Market Dynamics, Competition and the Role of Industrial Policy

14–15 MAY 2020 IN BERLIN, GERMANY

DRAFT AGENDA AND INVITATION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE OECD
GLOBAL FORUM ON PRODUCTIVITY 2020

KNOWLEDGE PARTNER | BertelsmannStiftung
Dear Colleagues,

Productivity growth is the key source of rising incomes and living standards over the long run. Alas, despite recent technological advances, productivity growth continues to disappoint in most countries around the world. Digital technologies offer vast potential for improvements, but also lead to new challenges relating to market power, concentration and competition in general. Governments need to revamp and upgrade their public policies – including notably industrial and competition policy – for our modern era to achieve sustainable and widespread productivity gains across the overall economy.

To gain new insights into these issues, please accept our invitation to join us at the 2020 Annual Conference of the Global Forum on Productivity, jointly organised by the Federal Ministry of Economy and Energy (BMWi) and the OECD, where several distinguished academic speakers and high-level policymakers will be discussing them over two days.

We hope you can join us in Berlin!

Peter Altmaier
Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany

Ángel Gurría
Secretary-General of the OECD
Background

This year’s conference topic is “Market Dynamics, Competition and the Role of Industrial Policy”: Digital technologies and business models drive productivity growth and are key to job creation and prosperity. They have the potential to allow for “scale without mass” and to enable innovative start-ups to grow and gain large market shares. However, they can also create “winner takes most” dynamics, market concentration and rising productivity gaps across firms. How do these developments affect market dynamics and competition in interconnected economies and what role can modern industrial policy play to promote structural change while maintaining a “level playing field” to ensure fair competition in global markets?

The Global Forum on Productivity

The OECD Global Forum on Productivity (GFP) aims to foster international co-operation between public bodies with responsibility for promoting productivity-enhancing policies. It was set up by interested OECD member states and other countries and provides a platform on which participants 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. High productivity growth is seen as the “key to prosperity” over the long run. It opens up opportunities for growth in times of demographic change, creates scope for the distribution of wealth, secures international competitiveness, enables the financing of a high level of public services and facilitates the provision of care for an increasing number of older people. By advising on productivity enhancing policies, the GFP therefore contributes to meeting these broader objectives.
Programme

Thursday, 14 May 2020

8:30 - 9:30  Registration and coffee

9:30 - 9:45  Opening of the conference
Peter Altmaier, German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy

9:45 - 10:00  Welcoming address
Ángel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD

10:00 - 11:20  Policy Panel: Modern industrial policy – Time for a new paradigm?
How can industrial policy promote structural transformation amidst rapid digital change while maintaining business dynamism, productivity growth and an international “level playing field” for fair competition?

Moderator: Philipp Steinberg, Director-General for Economic Policy, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

Panellists:
Diane Coyle, Professor of Public Policy, University of Cambridge
Dalia Marin, Professor for International Economics, University of Munich
Dirk Pilat, Deputy Director of the Science, Technology and Innovation Directorate, OECD
Jean Pisani-Ferry, Professor of Economics, Sciences Po and Hertie School

Q&A session and general discussion

11:20 - 12:20  Keynote speech
Philippe Aghion, Professor of Economics, London School of Economics and Collège de France

Moderator: Chiara Criscuolo, Head of the Productivity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Division, OECD

12:20 - 13:30  Lunch buffet
13:30 - 15:00 

Session 1: Global value chains and R&D in a changing global economic context

How does import competition affect R&D and productivity of domestic firms?
What role does the economic rise of China play in this context? Is global value chain integration still a driver of competitiveness and under which circumstances?

Chair: Klaus Deutsch, Head of Department Research, Industrial and Economic Policy, BDI e.V. – The Voice of German Industry

Speakers:

Pian Shu, Assistant Professor in Strategy and Innovation, Georgia Institute of Technology
"Foreign Competition and Domestic Innovation: Evidence from U.S. Patents"

Matthias Mertens, Economist, Halle Institute for Economic Research and Coordinator of the Scientific Staff, CompNet
"Import Competition and Firm Productivity: Evidence from German Manufacturing"

Margit Molnar, Head of the China Desk, OECD
"Patenting Behaviour of Chinese Firms"

Lead Discussant: Alonso Alfaro Urena, Researcher at Central Bank of Costa Rica

15:00 - 16:00 

Keynote speech

Ufuk Akcigit, Professor of Economics, University of Chicago

Moderator: Winfried Horstmann, Director-General for Industrial Policy, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (tbc)

16:00 - 16:20 

Coffee break

16:20 - 17:50 

Session 2: Market dynamics, digitalisation and inclusive productivity

How do weaker market dynamics and growing productivity dispersion affect productivity growth and inclusiveness? How can policies ensure that the benefits from digitalisation are shared equally between consumers, employees and firms?

Chair: Armando García Schmidt, Senior Project Manager, Bertelsmann Stiftung

Setting the Scene: Giuseppe Nicoletti, Head of the Structural Policy Analysis Division, OECD

Speakers:

Sara Cruz, Junior Researcher at NIPE, University of Minho
"Exit and Recovery of Financially Distressed Firms: The Role of Management"

Anna Rosso, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Milan
"Inequality in Productivity and Access to Capital Markets: Geography and Finance of Leaders and Laggards"

Lead Discussant: Luke Rehill, Economist, Department of Finance, Ireland

17:50 - 18:00 

Wrap-up

Álvaro Santos Pereira, Director of the Economics Department, Country Studies Branch, OECD

19:00 - 21:30 

Dinner reception at the Bertelsmann Stiftung

Welcome address and speech

Location: Unter den Linden 1, 10117 Berlin. Please note that a bus transfer will be organised.
Friday, 15 May 2020

8:30 - 9:30  Breakfast reception at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

9:30 - 9:45  Opening remarks
Elisabeth Winkelmeier-Becker, Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

9:45 – 10:00  Introduction
Laurence Boone, Chief Economist of the OECD

10:00 - 11:00  Keynote speech
Thomas Philippon, Professor of Finance, New York University

Moderator: Murray Sherwin, Chair, New Zealand Productivity Commission

11:00 - 12:20  Panel discussion: Taming the 'Superstars' – How to promote competition and productivity
What are the drivers of (online) pricing, markups and concentration in the digital era, how does this affect productivity and what are the implications for competition policy, regulatory frameworks and antitrust policy?

Moderator: Luiz De Mello, Director of the Economics Department, Policy Studies Branch, OECD
Panellists:
Cristina Caffarra, Head of the Competition Team, Charles River Associates
Jason Furman, Professor of the Practice of Economic Policy, Harvard Kennedy School and Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics
Achim Wambach, Chairman of the German Monopoly Commission and President of the ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research
Adam Cohen, Director of Economic Policy, Google

Q&A session and general discussion

12:20 - 13:30  Lunch buffet
Session 3: Empirical insights into market power and concentration
How to measure, evaluate and address market power on product and labor markets? Which types of firms have driven the rise of markups in different countries?

Chair: Tomoko Hayashi, Director-General for Economic and Fiscal Affairs, Cabinet Office of Japan

Setting the scene: Filippo di Mauro, Chairman, CompNet

Speakers:
Ioana Marinescu, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Pennsylvania
“Estimating Labour Market Power”
Romain Duval, Advisor to Chief Economist and Head of Structural Reforms Unit, Research Department, IMF
“The Rise of Corporate Market Power and Its Macroeconomic Effects”
Aitor Lacuesta, Head of the Structural Analysis Division, Banco de España
“Raising Markups to Survive: Small Spanish Firms during the Great Recession”

Lead Discussant: Dan Andrews, Chief Advisor in the Macroeconomic Modelling and Policy Division, Australian Treasury

15:15 - 15:45 Coffee break

15:45 - 17:15 Session 4: Digitalisation, competition and innovation
What consequences do network effects and “winner-take-most-dynamics” have for competition, productivity and innovation? What are the long-term effects on growth and welfare?

Chair: Torben Stühmeier, Project Manager, Bertelsmann Stiftung

Speakers:
Chiara Criscuolo, Head of the Productivity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Division, OECD
“The role of Intangible Assets for Industry Concentration”
Bernhard Ganglmair, Head of Junior Research Group “Competition and Innovation”, ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research
“Price Markups, Competition, and Productivity: Evidence from Germany”
Tomaso Duso, Head of the Firms and Markets Department, German Institute for Economic Research
“Merger Policy in Digital Markets: An Ex-Post Assessment”

Lead Discussant: tbc

17:15 - 18:00 Wrap-up session and way forward
Andrew Wyckoff, Director for Science, Technology and Innovation, OECD
Philipp Steinberg, Director-General for Economic Policy, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
Ottavio Ricchi, Head of Unit, Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance

18:00 End of Conference
Conference venue

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
Scharnhorststraße 34-37,
10115 Berlin, Germany

Public transportation

**Bus:** 120, 142, 245, 123, 147
(Bus stop: Invalidenpark)

**Underground train:**
U6 (Subway stop: Naturkundemuseum),
U55 (Subway stop: Central Station)

**S-Bahn city train:** S3, S5, S7, S75
(Train stop: Central Station)

**Tram:** M5 (Tramway stop: Invalidenpark)

**By rail:** via Berlin Central Station
(approx. 10 minutes walking distance
to the Ministry)

**Connection from Tegel Airport:**
JetExpressBus TXL via Hauptbahnhof
(Bus stop: Invalidenpark)

**Connection from Schönefeld Airport:**
S-Bahn city train S9 or RB14 / RE7
(Train stop: Central Station)

Contacts

For any queries, please contact:
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More information on the conference and registration can be found here.
Social media: @OECDconomy, @OECDInnovation, @BMWi_Bund and @BMWi_Econ