



ETLA ELINKEINOELÄMÄN TUTKIMUSLAITOS
THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE FINNISH ECONOMY

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Manufacturing in the high-cost environment

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NOKIA

The Federation of Finnish
Technology
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Tekes

Manufacturing in the high-cost environment

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Motivation

- What is the future of manufacturing in “high-cost” countries?
- Public concern and policy initiatives throughout the Western hemisphere
- Special issue in *Journal of Operations Management*, forthcoming in 2015

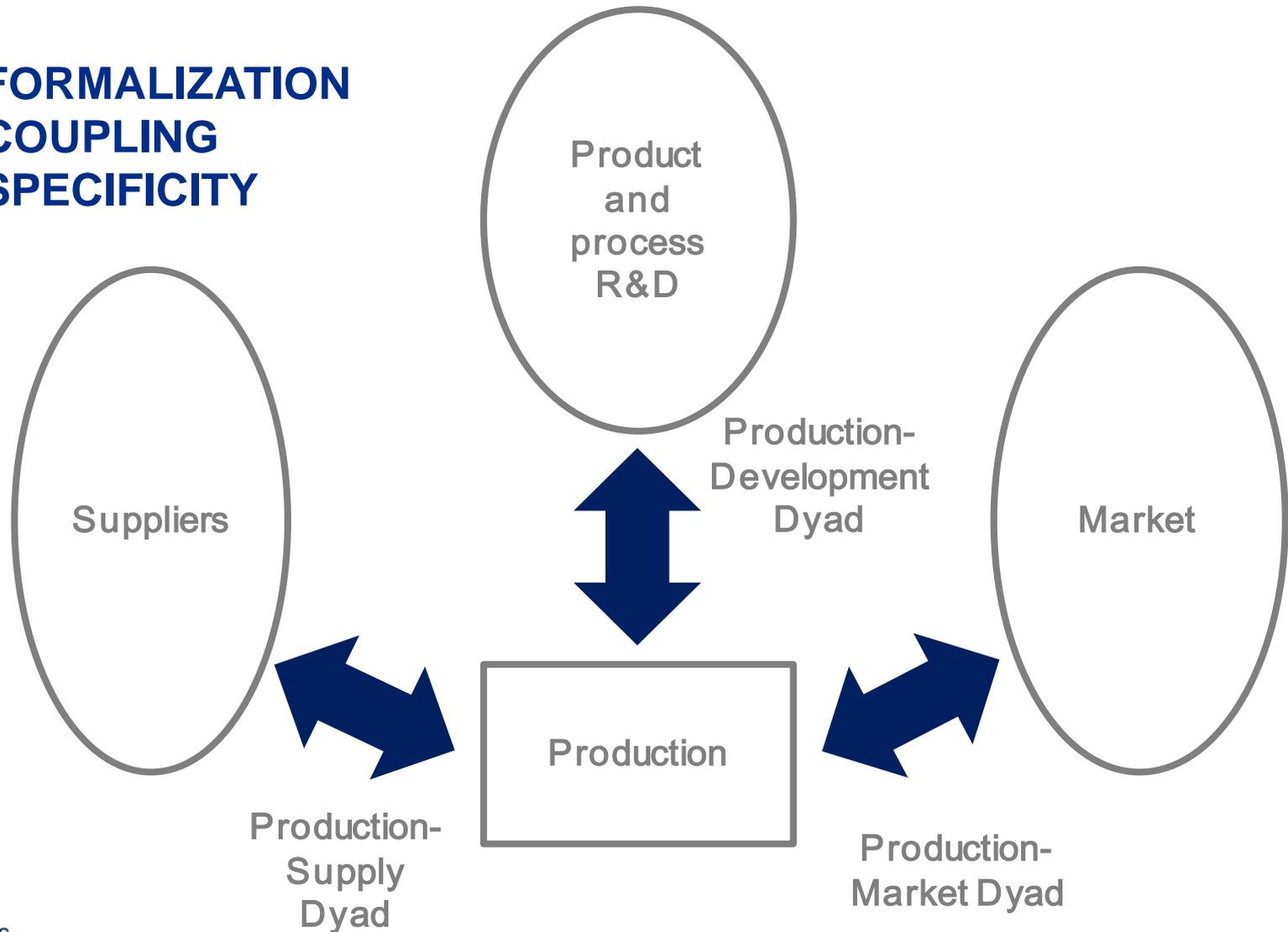
Our research: 35 cases

builds on an extensive ETLA research project



Making sense

- 1) **FORMALIZATION**
- 2) **COUPLING**
- 3) **SPECIFICITY**



Five conclusions

- 1) to speak of “the future of manufacturing” in a general sense is just silly
- 2) location decisions must be understood in their entirety
- 3) diversity -> policy dilemma
- 4) policy: focus on contexts where (a) stakes are highest, and (b) remediable failures can be identified
- 5) in terms of value added to the local economy, location of production may not matter

Thank you!

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