

Foreign companies were the main drivers of economic development in the Czech Republic in last two decades. Today the Czech market is already saturated with large number of foreign investment and future development of the Czech economy depends on a shift towards a knowledge-based economic development. Thesis attempts to evaluate different position of domestic and foreign companies from the Pardubice Region in global production networks. This position will have different influence on focus of companies on research, development and knowledge-based activities. The work is based on 34 directed interviews with the directors of domestic and foreign companies from the Pardubice Region. First aim is to indicate different position of domestic and foreign firms in global production networks. Second aim is to find a different meaning of research and development activities for companies. Development activities are the main article of shift towards the production of knowledge-intensive products with higher added value. Last aim of thesis is to evaluate different intensity of collaboration of domestic and foreign companies on the research and development activities with other firms and institutions.