

PhD Thesis Summary

The export activity of firms has been the subject of numerous analyzes, both on theoretical and empirical grounds. Due to the continuously increasing competition on the global market, there is a need to conduct a carefully planned economic policy and to undertake actions to permanently enhance exports and thus stimulate the economic growth. Therefore, it is crucial to identify factors (determinants) that affect firms' decisions on export activity. Awareness of these determinants enables creating a long-term and effective economic policy.

The main objective of the dissertation is to identify and analyze the determinants of export activity of companies taking the perspective of "new new" theories of international trade into consideration. Determinants of exports are analyzed on two different levels. The first focuses on the impact of particular factors on the number of exporting companies, that is *de facto* on the willingness of companies to undertake export activities (extensive export margin). The second level allows identifying the factors determining the export value per company, i.e. export intensity (intensive export margin).

For the purpose of the critical literature analysis, national and international sources on economic theory, economic geography and microeconometrics were used. References have also been made to publications prepared by institutions of the institutional environment, including the World Trade Organization and the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development. Based on a critical analysis of the literature on the subject research hypotheses were formulated.

The data used in this dissertation are of an observational nature and come from four sources: 1) a survey carried out as part of the NCN project "*Analysis of foreign exchange in Poland in the light of new trade theories. Implications for economic policy during the crisis*", 2) InfoCredit databases, an institution collecting, processing and sharing economic information and financial statements of Polish and foreign entities, 3) the Local Data Bank (BDL) supported by the Central Statistical Office and 4) cartographic data obtained using the GoogleMaps system. The combination of the above mentioned provides an opportunity of a multithreaded analysis of the relationship between the export activity of companies and a wide catalog of variables identified as potential export determinants.

Analyzes conducted in this dissertation are set in the mainstream of research conducted in the field. The subject of consideration are the determinants of export activity of

companies in terms of both extensive and intensive export margin. This dissertation aims to fill the cognitive gap in the context of seldom researched determinants of the intensive export margin and in the area of the impact of the location of firms on both export margins. An attempt was made to widen the catalog of determinants of export activity with detailed variables characterizing the company's location in space. To be exact the features describing particular host locations, as well as the time availability of firms in relation to specific points in space - infrastructure elements. Spatial distribution of companies' activities is an important component of this thesis. The concept of location, although present in the theory of international trade, is very generally referred to in the analysis of the determinants of export activity based on the firm-level data. Similarly, in studies of the relationship between agglomeration and exports, the characteristics of the host region are often overlooked.

The descriptive statistical analysis and the econometric approach were used for verification of the set hypotheses. Logistic regression modeling was used to study the impact of individual variables on the extensive export margin, and cross-sectional regression modeling was used to study the impact of these variables on the intensive export margin.

Considerations over the determinants of the export activity of companies lead to the conclusion that the features describing the firm have a substantial impact on the intensive and extensive export margin. Moreover, the importance of the firms' location, especially the time availability with regard to infrastructure, it is an interesting and promising area of research in the field of international trade.