
National niches in a digital global economy: towards a typology

Preliminary results of the
EMERGENCE analysis
Nick Jagger, IES

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Objectives

- To develop a statistical framework within which the likelihood of e-work relocation to countries and regions can be predicted
- To identify indicators and measures that can be used as the basis for future modelling and forecasting

Initial Hypotheses

- Participation in e-work characterised by an extensive and developing telecommunications and data-processing infrastructure
- An educated labour force
- Pre-existing contacts with developed economies leading to an element of trust

Problems of data sources

- Many of the more obvious indicators, such as PC penetration, are only available for a limited number of countries
- Internationally available data is often dated which causes problems within a rapidly changing environment

Limitations of cluster analysis

- The output of cluster analysis often needs to be assessed subjectively and is very dependent on the data and assumptions that are put in
- However it does provide a structure for testing hypotheses and examining the validity of individual indicators

Cluster variables

- Telephone mainlines per capita in 1998
- Growth in mainlines per capita between 1994 and 1998
- Tertiary level graduates per capita
- Number of tertiary level graduates
- Corruption perception index in 1999
- Number of internet hosts in 1998

The clusters

- E-tigers
- E-leaders
- E-maybes
- E-capables
- E-vulnerables
- E-hares

E-tigers

- 17 countries with large populations representing 47 per cent of the world's population
- Relatively well developed telecommunications infrastructures and available human resources
- Include India, China,

E-leaders

- 6 of the G7 countries with high levels of telecommunications infrastructure and human resources
- Defining the shape and pace of development of e-work
- Likely to be the main source of relocated e-work

E-maybes

- 19 countries with small populations and with well developed infrastructures as well as being the least corrupt
- Highest levels of graduates per capita
- However, their size and location suggest they do not have the spare capacity to take on much e-work
- Include, Bahamas, and Luxembourg

E-capables

- 23 countries with smaller populations than the E-leaders otherwise similar telecommunications infrastructure although fewer graduates per capita
- Include Austria, Belgium, Hong Kong, Ireland, Netherlands, Singapore, Slovenia and Taiwan

E-vulnerables

- 114 countries with 28 per cent of the worlds population
- Worst human and telecommunication infrastructures and the highest levels of corruption
- On average with 10.4 mainlines per 100 population compared with 56.4 for the e-leader countries

E-hares

- 25 countries with many features of the e-vulnerable countries poor human and telecommunications infrastructures
- However, the distinguishing feature is a high rate of telecommunications investment
- Include Botswana, Chile, Ghana, Hungary, Philippines and Viet Nam