, Small Business Economics) 40 books and 50 book chapters. He has over 10 000 Google Scholar citations.

28. May 2024 / 14:30

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