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Cultural industries; Local economic development; The technical division of labour; Sectoral planning.

Encyclopedia entries

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Cultural industries

That part of the economy concerned with the production of cultural artefacts: film, television, music, publishing, dance, theatre, painting, and sculpture.

Some definitions seek to include sport and tourism. Early definitions included only 'artists', more recent definitions are conceptually grounded and include the whole sector from artists through to manufacturing and distribution.

Cultural industries are unevenly distributed: they provide a significant positive balance of trade for a few developed countries, employment is concentrated in major cities. In such cases cultural industries play an important role in local economies. Measurement is difficult due to inadequate trade and census classifications. Cultural industries are multifaceted and difficult to evaluate, they provide (directly): economic growth, social mobilisation and cultural value.

See Also:

Sectoral Planning; World Cities; Service Economy

Further Reading:

Pratt, A.C. (1997) 'Employment in the cultural industries sector: a case study of Britain, 1984-91', Environment and Planning Vol A: 29, 11: 1953-1976

(150 words including titles and cross references)

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Local Economic Development, LED

A form of economic policy based upon territorial units at the sub-national scale, developed in response to *deindustrialisation. Political, economic and historical conditions have created two faces to LED: in practice, they may be simultaneously pursued. (1) Situated in opposition to ineffectual central government regional development policy, (a) mobilisation of local government as employer and purchaser in the local economy, (b) enhancement of endogenous growth through *sectoral planning. (2) Semi-autonomous, or decentralised, economic policy. This is characterised by the creation of incentives to attract *FDI and results in competition between localities.

Further Reading:

Eisenschitz. A and Gough. J (1993) The politics of local economic policy, Macmillan, London

(110 words including reference.)

Andy C Pratt 18/02/98

Sectoral Planning

Economic policy and planning based upon sectors rather than industries. In neo-classical economics sector implies industries engaged in the same market. An institutional interpretation of sector includes all of the firms involved in the production of a finished item. It is this definition that accords with sectoral planning. It includes the entire production chain: for example, the car sector might include parts of the metal, engineering, chemicals, and plastics industries. A sector may, or may not, be distinguished by common processes, and it will include a range of firm sizes.

Examples of policy based on sector planning have been developed at the national and regional level in France (post-1945), and at the local level in the UK (the former Metropolitan Counties, 1980s). Sectoral planning is purposeful and selective; its objective is to facilitate and encourage co-ordinated development within meaningful and relatively self-contained

segments of the economy. It requires an in depth understanding of the nature and requirements of the sector; this implies considerable research and intelligence, and dialogue between policy makers and industrial actors.

See Also:

Flexible specialisation; Local economic development; Cultural industries

Further Reading:

Geddes. M and Bennington. J (Eds.)(1992) Restructuring the local economy, Longman, London

(199 words including refs.)

Entry for the Routledge encyclopaedia of international political economy

100 words

The technical division of labour

The division of tasks within the workplace, a consequence of which is usually specialisation and simplification of individual jobs carried out by workers. There follow

three implications: (1) the creation of a bureaucratic system within which roles and responsibilities are fixed, (2) linking rates of pay to the completion of specified tasks, (3) curtailment of worker autonomy. The system requires strict discipline which can be achieved via one or more of three strategies: (1) technical: pricing and accountancy systems, (2) embodiment: overseers and managers, (3) physical: linking workers to a production line which can be varied in speed.

See Taylorism, Fordism, Labour process, De-skilling, Braverman