

The role of information and communication technologies in development of regional innovation systems in Poland

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is both an element and the engine of the knowledge-based economy. By disseminating knowledge ICT contribute significantly to the “regional value added”, which constitutes the most important competitive advantage of regions. It is important however not only to support the development of ICT infrastructure, but also to promote wider application of ICT in education, public administration, health care system, business, networking with national centers of excellence as well as sharing information on regional innovations.

The activities related to innovative development of region using ICT and investing into R&D in the ICT compose the most important elements of regional innovation policy. Regional innovation policy is based on clusters activity and efficient regional innovation system (RIS). The main actors of innovative development of regions are firms, regional R&D units and local governments.

The seminar aims at presenting structure, dynamics as well as the role of ICT sector in the innovation policies of Polish regions in the comparative view of other new EU member states regions. In particular, the author will discuss the regional activities promoting ICT application in the business development, personal training in eBusiness and eLearning, R&D projects as well as funding opportunities of regions within the Structural Funds.