

Abstract

This document is an effort to establish explicitly the theoretical linkage of the different approaches to regional industrial policy implemented in Mexico since the 1970s. With this purpose, first, a review of the main regional growth theories is carried out; then the corresponding policy objectives and instruments are deduced (the theory-policy linkage). Policy objectives and instruments are deduced from the long-term interregional tendency (convergence/divergence) assumed by the theory, and from the way the theory visualizes or defines the nature of the regional problem. That general analytical framework is applied to the Mexican experience. There, in a first part, the main features of the different approaches to regional industrial policy that have been applied in Mexico are characterized (objectives, instruments and schemes), then the conceptual, structural consistency of the features of each policy approach with a particular theory of regional growth is discerned. This document intends to be particularly useful for researchers not specialized in formal theories of regional development, but still interested in regional industrial policy in Mexico, whose analyses at best are limited to descriptive characterizations of policies, and at worst misinterpret the conceptual foundations of such policies.