ABSTRACT WORKING PAPER 4.11

European Integration as Policy Metaphor for future EU-EN Knowledge Sharing

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Abstract

This paper focuses tightly on how EU post-accession countries and regions evolved in their reliance upon and growing participation in beneficial knowledge flows that result from the information embedded in patent citations from advanced countries. In this paper we illustrate one aspect of the cross-border knowledge flow process more fully in situations structurally similar to future ENP circumstances.

Relying upon OECD's patent data base and network analytics, we note patent citation in Europe included more than 200,000 citation links between 1999 and 2008, about 48% occurring in the first 5 years and 52% in the second 5 year period, an increase of about 7%, of which 10,500 patent citations crossed the East-West border and grew more rapidly (23%) between the periods. Communities of reciprocal patent citation observed in Europe are likely to evolve over time, eventually to include ENP countries, particularly the advantageously favored regions and those closest to borders. These are also the places most likely to cite patents in different patent classes as novel circumstances generate new innovations.

The effects of other closely-related ENP initiatives will influence which ENC regions can take fullest advantage of potential knowledge flows within relevant citation exchange communities. Developing ENC regions are expected to be citation-knowledge consumers in early rounds, similar to accession country experience, a dependence which may continue indefinitely for all but the most advanced or technically-specialized ENC regions, although more standardized industrial process and business practice technologies could benefit ENC border regions initially from physical proximity. The possibility that cross-border agents may be better positioned to take advantage of new innovative possibilities by cross-citing patent classes should be exploited with absorptive capacity measures in ENCs.