



OPPORTUNITIES OF KURZEME REGION DEVELOPMENT IN CONTEXT OF INNOVATION

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Importance of the Research

- ✓ Rapid changes in economic environment – industrial revolutions, geopolitical aspects, changes in thinking of society
- ✓ Polycentric development of regions – significant concept
- ✓ Innovation as a driving force for economic development (start-ups; cluster creation, networking)
- ✓ Human resource development – individual to institutional level

Changes

- Ancient Greek thinkers; Bennis & Nanus, 2007; Šarmers, 2018

Process

(dynamic innovations)

- J.Schumpeter, 1942; Rogers, 1962; CSP,n.d., Chesbrough, 2011; Barlow, 2017

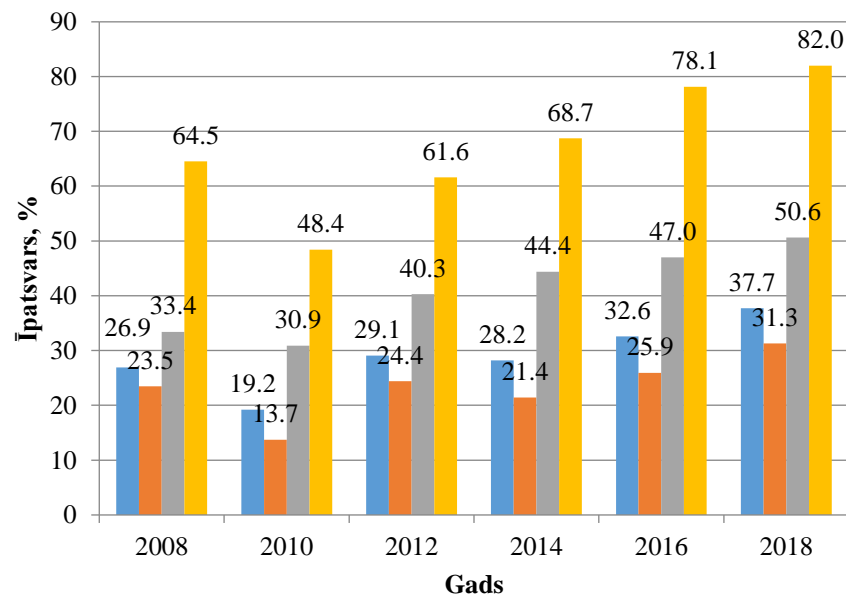
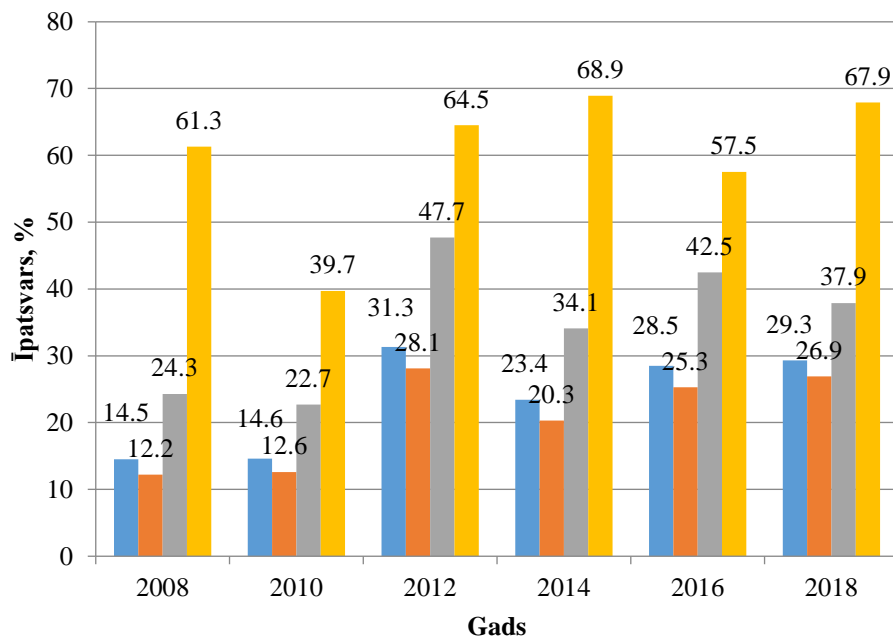
Result

(static innovations)

- Drucker, 1993; Gaynor, 2002; OECD, 2005; Latvijas Republikas Ekonomikas ministrija, 2005;

- Product (OECD, 2005; Edquist et al, 2001; Shelton,2011)
- Process (OECD, 2005; Edquist et al, 2001; Lord et al, 2005)
- Organizational (OECD, 2005; Edquist et al, 2001)
- Marketing (OECD, 2005 Edquist et al, 2001)
- Social (Martin, Osberg 2007; Phills, 2008; Tidd&Bessant, 2009)
- Systemic (Geels, 2005; Senge, 2006; Šarmers, 2018)

Innovation active enterprises in Latvia in 2008-2018



■ Pavisam ■ 10-49 darbinieki ■ 50-249 darbinieki ■ 250 un vairāk darbinieki

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Source: Authors construction based on Official Statistics database

Innovation development factors in region

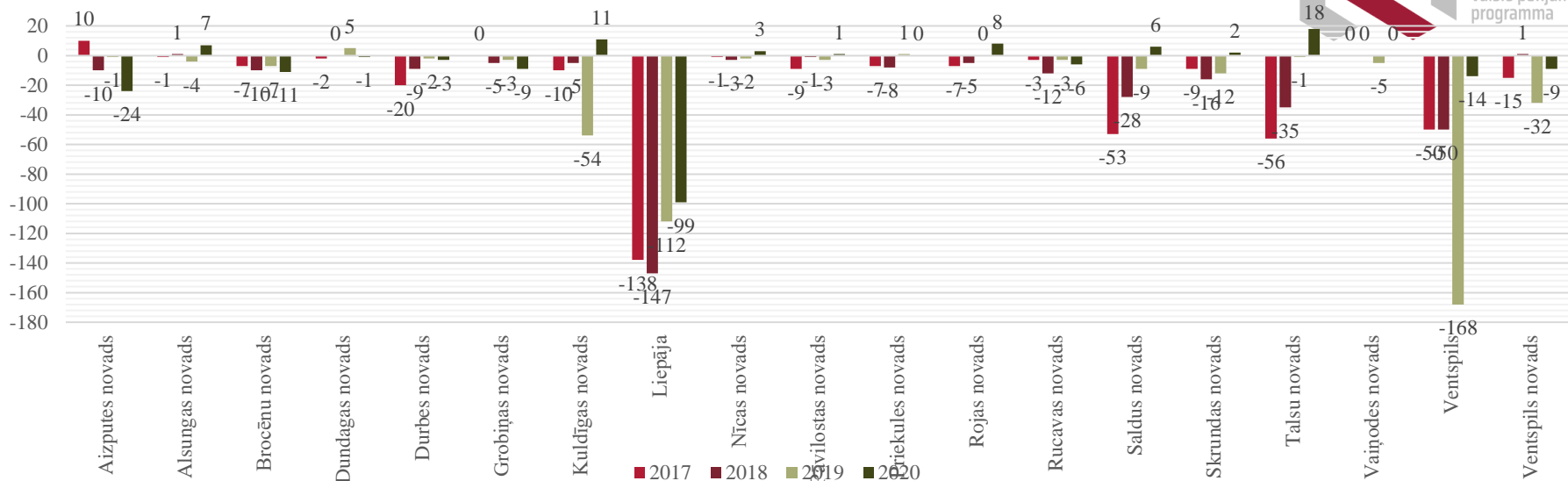
Factors	Authors
Innovation Capacity of the Region	Pekkarinen, Harmakorpi 2006
Adaption to changes, <i>Openness to knowledge</i> ; partnership and cooperation	About Hana, 2018
<i>Cooperation in knowledge creation, use and implementation</i> in local individual and institutional level; Tripple Helix, Quadruple Helix, Penta Helix; «civic university»	Doloreux & Parto, 2000, Etzkowitz, 2001; Leydesdorff, 2005; Goddard, Kempton, 2016
Geographical proximity	Asheim, Isaksen, 1997; Cooke, 2001, Koben Bakker, 2019
Specific characterization of the region, <i>qualified workforce</i>	Lall, Yilmaz, 2001)
Start-ups, new ventures and SME, <i>transformation of new ideas and products in new markets</i> with support of traditional enterprises	Julien, Lachance, 2001) Michael & Piraro, 2007, Chapple, Kroll, Lester, Montero, 2011
Unikālo dabas resursu izmantošanu reģionā, apvienojot ar inovatīvu tehnoloģiju izmantošanu.	Bialy, Žarnovsky, 2017
<i>HEI and scientific institutions in region, possibility to create clusters and support institutions for entrepreneurship development</i> , legislation policy for investment, infrastructure; good environment for entrepreneurship; <i>cooperation between state, business and nongovernmental organization</i> , high quality of life, appropriate business infrastructure	Matveikin, et al. 2007; Lee, Miller, Hancock, Rowen, 2000); Andersson & Karlsson, 2004; Arnkil 2010; Ostrom, 2010; Calzada, 2017;

Innovation Scoreboard Index for Latvia 2017-2021

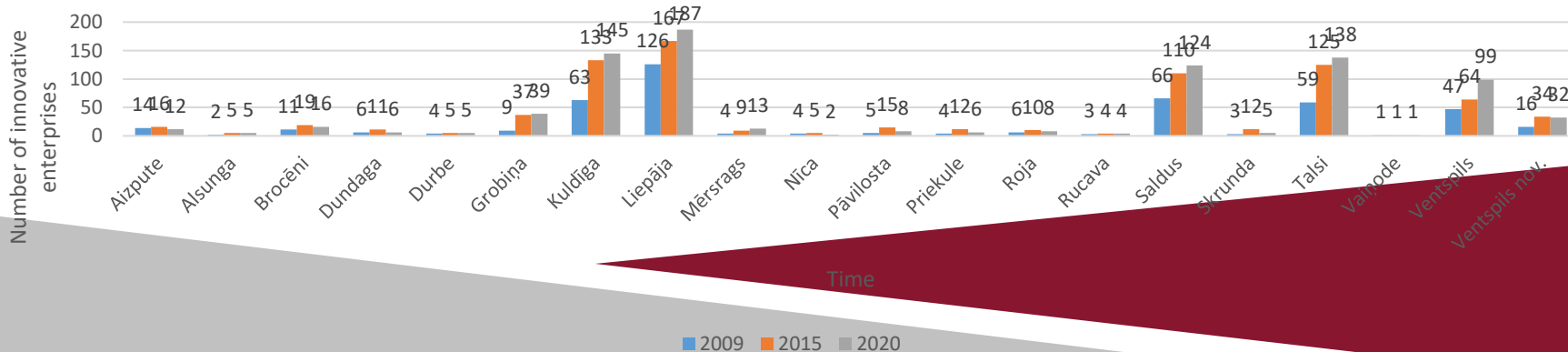


Year	Highest ranked	Lowest ranked
2017.	Innovation-friendly environment	SME innovations
2018.	Innovation-friendly environment and a financial and support system	Innovators and business investments
2019.	Risk capital expenses	Expenses for research and development in the business sector
2020.	Finances and support (risk capital); the number of individuals having obtained higher education and employment in fast-growing companies	Innovators in the SME sector, an attractive research system, the number of new doctors
2021.	the number of individuals having obtained higher education and trademark applications	research and development costs in the business sector and the number of those with a doctoral degree

Registered and closed Enterprises in Kurzeme region, 2018 -2020



Innovative Enterprises in Kurzeme region, 2009; 2015; 2020



Conclusions and discussion

- ✓ High technologies and medium high technologies are little represented in the active companies in municipalities in Kurzeme region in 2020; knowledge intensive companies are more frequently seen in such sectors as computer programming, data processing, internet portal functioning, research, legal services, architecture and designing
- ✓ Innovations have increased offer of products or services, the quality of products / services has improved, productivity has increased and the organization of production work improved in region enterprises
- ✓ The proportion of innovative enterprises in the Kurzeme region fluctuates around 2% from the total number, it is greater in the larger cities of the region: Liepāja 3.3%; Ventspils 4.14.%. Availability of various support structures could be the reason of it
- ✓ Region is a very good environment for start-ups, digital technology enterprises and companies for remote work possibilities, building networks – crucial for development. Kurzeme: startups: *TesDevLab, Azeron*; production: *Bucher Municipal, Malmar Sheet Metal, Stiga RM*

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THANK YOU!

This research is supported by the National Research Programme “LATVIAN HERITAGE AND FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE STATE” project “CHALLENGES FOR THE LATVIAN STATE AND SOCIETY AND THE SOLUTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT” INTERFRAME-LV, No. VPP-IZM-2018/1-0005.

