

Abstract

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Regional development and knowledge, technology and competitiveness.

Technology has been looked at as one of the central building blocks for competitiveness for centuries. Knowledge played earlier a more implicit role, in the later years we have seen the emergence of a variety of measures for training and competence development linked to the development of the capital equipment.

First the paper gives a discussion of theoretical developments of how knowledge development measures have been used to enhance the productivity of the capital equipment in production activities. It has been identified in many studies that without knowledge transfer the productivity of technology transfer is diminished.

The paper also includes an empirical analysis based on a data collection where we studied a Norwegian company producing steel structures for the offshore sector. In the paper we analyze data about how changes in technology and developments in knowledge together contributed to productivity growth and thereby to the development of competitiveness of the firm. We also analyze how the interplay between technology change and knowledge contribution to innovations and the role of networks.

The paper is submitted to the topic of regional economic development.

Keywords: Technology, knowledge and competitiveness

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