



OECD-PIN Special Session Proposal

The spatial dimensions of productivity for regional growth

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Abstract

Background

Productivity is the main determinant of living standards. Economies that are more productive generate greater ability to support and enhance wellbeing of their citizens via higher incomes, better infrastructure, more services and improved sustainability of welfare systems. As productivity growth in the OECD countries slows down, while the subnational productivity disparities are on the rise, the regional dimension of productivity comes to the fore.

Why spatial dimension matters

Current productivity discourse, both in academia and policy-making, predominantly revolves around national and sectoral (or industry-level) productivity determinants. From international comparisons, we know a great deal about the aggregate drivers of productivity growth. We know relatively little about the role played by places and regions in defining their own productivity performance.

Due to their general scope, current national policies based on aggregate research are unlikely to effectively stimulate regional productivity growth and to decrease interregional inequality by leveraging regional and local assets. To devise successful subnational and place-based policies, a deeper understanding of the spatial dimension of productivity is needed. The urgency of such knowledge further

increases as the global megatrends affect places along the urban-rural continuum differently.

The OECD-PIN Special Session

The special session will offer a forum for research that advances our knowledge on the spatial drivers of productivity and/or on the ways in which regional policies based on the understanding of the spatial links can facilitate (productivity) growth. We invite quality submissions that tackle the suggested research questions below (the list is not exhaustive).

- Why space matters for (productivity) growth?
- How entrepreneurship, knowledge, skills and technologies are linked to productivity performance of regions?
- What is the role played by infrastructure, agglomerations and smart specialisation?
- How industrial structure of a region shapes its productivity and what types of industrial upgrading can drive regional productivity growth?
- What are the spatial productivity implications of participation in GVCs?
- Can governance structure influence regional productivity performance?
- What can local and regional policymakers do to enhance balanced productivity growth?
- What is the role of the spatial dimension in the productivity-inclusivity nexus?