

Abstract

The main aim of my dissertation was to contribute to the understanding of the impact of firms' involvement in global production networks, including their specific position in the supply chain, on their economic performance, especially on value capture, which is currently considered in the world literature as a key indicator and precondition of regional development. In addition to their position in the global production network, other selected firm characteristics such as ownership, size, in-house R&D or the level of their involvement in the sector were included in the analyses. The last part of the paper tried to uncover the actual forms of inter-sectoral upgrading among Czech firms. The research showed that the hierarchical position of firms in GPN does not have a dominant effect on their economic performance. However, the results show that the level of value capture is influenced by a combination of various factors, especially ownership and position in the GPN hierarchy. An important finding is that domestic firms operating primarily outside the GPN are able to capture more value than firms involved in the GPN. However, it is essential that they have access to the end market. It is also crucial whether a company conducts own R&D, which proved to be a necessary prerequisite for maintaining competitiveness, especially for domestic companies even at the lowest supplier positions in the production network. The thesis also revealed that the degree of a company's involvement in a given industry affects its economic performance during periods of economic recession. Companies predominantly oriented towards production in a single industry achieved worse economic results during the economic crisis than companies with diversified production. This also corresponds to the findings on intersectoral upgrading, which is beneficial for companies mainly due to greater stability and resilience through diversified production. The motivation for intersectoral upgrading among managers of Czech companies is more often market-driven rather than technologically-driven. It occurs both due to various difficulties and crises, i.e., out of necessity, as well as thanks to opportunities often brought by existing or new customers.

Key words: global production networks, value capture, intersectoral upgrading, functional upgrading