

OECD Global Forum on Productivity & Trento Spatial Productivity Lab

Workshop on

Spatial Dimensions of Productivity

28-29 March 2019 | Bolzano, Italy

AGENDA & SPEAKERS



#SPATIALPRODUCTIVITY #GFP



Spatial Dimensions of Productivity

■ Rationale

Productivity is the main determinant of living standards. Economies that are more productive generate greater ability to support and enhance wellbeing of their citizens via higher incomes, better infrastructure, more services and improved sustainability of welfare systems. OECD countries have been confronted with decreasing and persistently low aggregate productivity growth, declining business dynamism and job reallocation rates, and increasing regional productivity disparities. To what extent are these trends related? What can policy do to revert them?

Empirical analysis shows that effective governance arrangements, international and regional openness and connectedness, development and fast diffusion of innovative technologies and best practices -- including in the provision of public services and deployment of smart infrastructure -- and the efficient allocation of skilled and creative workers across the national territory can enhance productivity growth of regions and nations. The importance of efficiently allocating natural, human and technological resources, however, highlights the significance of the spatial dimension in the productivity agenda as synergies between knowledge, skills, technologies and agglomeration factors need to be leveraged upon in order to boost the contribution of local efficiency improvements to overall productivity growth, also by finding tailored solutions for specific places. The spatial dimensions of productivity are becoming increasingly more important as global megatrends, such as globalisation, digitalisation and ageing, affect localities differently along the urban-rural continuum.

■ Objective

This workshop brings together researchers, policy makers and practitioners to discuss ways in which policies and public sector practices (at both national and local levels) can help achieve higher aggregate productivity growth by stimulating economies of density, efficiency gains and innovation at the local level via mobility of factors and infrastructure and skill development, while at the same time ensuring that no places are left behind.

■ Working Language

All sessions will be conducted in English.

■ Dates & venue

28-29 March 2019.

Centro Trevi, via dei Cappuccini 28, Bolzano, Italy.

■ Contact

OECD Trento Centre: CFETrento@oecd.org

OECD Global Forum on Productivity: Productivity@oecd.org



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#spatialproductivity #GFP

■ Organisers

The OECD Global Forum on Productivity (GFP) aims to foster international co-operation between public bodies with responsibility for promoting productivity-enhancing policies. The GFP provides a platform on which participants will convene to exchange information and discuss best practices as well as a framework within which to undertake productivity analysis that is complementary to the OECD's regular work programme. The work programme of the GFP is guided by a Steering Group of countries. The group provides support and funding to the activities of the GFP. The GFP brings together the national and supra-national efforts mentioned above so as to leverage country-specific experiences to the long-term benefit of other countries. It is a practical, interactive tool that helps to promote the international co-operation on analysis; allows for a mutual exchange of information and data; and facilitates the sharing of experiences and policy developments. www.oecd.org/global-forum-productivity

The OECD Spatial Productivity Lab at the OECD Trento Centre for Local Development is an integral part of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development), whose mission is to promote better policies for better lives. The OECD facilitates a dialog among governments by comparing policy experiences, seeking answers to common problems, identifying good practices and working to co-ordinate domestic and international policies. The Spatial Productivity Lab (SPL) is a dedicated research laboratory that works with local and global partners to improve our understanding of how regional policy based on the understanding of spatial links can facilitate productivity growth, creation of better jobs and increased general well-being. 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. www.trento.oecd.org.

■ Partners

The Autonomous Province of Bolzano is a frontier land that lies in the heart of the Alps, mid-way between two of the most highly developed areas in Europe: the Po valley and Bavaria. With more than 500 000 inhabitants and solid economic base, today the province offers levels of wellbeing and quality of life which are among the highest in Italy and Europe. Its special Statute of Autonomy, in force since 1948, grants the Autonomous Province direct legislative, administrative and financial jurisdiction in fundamental areas, including the university and education, health, industrial policy, transport and tourism and allows it to administrate 90% of direct and indirect income collected in the Province. www.provincia.bz.it

The Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance carries out the tasks and responsibilities of the State in the fields of economic policy, financial policy, budgeting, and tax policies. Additionally, it carries out all activities related to the coordination of public spending and its oversight, planning of public investments, monitoring and oversight of public financial management, public debt management, and of State stockholdings. www.mef.gov.it

Venue: Centro Trevi, via dei Cappuccini 28, Bolzano, Italy

13.30-14.30 ○ Registration and snack

14.30-15.00 ○ **Opening remarks**

Arno Kompatscher, President of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, Italy

Joaquim Oliveira Martins, Deputy Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

Ottavio Ricchi, Head of Unit, Economic and Financial Analysis and Planning Directorate, Ministry of Economy and Finances, Italy

15.00-16.15 ○ **Session 1.**

Mobility within and across regions: Misallocation or growth potential?

How has internal mobility developed in recent years, especially since the Great Recession? How is mobility affected by rules and regulations, e.g. on job licensing, across space? What is the role of transport infrastructure in facilitating mobility and economic gains? How can transport infrastructure be leveraged for productivity growth?

Chair: Flavia Terribile, Presidency of Italy's Council of Ministers, Italy and Chair of the OECD Territorial Development Policy Committee

Douglas Sutherland, OECD → *Spatial mobility of workers – Evidence from the United States*

Claire Lelarge, RITM Université Paris-Sud, Paris, France → *What productivity impact to expect from high-speed rail infrastructure?*

Alexander Lembcke, OECD → *Roads, market access and regional economic development*

General discussion

16.15-16.45 ○ Coffee break

16.45-17.45 ○ **Session 2.**

Infrastructure in a digital and globalised world: What's required to bridge regional divides?

How does the provision of technical infrastructure, such as fibre broadband, facilitate the adoption of new technologies? How does providing infrastructure at the national level help firms to compete internationally? How do regional differences in the provision of infrastructure affect the spatial distribution of economic activity within countries?

Chair: Alessandra Proto, OECD Trento Centre

Jonathan Timmis, University of Nottingham, UK → *Cloud computing and firm growth*

Clément Mazet-Sonilhac, Banque de France → *Technology-induced trade shocks? Evidence from broadband expansion in France*

General discussion

17.45-18.45



Session 3.

The use of geospatial data for productivity analysis

Why is geospatial data important in understanding the “productivity puzzle”? What is the importance of a global definition of “cities”? How can local, regional and national linkages be captured using geospatial data? How can geospatial data support productivity analysis?

Chair: Rudiger Ahrend, OECD

Ana Moreno Monroy, OECD → *A global definition of cities*

Carlo Lavallo, Joint Research Centre, European Commission → *From place of residence to place of activity: Emerging data and tools for territorial analyses*

Alexander Himbert, OECD → *Trade facilitation and spatial patterns of economic activity: Evidence from the intensive margin*

General discussion

19.30-21.30



Dinner

Address: Fink Gasthaus, via della Mostra 9°, Bolzano, Italy

Venue: Centro Trevi, via dei Cappuccini 28, Bolzano, Italy

08.45-09.00 **Opening remarks**

Patrick Lenain, OECD

09.00-10.30 **Session 4.**

Promoting innovation and productivity diffusion: Skills and innovation in regional and local ecosystems

How are knowledge, innovation and productivity transferred across space? What are the enablers and barriers for knowledge diffusion and productivity growth in cities and regions? What is the role that multinational enterprises and their location decisions play for knowledge diffusion? How does local skill supply affect these decisions?

Chair: Peter Berkowitz, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Philip McCann, University of Sheffield, UK → *International business, cities and competitiveness: Recent trends and future challenges*

Mercedes Teruel, Universitat Rovira y Virgili, Barcelona, Spain → *Innovation and geographical spillovers: New approaches and empirical evidence*

Alessandra Faggian, Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila, Italy → *The impact of external knowledge sourcing on innovation outcomes in rural and urban businesses in the U.S.*

General discussion

10.30-11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00-12.30 **Session 5.**

National and local public sector efficiency: Implications for productivity

How can public services facilitate productivity growth? What is the scope of public services to contribute to a skilled and mobile workforce? How can the provision of public services be organised most efficiently? How can public services be governed to accommodate regional idiosyncrasies?

Chair: Alessandra Faggian, Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila, Italy

Mauro Pisu, OECD → *The effect of public sector efficiency on firm-level productivity: The case of Italy*

Guido de Blasio, Bank of Italy → *Incentives to local public service provision: An evaluation of Italy's Obiettivi di Servizio*

Stephen Aldridge, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, UK → *Public sector efficiency in the UK*

General discussion

12.30-13.00 **Why place and space matters for productivity: Closing remarks and takeaways**

Giuseppe Nicoletti, OECD

13.00-14.00 **Lunch**

■ Speakers' biographical notes (in alphabetical order)



Rudiger Ahrend

is the Head of the Economic Analysis, Statistics and Multi-level Governance Section in the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions, and Cities. He has been supervising numerous projects on regional and urban development, including thematic research on productivity and growth in cities and regions and reviews of economic trends and policies in major metropolitan agglomerations. Prior to his work on regional and urban policies, he has worked as a Senior Economist in the OECD's Economics Department. He has published widely, both in academic journals and newspapers.

[@OECD_local](#)



Stephen Aldridge

is the Director for Analysis and Data at the UK Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. A government economist by background, he was previously Director of the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit in the Cabinet Office. He has also worked in the Department of Trade and Industry; the Department of the Environment, Transport & the Regions; the Cabinet Secretariats; and Her Majesty's Treasury. Stephen was made a Commander of the Order of the Bath in the Queen's Birthday Honours, 2007.

[@saldridg](#)



Peter Berkowitz

is the Head of Unit for Smart and Sustainable Growth in the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy in the European Commission. This unit is responsible for coordinating work within the European Commission on smart specialization and regional investment in innovation, environment, energy, climate change, transport and digitalisation. From 2008 to 2016, he was Head of Unit for Policy Development, including the preparation and negotiation of the Commission's proposals for the reform of Cohesion Policy 2014-2020. During his career in the Commission he has worked on enlargement, CAP reform and rural development.

[@PeterBerkowitz1](#) [@EUinmyRegion](#)



Guido de Blasio

is an Economist at the Bank of Italy (Deputy Division Chief in the Department of Economics and Statistics). His research focuses on regional science and urban economics; place-based policies; applied econometrics and machine learning as well as social and economic issues faced by the South of Italy.

[@guidodeblasio](#)



Alessandra Faggian

is Full Professor of Applied Economics at the Gran Sasso Science Institute in L'Aquila (Italy), where she is also Vice Provost for Research and Director of the Social Science Area. She is one of the editors of Journal of Regional Science and the winner of the 2015 Geoff Hewings Award for outstanding research contribution by a young scholar in the field of regional science in North America.

[@afaggian](#)



Alexander Himbert

is a Junior Economist in the Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation at the OECD, working on the microeconomic drivers of firm productivity. Previously he worked as a Consultant at the World Bank, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and the International Growth Center (IGC). He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Lausanne.

[@OECDInnovation](#)



Arno Kompatscher

is the President of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen-South Tyrol, Italy. Graduated in law, he was Mayor of Fiè and President of the Consortium of Municipalities of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano until 2013. In 2019 he starts his second mandate as President of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, after the first election in 2014. He is also President of the Autonomous Region of Trentino Alto Adige / Südtirol and, from October 2017, President of the Euregio Tyrol-Alto Adige-Trentino EGTC.

[@ArnoKompatscher](#) [@ProvinciaBZ](#)



Carlo Lavalle

has over 25 years of experience in modelling and data analysis for policy applications. Since 1990, he is with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. He is involved in scientific policy support in the fields of urban and regional development. Carlo coordinates the development of the LUISA Territorial Modelling Platform and of the EC Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies.

[@EU_ScienceHub](#)



Claire Lelarge

is a Professor of Economics at Paris-Sud and a research affiliate with CEPR. Prior to that, she has held positions at the French Statistical Institute, at the French Ministry for Industry, at the French central bank and at the OECD. She has also been a researcher at CREST and a visiting researcher at the Centre for Economic Performance of the LSE. She specializes in the analysis of firms' dynamics and organizational strategies.

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Alexander C. Lembcke

is an Economist and Policy Analyst at the OECD's Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. His role is to provide economic analysis and empirical evidence that supports the development of policies for all divisions in the Centre. In this capacity, he is responsible for economic analysis on productivity, transport infrastructure and innovation in cities and regions. Alexander is part of the OECD Team of the newly created OECD Spatial Productivity Lab at the OECD Trento Centre. The Lab analyses the mechanisms of the catching up process of regions and cities that are lagging behind the productivity frontier. He has co-authored many articles and reports, including the recently launched OECD report "Productivity and Jobs in a Globalised World: (How) Can All Regions Benefit?".

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Patrick Lenain

is Assistant Director and Head of Division in the Economics Department of the OECD. He leads a team of OECD economists who provide economic advice to the governments of Australia, China, Denmark, Estonia, South-East Asian countries and United States. This advice is based on empirical research and econometric tools applied to household and firm-level surveys, administrative tax data and social records. He was also an Adjunct Professor of Economics at Université de Paris-Est, where he taught macroeconomic policy and research methodology. Before joining the OECD, he had a career of 15 years at the IMF. He has also served as senior advisor to the French Treasury and the European Commission.

[@P_Lenain](#) [@OECEconomy](#)



Clément Mazet-Sonilhac

is a Research Economist in the Division for Microeconomic and Structural Studies at Banque de France and a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Economics at Sciences Po, Paris, under the supervision of Thomas Chaney. His research interests are in international trade, firm dynamics and the evaluation of public policies.

[@banquedefrance](#)



Philip McCann

is Professor of Urban and Regional Economics in the University of Sheffield Management School. He is also the Tagliaferri Research Fellow in the Department of Land Economy at the University of Cambridge 2015-2018 and Honorary Professor of Economic Geography in the Faculty of Spatial Sciences at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands, 2017-2022. He is one of the world's most highly cited and widely published spatial economists and economic geographers of his generation. He has also been a Special Adviser to two European Commissioners, an advisor to the European Commission, the OECD, the European Investment Bank, as well as government ministries and research institutes in several countries.

[@sheffielduni](#)



Ana Isabel Moreno Monroy

is an Economist at the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities at the OECD. Previously she worked as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, and as Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellow at the Rovira i Virgili University and the London School of Economics. In her research she uses geo-spatial data and economic and geography methods to contribute to the design of social inclusion policies. She has published in leading academic journals including the Journal of Development Economics and Regional Science and Urban Economics. Ana has a Masters and a Ph.D. in Economics degrees from the University of Groningen.

[@Moreno_OECD](#) [@OECD_local](#)



Giuseppe Nicoletti

has been heading since 2004 the Structural Policy Analysis Division at the OECD Economics Department, where he is in charge of cross-country structural studies. He supervises research in several areas, including productivity, finance, labour markets and green growth, and shares responsibility for managing the Global Forum on Productivity. He has designed and implemented the first vintages of the OECD Product Market regulation indicators and has published extensively in journals (e.g. *Journal of Monetary Economics*, *the Economic Journal*, *the Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization*, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, *Economic Policy*), and collective volumes focusing on the influence of policies and institutions on the determinants of growth and productivity. Giuseppe previously worked as a senior economist at the OECD and at the Italian Antitrust Authority. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from New York University.

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Joaquim Oliveira Martins

is the Deputy Director of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. He was previously the Head of the OECD Regional Development Policy Division and supervised projects on regional and urban economics, governance, regional statistics and well-being. He was the Head of the OECD Structural Economic Statistics Division, where he focused on Trade & Globalisation studies, Productivity measurement and Business statistics. He is author of many academic articles and OECD publications.

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Mauro Pisu

is a Senior Economist in the Country Studies Branch of the Economics Department of the OECD and Policy Associate in the Leverhulme Centre for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy (GEP) at the University of Nottingham. At the OECD he worked for the Brazil/Indonesia country desk and the Public Economics division. Before joining the OECD, he held positions as Research Economist at the National Bank of Belgium and Research Fellow at GEP, working on applied international trade. He obtained his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Nottingham in 2005.

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Alessandra Proto

is the Acting Head of the OECD Trento Centre for Local Development, based in Italy. Through its activities the OECD Trento Centre for Local Development provides policy advice and develops capacities for the effective design and implementation of policies that are tailored to local needs and focused on the key drivers of local economic growth and well-being in OECD Member and non Member countries. The Trento Centre also hosts the OECD Spatial Productivity Lab, which develops analysis on spatial productivity with the aim of understanding how regional rural and urban policies can help to achieve more inclusive and dynamic growth. Alessandra also contributed to launching and developing the OECD work on culture and local development.

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Ottavio Ricchi

is Head of Unit in the Economic and Financial Analysis and Planning Directorate of the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance and he is responsible for forecasting and analysis of the Italian economy. From 2008 to 2012 he was Head of Unit in the Studies and Research Division of the State General Accounting Department of the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance and from 1998 to 2007 he was a Member of the Council of Experts at the Treasury Department. Before joining the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance, he worked as a country economist for the economics organisation Global Insight (formerly DRI) and as a research fellow at the University of Strathclyde. He holds a M.Sc. in economics degree from the University of York (UK) and a Ph.D. in Economics degree from the University of Exeter (UK). His main areas of interest include international economics, public finance and economic modelling.

[@MEF_GOV](#)



Douglas Sutherland

is the Head of Desk for the United States in the OECD's Economics Department. His main responsibilities include preparing regular projections for the U.S. economy and producing the biannual OECD Economic Survey of the United States.

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Flavia Terribile

has been the Chair of the OECD Regional Development Policy Committee since 2018 and a member of the Bureau for ten years, contributing to a wide range of projects and activities with OECD and partner countries. As Senior Advisor at the Programming, Evaluation and Analysis Unit of the Presidency of Italy's Council of Ministers (Prime Minister's Office), she oversees high-level inter-institutional groups aimed at assessing the impact of regional development programmes on targeted geographical areas and elaborating macroeconomic scenarios and forecasts for allocation of EU financial resources to Italy's Regions. Ms. Flavia Terribile has held several senior positions as a Government Official in the Italian Public Administration since 1998 (within the Ministry of Economy and Finance until 2006, and the Ministry of Economic Development in 2006-2015).

[@FlaviaTerribile](#)



Mercedes Teruel

is an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili. Her research interests are firm growth, IO and innovation. She has published in Small Business Economics, Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization, Industrial and Corporate Change and also Research Policy, among others. She is a winner of the Richard R. Nelson Prize (2016).

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Jonathan Timmis

is an Economist at the OECD's Productivity and Business Dynamics Division and an Affiliate of University of Nottingham's Globalisation and Economic Policy research centre. He studies digitalisation, firm performance and globalisation. His work has been published in academic journals such as the Journal of Economic Behaviour & Organization and presented at conferences including the NBER Summer Institute and NBER Digitalization and Productivity Workshops.

[@JonathanTimmis](#)

Workshop on Spatial Dimensions of Productivity

28-29 March 2019 | Bolzano, Italy

VENUE

Centro Trevi, via dei Cappuccini 28, Bolzano, Italy

CONTACT INFORMATION

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