

Economics of European and International Integration

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Schedule: November 2022

Office hours: Upon appointment

Course webpage: <http://rosellanicolini.com/master/EU2223/index.htm>

Sessions 1 and 2:

Trade and productivity

Course hours: 6

The distinguishing feature of the European Union is the free trade possibility across the member states. In this respect, for member states, trading is one of the principal activities and one of the principal factors of the economic growth. However not all European countries are identically competitive in the internal and international markets. Important productivity differences are present across EU member states and affect their international competitiveness. In this section, we review the principal updated data on the intensity and composition of trade flows of EU member states. Then, we will focus on the difficulties in underpinning competitiveness with productivity. In this respect, we will discuss some case studies (among others, the case of Spain) and draw some policy considerations.

Main references:

Bender, S., Nicholas B., David C., Van Reenen, J., Wolter, S. (2017) "Management Practices, Workforce Selection and Productivity." *Journal of Labor Economics*. Forthcoming. Pre-print version available at: <http://cep.lse.ac.uk/pubs/download/dp1416.pdf>

Bloom, N., Van Reenen, J. (2007) "Measuring and Explaining Management Practices Across Firms and Countries." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* Vol. 122, No. 4 1351-1408.

Gómez- Tello, A; Nicolini R. (2017): "Immigration and productivity: a Spanish tale", *Journal of Productivity Analysis*, vol. 47(2), pp. 167-183

Jorgenston, D.W., Ho S., Stirah, K.J (2008): " A Retrospective Look at the US Productivity Growth Resurgence", *Journal of Economic Perspective*, vol. 22(1), pp. 3-24.

Krugman, P. (2009): "The increasing return revolution in trade and geography", *American Economic Review*, 99(3), pp. 561-571.

Inklaar, R., Timmer M.P., van Ark, B. (2008): "Market Service Productivity across Europe and the US", *Economic Policy*, January, vol. 53, pp.139-194.

van Ark, B., O'Mahoney, M., Timmer, M.P. (2008): "The Productivity Gap between Europe and the United States: Trends and Causes", *Journal of Economic Perspective*, vol. 22(1), pp. 25-44.

Other readings posted on the webpage of the course

Session 3:

Competition Policy

Course hours: 3

Two milestones of the European policies are the communitarian agricultural policy and competition policy. The former is the most ancient policy adopted by the EEC devoting a part of the whole EU budget whose share fluctuated across time. The latter is the most relevant policy for triggering competition inside the European member states. The understanding of these policies allow for a deeper knowledge of the commitment of the European institutions for improving the internal welfare.

Main references:

Textbooks:

Baldwin, R. and Ch. Wyplosz (2012 or 2015): *Economics of European Integration*, Mc Graw Hill.
Artis, M. and F. Nixson (Ed.) (2007): *The Economics of the European Union*, Oxford University Press

Suggested readings

Coeurdacier, N., R.A. De Santis, and A. Aviat (2009): "Cross border mergers and acquisitions and European Integration", *Economic Policy*, vol. 54, pp. 56-106.

Other readings posted on the webpage of the course

Session 4:

Regional unbalances and Cohesion Policy

Course hours: 3

In this section, we are planning to review the sources of the economic unbalances across European regions reinforcing the core-periphery structure. After a short introduction about the economic determinants of firm mobility and the idea of economic agglomeration, we are focusing on the European situation emphasizing the sources (and evolution) of the core-periphery structure, the geographical preferred firm location and the consequences on the regional economic performance. In this respect we are also address a special attention to the current FDI-flow directions. Finally, we will devote time to discuss the effectiveness of the Structural Funds (already introduced in another part of the course) by working on updated empirical evidence.

Main references:

Textbooks:

Baldwin, R. and Ch. Wyplosz (2012 or 2015): *Economics of European Integration*, Mc Graw Hill.
Artis, M. and F. Nixson (Ed.) (2007): *The Economics of the European Union*, Oxford University Press
McCann, Ph. (2016): *The Regional and Urban Policy of the European Union. Cohesion, Results-Oriented and Smart Specialisation*. Edward Elgar Publishing

Compulsory reading

"Something in the air", from *The Economist*, October 27th 2012.

Suggested readings

Artige, L., Nicolini, R. (2010) "Market Potential, Productivity, and Foreign Direct Investments: Some Evidence from three Case Studies" *European Planning Studies*, vol 18(2), pp. 147-168,

P. Combes and H. Overman (2003): "The spatial distribution of economic activity in the EU", in J.F. Thisse and V. Henderson (eds) *Handbook of Urban and Regional Economics*, vol. 4, North-Holland Amsterdam.

Barca, F., McCann Ph., Rodríguez Pose, A., (2012) "The Case For Regional Development Intervention: Place Based Versus Place Neutral Approaches," *Journal of Regional Science*, Wiley Blackwell, vol. 52(1), pages 134-152, 02.

Farole, Th., Rodríguez Pose, A, Storper, M. (2011) "Cohesion Policy in the European Union: Growth, Geography, Institutions," *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Wiley Blackwell, vol. 49(5), pages 1089-1111, 09.

Rodríguez-Pose, A., Novak, K. (2011) "*Learning processes and economic returns in European Cohesion policy*," Working Papers 2011-17, Instituto Madrileño de Estudios Avanzados (IMDEA) Ciencias Sociales.

Session 5:

Tutorials (computer lab)

Course hours: 3

These sessions aim at introducing the most important statistical sources at EU level. In addition, we will perform simple numerical and statistical exercises to provide evidence that endorses the conclusions discussed in the previous sessions. Our focus will be on the convergence and divergence issues inside the EU.

The material will be made available in class.

Grading:

The grading for this part of the course will be performed by six short tests.

At the end of each session it will be organized a short test in order to evaluate the assimilation of the ideas and concepts discussed in class. **The test will be made be one or two questions to be answered as a task in class in a maximum amount of time.** Each test will last between 30 and 45 minutes and it will be at open books.

All tests are mandatory. The final grade of this course will be the average of all these tests.