

## **Uneven or Ageographical Concentration? A case of Financial and Business Services Production in Poland**

### **Nierówna lub bezgeograficzna koncentracja? Przypadek produkcji usług finansowych i biznesowych w Polsce**

Principal Investigator: Tom Hashimoto, LL.M., DPhil (Oxon)

Last updated: 11 December 2023

#### **Abstract**

In Poland, Warsaw is notably prominent as a pivotal financial hub owing to its dominant position in the stock exchange realm. However, the landscape of financial and business services (FABS) across the country is marked by intricate and uneven patterns. This complexity stems from the burgeoning presence of shared services centres and business outsourcing firms in diverse cities, such as Krakow, Wroclaw, and Poznan. Recent shifts in work dynamics, propelled by trends like remote work and technological advancements (e.g. artificial intelligence), have markedly influenced this landscape. These trends have transformed the traditional perception of FABS production, resulting in a more dispersed distribution, less confined to specific cities – hence, ‘ageographical’. Consequently, this study is set to explore the interconnectedness of Poland’s financial centres, contemplating varied scholarly perspectives on the developmental pathways of financial centres and their networks.

This project encompasses three primary objectives. Firstly, it seeks to revise and enhance our comprehension of financial services within the broader context of Central and Eastern Europe. This evaluation aims to position Warsaw’s role within a larger European framework, unveiling its significance in regional finance. Subsequently, the study will delve into an in-depth analysis of how FABS production is dispersed among major Polish cities. This analysis will pivot on investigating cross-city transactions and delineating the operational variances among different financial centres. Lastly, it will scrutinise the role of smaller financial entities, such as credit unions and cooperative banks, within local areas. This exploration aims to comprehend their evolving roles amidst the ongoing shifts in rural finance dynamics.

To achieve these multifaceted goals, the study will employ an array of methodologies, embracing descriptive statistics, regression analysis, and expert interviews. The underlying hypothesis challenges the conventional notion that the sheer magnitude of FABS production singularly determines a city’s eminence in regional finance. Instead, it asserts that the interplay among diverse regions and their financial engagements offers a more comprehensive portrayal. This dynamic interaction not only impacts larger financial hubs but also resonates within rural landscapes and intermediate regions, contributing to the formulation of diverse financial ecosystems.