

**THE EFFECTS OF INSTITUTIONS ON EMERGING MARKET FIRMS'  
INTERNATIONAL ASSIGNMENT LOCATION DECISIONS**

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**Abstract:** The paper outlines country-level determinants of international assignment (IA) location decisions; distinguishing between Central and Eastern European (CEE) and non-CEE host countries. Using an institutional perspective, assignment patterns of the entire firm population in Slovenia are analysed. The findings show that institutional quality and institutional distance influence expatriation flows. Firms from a low quality institutional context expatriate more to markets with high quality institutions and choose host countries with higher rather than smaller institutional distance for their IAs. We refine institutional theory with respect to host and home country institutional determinants of expatriation decisions.

**Keywords:** international assignments, location choice, internationalization, institutional theory, emerging markets, Central and Eastern Europe

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