

Heterogeneity of the Channels and Barriers of FDI-Derived Technology Transfers across The Technology Transfer Related Activities: Case Study of Poland¹

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to examine the channels and the barriers of technology transfers coming from the presence of Foreign Direct Investment in the host economy across the four areas of technology transfers: manufacturing, product, marketing and customer service. Given that the role of FDI spillovers is increasing (i) with a growing degree of globalization and (ii) as the world moves towards an innovation-driven growth, and that (iii) there is a direct relationship between the role of technology as a factor of production and the level of economic development, this topic seems to be of importance for both, researchers and policy making practitioners. A set of statistical tests has been conducted on data collected among FDI firms in Poland to show that there is statistically significant difference in the use of channels of FDI-derived technology transfer between the areas of transfers, but only in case of (i) collaboration with firms up the value chain and (ii) know-how, and that there is a statistically significant difference in the barriers encountered during the FDI-derived technology transfer process between the areas of the said technology transfer; however, only in case of (i) lack of physical capital readiness, (ii) lack of human capital readiness and (iii) administrative barriers. The contribution of this research is that, with the use of primary data and a wide set of home countries, it goes beyond macroeconomic modeling and provides an insight, more microeconomic, perspective on the examined elements. In addition to the chief findings, the study also comments on the importance of absorptive capacity and the impact of the technology gap as they relate to FDI spillovers.

Key Words: Foreign Direct Investment, Technology Transfer, Spillovers

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