

OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

# OECD Spatial Productivity Lab

Spatial productivity for regional and local development - 5<sup>th</sup> meeting

10 October 2019 | Venice, Italy

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## AGENDA



## ■ The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies. [www.oecd.org/cfe](http://www.oecd.org/cfe)



## ■ The OECD Spatial Productivity Lab

The OECD Spatial Productivity Lab (SPL) is a dedicated research laboratory that works with local and global partners to improve our understanding of the spatial dimension of productivity growth, the relevance of links between different types of areas and how regional policy can facilitate productivity growth, creation of better jobs and increased well-being.

The OECD Spatial Productivity Lab at the OECD Trento Centre for Local Development is an integral part of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. The mission of the Trento Centre is to build capacities for local development in OECD member and non-member countries, working directly with policy makers at all levels of government.

## ■ Venue of the meeting

### OECD Venice Office

c/o Fondazione di Venezia  
Dorsoduro 3488/U  
30123 Venice, Italy

## ■ Language

The meeting will be held in English.

## ■ Website

OECD Trento Centre: [www.trento.oecd.org](http://www.trento.oecd.org)

OECD Spatial Productivity Lab: [oe.cd/SPL](http://oe.cd/SPL)

## ■ Contact

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## OECD SPL Partners



Fakultät für Wirtschaftswissenschaften  
Facoltà di Economia  
Faculty of Economics and Management



BANCA D'ITALIA  
EUROSISTEMA



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI BRESCIA



SWEDISH ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
FORUM



productivity  
insights  
network

Venue: OECD Venice Office c/o Fondazione di Venezia, Dorsoduro 3488/U, 30123 Venice, Italy

**Moderator:** *Alessandra Proto*, Acting Head of the OECD Trento Centre

## 14.00-14.15 **Welcome remarks and introduction of the OECD Venice Office**

Welcome remarks by *Paolo Reboani*, Director General, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Italy and *Giovanni Dell'Olivo*, Director, Foundation of Venice

Introduction of the Venice Office by *Katia Travkina*, Co-ordinator, Culture, Creative Industries and Local Development, OECD

## 14.15-14.30 **Setting the scene: The spatial dimension of productivity**

The economics literature predominantly studies productivity within industries/sectors and/or firms ignoring the spatial dimension. As a result, the mainstream economics productivity debates are of limited relevance for regional economic growth and can hardly inform the efforts to reverse the increasing subnational productivity divergence. At the same time, the spatial (local and regional) dimension clearly plays a role in the ways economic actors interact and function, which has both direct and indirect effects on productivity. Every productivity determinant highlighted by the economics literature has a well-defined spatial dimension. Besides, there is a set of obviously spatial productivity determinants that are mostly overlooked by the economics research.

*Alexandra Tsvetkova*, Economist/Policy Analyst, Spatial Productivity Lab, OECD Trento Centre

## 14.30-14.55 **Spatial agglomeration, Global Value Chains and firms' productivity**

The first part of the presentation is devoted to the issue of firms' positioning along the Global Value Chains and its impact on firms' productivity. In the second part, will be presented the relationship between spatial agglomeration and firms' labor productivity in Italy and Spain, examining firm-level heterogeneity in Global Value Chain positioning. The paper is based on a sample of 4 025 manufacturing firms during the period from 2010 to 2014 and employ a shift-share instrumental variable approach. We find that agglomeration has a positive effect on labor productivity for suppliers but not for final firms.

*Anna Giunta*, Full Professor of Applied Economics at the University of Roma 3 and Director, Rossi-Doria Centre for Economic and Social Research

## 14.55-15.20 **Migration, communities on the move and international innovation networks: Evidence from Spanish regions**

The presentation focuses on the impact of migration on innovation networks spanning regions and foreign countries using the example of Spain, a country with intensive migration over the past two decades. The patent data are combined with national data on residents and electors abroad and a gravity model is applied to the co-inventorship between Spanish provinces (NUTS-3 regions) and a number of foreign countries. The results suggest that both immigrants and emigrants affect innovation networking. The social capital of both the origin and the hosting communities moderates this impact positively. The effect of migration is stronger for more skilled migrants and with respect to the non-Spanish-speaking countries, pointing to a language-bridging role of migrants. Policy implications, also in terms of spatial productivity, are drawn accordingly.

*Sandro Montresor*, Full Professor of Applied Economics, the Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI)

## 15.20-15.40 **Open discussion**

15.40-16.00 **Coffee break**

## 16.00-16.25 **The big European sort? The diverging fortunes of Europe's regions**

Over the last four decades, Europe has seen diverging fortunes among its rural regions, towns and cities. But the much-discussed 'rural-urban divide' is too simple, and does not fit the data. Nor has economic integration in the EU led to greater divergence across regions, on average. Growth in industrial output has been stronger in the countryside and towns in Western Europe, and spread evenly across regions in Central and Eastern Europe. But high-value services have become more concentrated in successful cities in the West, especially since the financial crisis. What makes a successful region? This presentation shows that high productivity levels in regions are associated with three factors: they are part of – or geographically close to – successful cities; a larger proportion of their workforce are graduates; and their populations are younger. The association of a high share of graduates with productivity levels has also been rising over time. This will, in turn, encourage more young graduates to move to places that are already successful.

*John Springford*, Deputy Director of the Centre for European Reform, UK

## 16.25-16.50 **Culture, creative production and regional productivity: A conceptual framework**

The New European Agenda for Culture stresses the relationship between culture and innovation as one of the pillars of the future European Cultural policy. This creates an unprecedented link between cultural and creative production, and cultural participation more broadly, and the competitiveness of European economy even beyond the specific sphere of the cultural and creative sector. However, the specific mechanisms through which the relationship between culture and innovation and culture and productivity actually unfold are currently not well known and have not been the object of a well-structured research effort. This presentation offers a discussion of the potential factors behind this relationship as a first step for empirical research and modeling.

*Pier Luigi Sacco*, Special Advisor to the EU Commissioner for Education and Culture, Professor of Cultural Economics at IULM University and Senior Researcher at MetaLAB at Harvard

## 16.50-17.05 **Urban regeneration, economic stimulation and social innovation in the context of industrial transitions: Insights from Porto Marghera (Venice)**

This presentation takes a multi-disciplinary approach to study the social and economic aspects of industrial transition from the manufacturing-based economy to a more diversified one that the area between Mestre and Marghera (Venice) is currently undergoing. The quantitative and qualitative evidence points to the growth of new industries, such as Knowledge Intensive Business Services (KIBS), along with the underlying evolution of job profiles. The evolution is facilitated by a range of actors mobilised by both top-down governmental interventions and bottom-up transformations led by local entrepreneurs and social organizations belonging to the third sector and the CCI. The spatial quality and the configuration of urban contexts plays a role in the process but there are also barriers. The emergence of small manufacturing firms supported by a publicly-owned business incubator is also discussed. Finally, a short video offers some tales of urban entrepreneurship that may become the seeds of sustainable, grass-roots development for this productive area in transition.

*Claudia Faraone*, Post-Doctoral Researcher, IUAV University of Venice

*Maria Chiara Tosi*, Associate Professor, IUAV University of Venice

*Giulio Pedrini*, Junior Assistant Professor in Economic Policy - Università di Enna "Kore"

## 17.05-17.25 **Open discussion**

## 17.25-17.35 **Concluding remarks and policy implications**

*Joaquim Oliveira Martins*, Deputy Director, CFE, OECD

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## INFORMATION

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**@OECD\_local #spatialproductivity**

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## OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

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This event is part of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities activities.

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