

**СЕКЦИЯ «ИННОВАЦИОННАЯ ЭКОНОМИКА И ЭКОНОМЕТРИКА»**

**Multi-level Governance in Innovation Policy: Defining the Role of the Regional Level (on the Example of Environmental and Energy Technology Clusters in Federal State Bavaria, Germany)**

*Петрова Ирина Евгеньевна*

*Студент*

*Университет г. Эрфурт, Школа публичной политики им. Вилли Брандта, Эрфурт, Германия*

*E-mail: irinapyotrova@gmail.com*

Since mid-1990s onwards innovation policy was recognized by the European countries as one of the priority policies. Innovative economy, also called economy based on knowledge, has become the headline goal for the whole Europe. At the same time, it was always stressed that there are several key principles through which this aim can be achieved. One of them as mentioned in the EU strategic document “Europe 2020” is more efficient use of energy and wise climate policy.

Policy on innovations, also embracing energy and climate, develops on all the three levels of governance: regional, national and supra-national. Legislation is being created on these levels, policy making and funding schemes are implemented on them. Therefore, it is important to understand which actions refer to what level, which level plays a leading role and what is being created on the regional level.

Concept of multi-level governance allows for the analyses of innovation policy on different levels. In the present study we have shortly touched upon all the levels with a special focus on the regional one and try to answer the following questions: how far Bavaria is an actor in its own right? What is exactly being made on regional level? Multi-level governance approach is an adequate research framework for the analysis of energy and environmental policy, in particular “the EU’s environmental policies are typically the product of the competition and collaboration between state and non-state actors situated at the local, national and regional (i.e. European), and international levels. This complicated, contested, and evolving distribution of authority and competences is one of the most intriguing features of the EU environmental governance. Scholars have sought to capture this unique and contested vertical allocation of powers by employing the concept of multi-level governance” (Bache I., 2004, 148).

The analysis undertaken shows the effects of the Federal State supporting program “Cluster offensive Bayern” on the four environmental and energy technology Bavarian clusters: Forestry and Wood Cluster Initiative, Center of Competence in Environmental Affairs (KUMAS), Region – Competence and Cooperation Network of the Energy Industry in the Nuremberg Metropolitan (Nuremberg Energy) and The Environmental Technology Cluster Bavaria.

From the present research follows the conclusion about the relations among levels of governance in cluster policy. It is obvious that the regional level is the most important for the development of clusters. It mainly can be explained by the fact that it is usually a bottom-up natural process, which takes place on the regional level. “Initiatives of creating clusters mainly belong to national and regional level, while there are no Europe-wide clusters” (Ketels C., 2004, 3). Furthermore, in Germany, initiative on creating clusters is by far takes place on the regional than on the national level. It is also important to stress that regional government

does much for the development of clusters: besides partly funding many clusters, including in the environmental technology sphere, local ministries initiated several clusters' building and play substantial role in their further development, especially targeting at internalization of the clusters.

National and supra-national levels however play role of facilitators of clusters' growth through provision of various supporting program, mainly oriented at information dissemination, building up platforms for cooperation and identification of best practices, special education and training programs, as well as substantial research work such as mapping clusters of Germany and the European Union.

### **Литература**

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