

Summary

This paper aims to analyse the nature and activity of the industrial policies of the EU, its member-states, and Slovenia on the basis of data available on state aid. The analysis shows that member-states take national and the EU supra-national measures to conduct an active industrial policy. Measures taken more frequently are those that aim to create the market, however, industrial policy has identified these measures as being less recommendable. Measures aimed at supporting the market are relatively scarce, except in some member-states. Measures oriented towards stepping-up the development of backward regions are more common. They are also permitted by competition policy, however, competition rules again allow the introduction of measures aimed more at creating than supporting the market (start-up aid, employment, regular operation etc).

According to industrial policy's theoretical assumptions, Slovenia, a country that has gone through the process of transition, could conduct a more active industrial policy aimed at creating the market for a limited period of time. Empirical evidence on state aid shows that Slovenia is pursuing a less active industrial policy than most EU member-states (measured by state aid and structural aid) and is taking more measures oriented to supporting the market. One of the elements forcing Slovenia to conduct such a policy is the pre-accession process run by the European Commission, which applies much stricter criteria for applicant-countries than existing member-states.