

Some notes on (post)industrial cities in Central Europe

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The development prospects of industrial cities in Central Europe

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1. Introduction



Neglected regional dimension of transformation in Central East Europe

Unprecedented process

History matters

One size does not fit all



Table 1: Typology of Central East European regions under transformation.

		Post-socialist transformation	
		Positive	Negative
Position of the region in the former socialist economy	Good position	Positive continuity (e.g. large urban agglomerations)	Negative discontinuity (e.g. old industrial regions)
	Poor position	Positive discontinuity (e.g western regions)	Negative continuity (e.g. eastern regions)

Source: Gorzelak (1998)

2. What Cities?



Industrial monoculture

Dominance of large enterprises

Polluted environment

Specific informal institutions

3. What Indicators?



We measure primarily effects but not the causes of individual processes (GDP per capita, unemployment rate, demographic characteristics etc.).

To what degree are used data reliable and comparable.

Statistics!

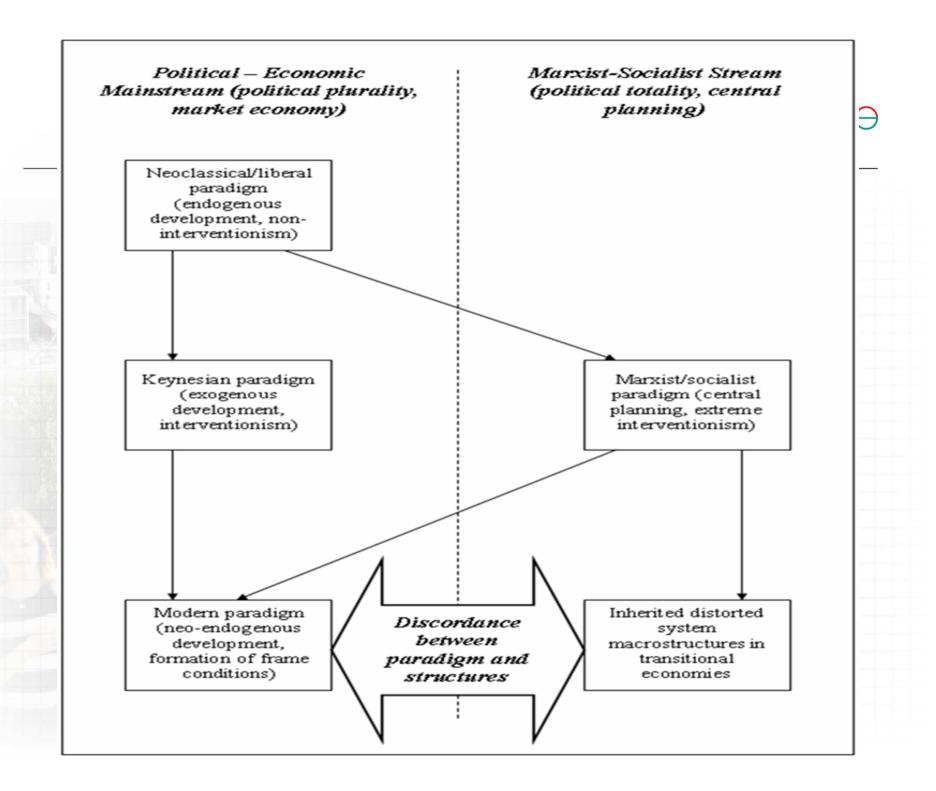
4. Limitations



Peculiar global-local amalgam.

Mostly private sector, omission of public sector.

Neo-endogenous stream but manoeuvring space of local/regional actors very often an insufficient one (territorial administration).



5. Recommendations



Role of territorial administration should be augmented (concerns mainly the relations between state governments and self-governments).

Public sector (beware of passive behaviour)!

Combination of endogenous and exogenous approaches to territorial development.

6. Recommendations



Support of institutional thickness.

Win-win situations, appropriate best practices.

Soft measures of territorial development should accompany traditional ones (territorial marketing, identity etc.)



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Thank you for your attention!

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