

## Abstract

The main objective of this doctoral thesis is to explore the concept of regional competitiveness from the perspective of recent theoretical frameworks, including Evolutionary Economic Geography, Global Production Networks and the Foundational Economy. The thesis identifies three core conditions for regional competitiveness: the ability to attract external scarce resources, the capacity to expand economic activities across regional borders and the creation of a resilient and deeply embedded economy. Methodologically, the thesis is based on quantitative methods with special emphasis on the analysis of mergers and acquisitions, particularly using data for the Czech market. The findings highlight the complexity of the concept of regional competitiveness and the need for nuanced, context-specific policy interventions to enhance it. Regional competitiveness is not a homogeneous concept but is place specific, while the categorization must be made in two dimensions: economic performance and the cross-border market involvement, which for the sake of the thesis, is illustrated by the acquisition market. For future research, the focus should be on the outcomes of the revealed competitiveness, particularly on the economic resilience in terms of economic complexity or foundational economy.