



call for papers

COMPETITIVE GROWTH OF THE ADRIATIC – DANUBE - BLACK SEA REGION IN THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMY

deadline for submission: march 1st 2010

selected articles will appear in the refereed Section of Est-Ovest

Est-Ovest is a non-profit Italian-based quarterly journal online, subject to peer review. Est-Ovest is indexed/abstracted by EconLit (AEA-American Economic Association, www.econlit.org).



The journal is edited in collaboration with academics from following University Departments: Agricultural Economics and Engineering (University of Bologna), Economics and Statistics (University of Trieste), Economics (University of Udine), Economics (University of Venice Ca' Foscari).
The last issue of Est-Ovest can be viewed [here](#). Registration is free of charge.

While waiting for the recession to fade-out, the conditions for the resurgence of growth are coming to the forefront of the current economic debate, particularly for the possible role of an Enlarged Europe in the globally economy. Whilst national policies to sustain demand, firms, and employment remain under scrutiny, a somewhat minor attention has been paid to the international competitiveness of the wider region **created by the dramatic increase in international trade and trans-national production within the European Union.** If we look at the region encompassed by the Adriatic Sea, the basin of the Danube and the Black Sea - which includes the new member states (NMS), the new potential entrants in South-East Europe (SEE) and the countries of the so called New Eastern Neighbourhood (NEN) – we can see an impressive upsurge in trade and financial flows, direct investment, labour movement and a certain coordination of strategic infrastructures.

But under which conditions will such a region develop an even more integrated and competitive economy, whilst the crisis unfolds and policy measures are taken?

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At least two large areas of analysis are worth considering in this respect.

Firstly, we need to reach a **better understanding of the past to ensure a more solid growth and stability for the future.**

Central and Eastern Europe has been a thriving area during the period 1994 through 2008 for the European Union, but particularly for neighboring countries like Germany, Austria and Italy. Is CEE still able to generate growth rates of 5% and more, as in the recent past? If so, under which conditions? If not, what is to be done to contain the threat of decline and to restart growth in the changed scenario of the global economy? Was convergence delivering a real development, or was it just the transient result of a larger process of financial integration? Can CEE rely on stronger domestic growth factors, or do CEE's growth perspectives hinge on the revival of global demand? These are only some of the questions open for investigation.

Secondly, we need to identify **the institutional structure that is better suited to support the revitalization of the region over the crisis (for old and new member states, as well as for current and potential candidates).** How to increase the potential of a region that is already so integrated across borders, whilst accounting for the differences that still remain? Now that the transition to a market economy is over, which policies and institutions are required to make sure that the region will be fitted to compete in the global economy?

To address these questions there are **many areas of interest:** the conditions of the labor markets; the development of human resources; the state of logistics and accessibility; the industrial culture; the degree of Research and Development; the span of local governance; the sharing of EU's principles. Studies in all these dimensions, particularly for the scope of related policies, will be strategic for a repositioning of the region in the global economy.

In particular, the following topics seem to be crucial, as an example:

➤ **The material basis of catching-up.**

Growth factors during 1999-2008. Productivity indexes and the underlying factors. The European industry policy. The opening up of domestic markets in the NMS-SEE-NNC. Assessments of the EU anti-trust policy. Internal and external conditions for recovery. Convergence and divergence after the crisis.

➤ **Financial system and growth.**

The cross/country and cross/region impact of the crisis. Real development or financial speculation? The responsibilities of the West. Similarities and differences of the banking systems. The role of insurance during the crisis and the prospects of recovery. Harmonization of the European financial markets.

➤ **The role of CEE-SEE-NNC's economies for EU growth.**

Strength and weakness of the area before and after the crisis. Degrees of socio-economic integration. Long supply-chains and their spatial pattern. Income structure, trends and income distribution after the crisis. Changes in household consumption. The development of trade between the EU-15 and its Eastern neighbors (or between Italy, Austria and Germany and the CEECs-SEECs-NNCs) over the transition period to the present. Comparative trade analysis for other regions of the world economy (i.e. Euro zone-USA-Chindia).

➤ **Domestic factors of competitiveness and new arrangements on the global market.**

Internal coherence in EU and national industrial policies in the region. The opening up of markets in the CEEs-SEECs-NNCs. An assessment of EU and national anti-trust policies. Business



demography and business mobility. Business environment and regional systems of firms: what future for industrial district? Evolution of inter-business relations. Repositioning in the international division of labor. Economic relations with BRICs - other producers of raw materials - Latin America. The features of global competition and the role of non-EU FDI.

➤ **The CEE–SEEC–NNC region is still strategic for the EU?**

Proposals for the implementation of an Adriatic-Danubian-Black Sea region that is integrated and competitive in the new global economy: new lines of research by sector and by topic.

a. agriculture, energy, environment

The global crisis has **multiple dimensions** that in recent months have been overshadowed by the financial aspects. Rising costs of energy and grain, food insecurity, water scarcity issues are not secondary but interdependent issues. They are even more serious considering the impact of climate change. **But the crisis is also an opportunity** to address problems of waste, efficiency and process innovation in agriculture and rural development, energy and environmental policies. What kind of relationship is there between the **crisis and sustainability** in the countries of CEE - SEE - NN?

The financial crisis has followed the rise in grain prices in 2007 and the record harvests of 2008 (followed by a significant drop in prices). **Structural problems and long-term difficulties** were pointed out: shortage of land and water resources, inadequate investments in rural and research infrastructures, input costs, difficulties in adapting to climate change. Crisis management in the agricultural sector requires strategies, tools and new policies.

What answers can be given to the effects of the crisis in agriculture and rural development in the countries of the area? **What similarities and differences** can be highlighted between the new EU Member States and candidate countries and potential candidates?

c. human capital, labor markets, migration flows

Growth decomposition and regional disparity analysis. The analysis of convergence and divergence processes - across regions and within a region - can derive useful information from the identification of specific dynamics of diverse territories, by means of simulations and scenario analysis on future trends and by devising lines of

b. macroeconomic trends

Analysis and discussion of various macroeconomic indicators and trends in EU countries, at different levels of aggregation, by region, sector, system of firms. The analysis should add to the general debate on the interpretation of available statistical data, for growth and policy purposes.

Growth, size, volatility. Recent literature is now revolving around the transmission of various shocks between the macroeconomic and the microeconomic level. In the case of Italy, evidence suggests that the country is diverging from the pattern of a Schumpeterian competition. Uncertain is the situation for Central and Eastern Europe. These dynamics deserve exploring by deepening the relationship between turnover and trends of the indices of productivity and competitiveness of various productive sectors, of country-systems and of wider regional areas, based on different aggregation levels between firms, sectors, districts, local networks and transnational companies.

Institutional Building. Very useful are studies providing a better definition and assessment of the competitive rules of markets and the participation levels of Europeans resident in different countries. Their implementation is also a matter of interest in the framework of EU enlargement and of institutional building after enlargement.

d. manufactures, entrepreneurship, innovation

Technology innovation, Research and Development, production structures. For developed countries growth is increasingly related to the development of new technologies, new products and to the formation of human capital. Crucial is the relation between knowledge policy and intellectual property. Yet a number of issues



action to support economic and industrial policies.

Consequences of population aging. The phenomenon has important consequences for the formation of pension savings, the management of public finances, welfare policies, social security and health systems, labor markets, consumption patterns and risk management. In this context both theoretical and empirical analyses (with particular emphasis on data collection) are highly relevant.

Social security systems, international competition and migration flows. Given the different structure of social security systems, the international competition and migration processes could trigger a "race to the bottom" of social public policies, also as a result of citizens' electoral choices. Research in this field should explain how you can secure the benefits of trade integration and factor mobility without reducing the size of social security systems.

remain open to investigation, i.e.: a) the connection between R&D and financial institutions; b) the importance of public incentives for research and education; c) the impact of competition, firm size and international trade on technology improvement; and d) the role of industry policies and anti-trust legislation on market structures.

International trade and industrial development. Recent trends in international trade signal the need to develop internationalization strategies based on original combinations of cost, productivity and product quality. New approaches are needed to single out the relation between and among firms' strategies, industrial dynamics and the comparative/competitive advantages of countries on international markets. Welcome are studies related to: a) the effects of market integration on welfare systems, in the case of countries endowed with different human capital and productive capabilities; b) the relation between the competitive dynamics on financial markets and the division of labor among firms under outsourcing.

e. connecting/accessing infrastructures

The European Union faces an important challenge: increase Europe's accessibility while limiting the social, energy and environmental pressures caused by transport. This challenge has emerged at the same time as European economies and their transport systems are integrating.

Stated objectives of international infrastructural accessibility and transport policies are:

- improve **mobility** with efficient and effective **transport systems**;
- **connect internationally territories** reinforcing sustainable mobility, protection and innovation
- **protect the environment** to ensure energy security
- promote **minimum labor standards** in the sector and protect passengers and citizens.

Achieving the right balance between mobility, accessibility, energy and environmental impact still proves to be a difficult task at European level. For this reason it is important to keep monitoring the European transport integration process, and strengthening consistent transport policies aimed

f. policies, regional institutions, local governance

Evaluation of public policies. The importance of a thorough evaluation of the performance of public policies has increased in recent times. It concerns: education, health care, labor and industrial policies. It is indeed difficult to measure the outcome of such policies because of the lack of a reliable *measure* of their effects. A research agenda on this topic will help public administrations to plan in advance and evaluate ex-post both the efficiency and the effectiveness of their actions.

Monetary policy. Studies on the transmission channels of the EU monetary policies should focus on its means, ends and limits, with respect to old and new members, as well as to potential entrants. Of relevance are also the EU exchange rate policy, and the international role of the Euro, in light of a revision of the international monetary system.

Regulation and finance. As a result of the current financial crisis, this topic requires a deeper investigation on the recent causes of inefficiency and instability in the allocation of risks and the generation of credit for productive purposes. Research should provide indications as to how regulators and monetary policies can help markets



at balancing mobility with environmental and energy issues.

Articles are welcome which explore issues such as: modal shift favoring more energy-efficient transport modes; the promotion of environmentally-friendly modes such as cycling and walking; behavioral changes, coordination and optimal use of different modes of transport; internalization of external costs; refocusing of transport subsidies; reduction of total transport demand (passenger and freight); efficiency improvements such as load factor increase; improved freight distribution practices and design/provision of better infrastructures; technological advances in transport vehicles, both for passengers and for freight; construction and maintenance of infrastructures.

solve the “distortion of incentives” emerging from the existence of asymmetric information and the costs of monitoring individual actions.

European (EIS) and Regional Innovation Scoreboard. The development of systems of indicators of regional processes of innovation will allow us to measure research, technology transfer and human capital. Innovation, however, also serves in the social, environmental and institutional sphere. Statistical tools should be compared and new paths for detection of development indicators should be identified.

within these research topics Est-Ovest invites specialists and researchers in ...

- political economy, international economics, industrial economics, finance, demography, statistics, labor economics, development economics, economic policy
- transport economics, regional economics, agrarian economics, economics of energy sources, environmental economics
- European integration law, European institutions, regional institutions law, local development governance, evaluation techniques

... to contribute

selected articles will appear in the 2010 online issues of [Est-Ovest](#)

- issue # 1: january - march
- issue # 2: april - june
- issue # 3: july - september
- special issue(s): to be considered

international conference

In relation to the development of the call, *Est-Ovest* plans to launch a final event (**in autumn 2010**) in the form of an International Conference to highlight, in collaboration with the authors of the selected articles and other experts, various aspects of the regional economic situation and their geo-political implications.

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production schedule

- **December 15th 2009 - March 1st 2010: Proposals due to the Editorial board** (redazione@est-ovest.eu)
- Within 15 days: Authors notified of topic's acceptance
- Within 60 days from the acceptance: Complete draft due for review
- Within 30 days from the reception: Review results back to the authors

submitting your article

- All submissions must be delivered as an e-mail attachment in MS Word to redazione@est-ovest.eu.
- Abstracts, articles as well as all any relevant information and correspondence should be **written in English**.
- Articles must be original and not under simultaneous consideration for publication elsewhere, either in part or full.
- All articles will be subject to anonymous peer review process and will be evaluated by at least two ranked experts.
- Authors submitting articles for publication warrant that their work is not an infringement of any existing copyright.

presentation and lay-out

- **Proposals to be submitted via email to redazione@est-ovest.eu must include:** abstracts up to 500 words, a cover sheet containing the article's title, and full particulars of the author (first and last name, affiliation, complete return address, telephone, fax, e-mail address).
- **Articles** should not exceed 9,000 words, including tables, figures, graphs, footnotes and references. Title of the article, name, qualifications and institutional affiliation of the author should appear in the first page of the Word file.
- Articles should normally be organized into different sections, using no more than 3 grades of headings.
- All publications cited in the text should be presented in a final list of References. In the text refer to the author's name and year of publication: "... Rossi (1997)...", or "... (Rossi, 1997)..."

References:

- Rossi M. (1997), Title, AK Publisher, Berlin.
- Rossi M. (2002), «Title», Journal..., 2, October, 122-136.
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- Tables and figures, designated by Arabic numbers and referred to in the text by number (Figure 1, Table 1), should be supplied on separate pages at the end of the paper; please indicate with the appropriate No. in the text the approximate location of the tables and figures.
- Non-Latin characters with diacritical marks (č, š, ć, etc.) are to be written.
- The Editors reserve the right to adjust style to certain standards of uniformity.
- For any further information please contact redazione@est-ovest.eu.

this is an open call, please distribute it freely!

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you can also submit other papers and articles to "Est-Ovest" outside this call ([see here](#))

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