



CALL FOR PAPERS

San José, Costa Rica, 18 April 2018

REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND PRODUCTIVITY

Slow and diverging productivity growth is a matter of concern in most Latin America and the Caribbean countries. Governments are therefore working on policy reforms, including measures to deepen regional integration, which plays an important role in productivity growth. The [conference](#) held in Santiago de Chile in December 2016 was an opportunity to discuss the impact of barriers to entrepreneurship, competition, GVC integration, skills and informality on productivity growth. The upcoming conference in San José, Costa Rica will gather researchers and policymakers to continue this dialogue, but this time with a focus on how regional integration relates to productivity growth. The conference will be organised jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica, the OECD Global Forum on Productivity, the Inter-American Development Bank, and CAF.

The organisers invite all researchers interested in presenting their work at this conference to send an abstract of their papers to Ricardo Monge (rmonge@caatec.org) before 15 January 2018, with a view to be considered in the selection process. Those selected will be required to submit their draft papers no later than 15 March 2018. The topics for discussion during the conference are the following:

Regulation, distortions, and misallocation – Empirical work on productivity using firm-level data has revealed the extent of misallocation of resources caused by distortions such as poor regulation or lack of competition. As a result, large potentials to increase productivity in selected categories of firms are not realised. This session will include papers investigating misallocation from firm-level data, as well perceptions of entrepreneurs regarding the impediments caused by poorly-designed regulation.

Trade facilitation and integration in Global Value Chains (GVCs) – Although border crossing is generally not an impediment in most advanced countries, the benefits from international trade and integration in GVCs are reduced by the lack of adequate facilities in emerging and developing countries. This session will include empirical papers attempting to quantify the impact of trade facilitation on productivity and experience from countries to improve border crossing. Also of interest are those empirical investigations on how integration to CGV affects productivity growth.

Spillovers from FDI and productivity – Attracting foreign direct investment has long been seen as a channel to improve insertion in international trade, upgrade technologies, and join global supply chains. A new wave of papers using firm-level data are shedding light on the benefits from FDI through spillovers, including in services firm indirectly integrated in GVCs. This session will include papers analysing spillovers using firm-level as well concrete experience from practitioners. Firm-level analysis of knowledge and technology spillovers through specific channels such as backward or forward linkages and labour mobility from foreign firms (FDI) to domestic firms will be of particular interest.

E-commerce and productivity – Past workshops organised under the auspices of the OECD Global Forum on Productivity have illustrated the potential for digital technologies to boost productivity, including through disruptive changes in product-market competition. Among various technologies, e-commerce has large potential to generate benefits in emerging markets, through greater competitive pressures on incumbents, while spreading the benefits widely, thus making growth more inclusive. This session will include research analysing the impact of e-commerce and experience from policymakers in setting the right policies.