

Regional Studies Journal Roundtable
“Cohesion Policy of the European Union
after the Economic Crisis & Brexit: Back to
National Regional Policies?”

Chair: Riccardo Crescenzi - London School of Economics, United Kingdom

Fratesi, Ugo - Politecnico di Milano, Italy

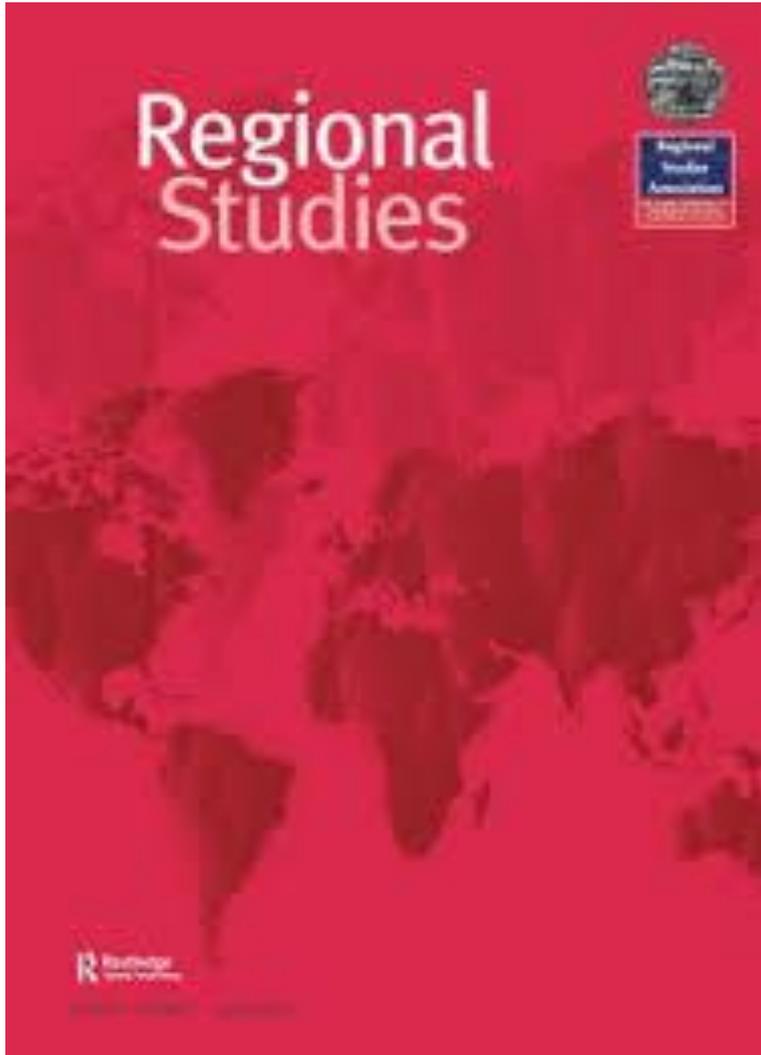
Gilland, Moray - European Commission, Belgium

Monastiriotis, Vassilis - London School of Economics, UK

Polverari, Laura - EPRC, University of Strathclyde, UK

Wostner, Peter - Government Office for Development and
European Cohesion Policy, Slovenia

Special Issue: “EU Cohesion Policy: Back to National Regional Policies?”



Editors: R. Crescenzi, U. Fratesi, V. Monastiriotis

- Ten papers submitted now at advance stage
- Explores the features of EU Cohesion Policy, its impacts on regional outcomes as well as the socio-economic, political and institutional factors conditioning these processes.
- Special attention is devoted **to the (re)emerging role of national-level conditions and policies** both as factors conditioning the impacts of the policy and heterogeneous models of policy implementation.

European Union

Add to myFT

Juncker edges away from principle of ever closer union

Drop some pan-European policies and 'do less more efficiently', says commission chief



© Reuters

MARCH 1, 2017 Arthur Beesley in Brussels

EU states could regain control over matters ranging from regional development to consumer protection, [Jean-Claude Juncker](#), has suggested, setting out ideas to shore up the bloc after [Brexit](#).

A lot of policymaking could be renationalised as part of a plan in which the EU's 27 remaining countries could "do less more efficiently" and act more decisively on a smaller range of common priorities, the [European Commission president](#) said.

“Sometimes less is more. The EU27 could focus on areas where we make a real difference,”

“We should not make people believe that we can deliver the sun and the moon if we are only able to deliver a telescope.”

Key questions for the Panel:

- Do regions in all Member States benefit from EU Cohesion Policy?
- What is the EU value added generated by Cohesion Policy?
- **Does it still make sense to transfer national resources to fund an EU-level regional policy? Why? What is the evidence?**

Vassilis Monastiriotis
London School of Economics, UK

Why should CP be an EU competence?

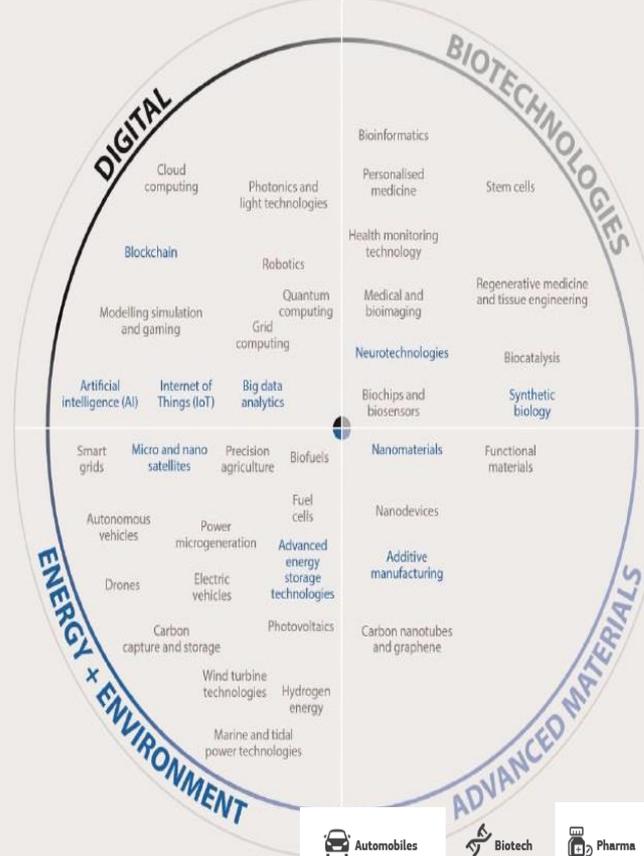
- **Issue of **capacity** and effectiveness**
 - Countries with no tradition of / capacity for regional policy
 - Mobilisation of regional actors ‘horizontally’ across space
 - (Cost-)effectiveness of common policy framework and evaluation
- **Issue of ‘the functions of **government**’**
 - Allocation (Yes: see links to investment, strategies, innovation, ‘smartness’)
 - Stabilisation (Yes: see adjustment of national contribution reqs during crisis)
 - Redistribution (not really! today’s CP not pork-barrel, not side-payment)
- **Issue of **integration** / convergence (making EMU work)**
 - Pursuing common objectives/‘models’ (e.g., smart spec; place-v-people)
 - Instrument for building-up specialisations and resilience – relying on macroeconomic policy alone (SGP/OMT/...) is in fact more costly (see crisis)
- **Issue of institution- and **identity**-building**
 - ‘Creeping competence’ and/versus the issue of alignment of policies (MIP, EDP, European Semester, idea of an EU ‘ministry of economy’)
 - Common policy for common polity: solidarity, co-responsibility, joint effort

Peter Wostner

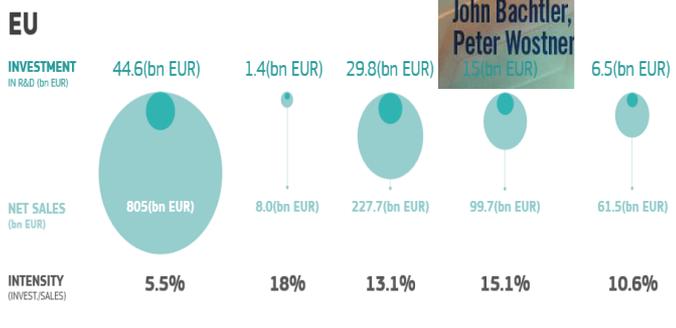
Government Office for Development and European
Cohesion Policy, Slovenia

TOWARDS COHESION POLICY 4.0

STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH



- Automobiles
- Biotech
- Pharma
- Hardware
- Software & Internet

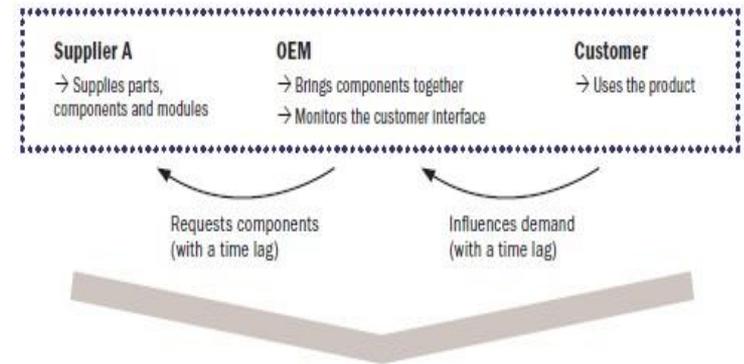


John Bachtler, Peter Wostner, Ira Martins

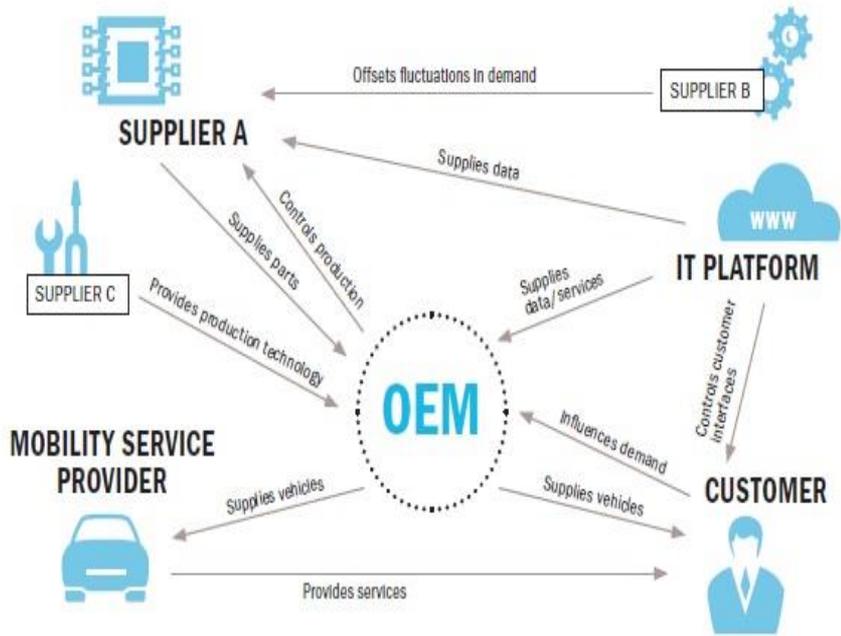
IN THE FUTURE, VALUE WILL BE ADDED ACROSS NETWORKS OF MANY CLOSELY CONNECTED PLAYERS WHO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER IN REAL TIME

Example: Impact of the digital transformation on the automotive industry

From rigid value chains...



... to dynamic value-added networks



Source: Roland Berger

Laura Polverari

EPRC, University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom

What is the added value and does it still make sense to transfer national resources to fund a EU-level policy?

- **What has it achieved?**

- Variable evidence but evidence of positive impact
- Important role in counteracting effects of economic crisis
- The elephant in the room... comparatively to other policies:
 - More assessed & more stringently than other policies: transparency/data
 - Goal congestion! What are evaluating it against?

- **European added value?**

- Various dimensions historically, still largely relevant (Europeanisation)



- **Current trends**

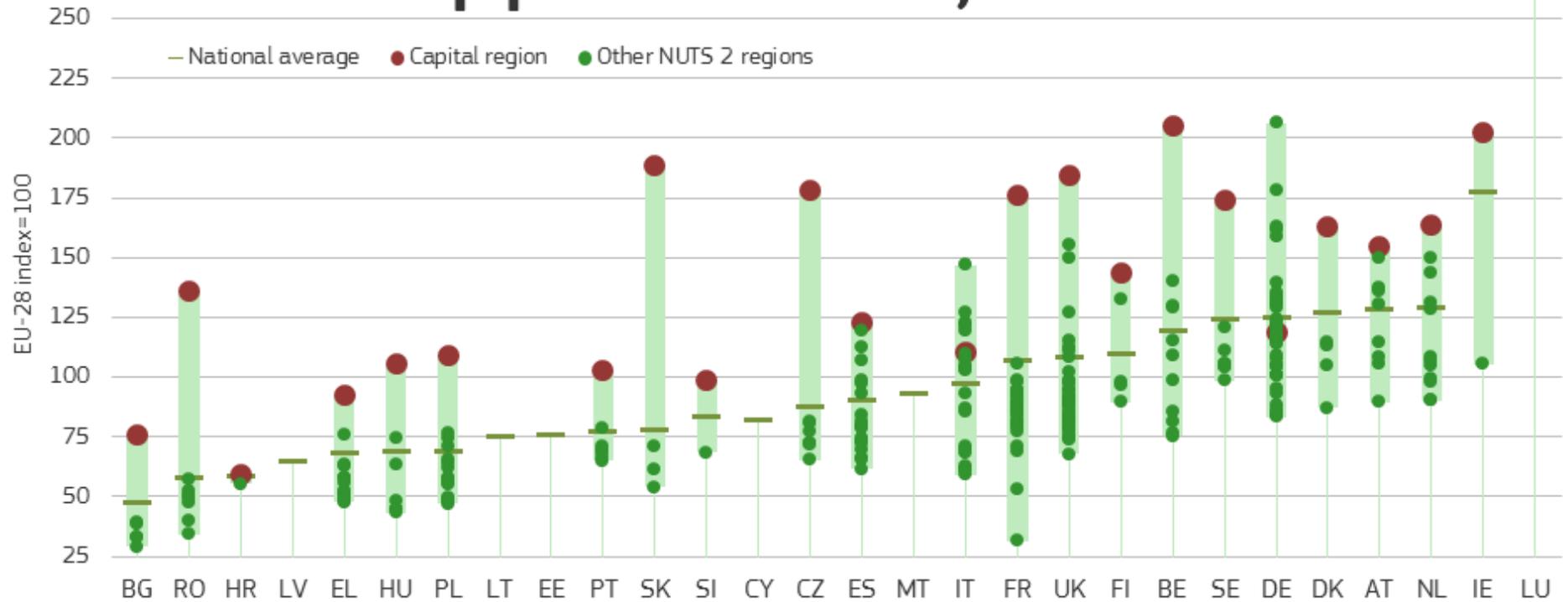
- Counter-europeanisation trend → embeddedness cannot be taken for granted
- Main element of AV: longer term focus → binding budgets to a long term vision, away from shorter-term, changing political interests → risk of re-patriation is weaker regional policies in the MSs

- **Challenge for current debate**

- Agree whether treaty goal still relevant → If so
 - Go back to Treaty, w/ more clarity on goals and no overload
 - Simplification
- Needs political ownership and better leadership: strong vision and enforcement capability...

Moray Gilland
European Commission, Belgium

Gdp per head in PPS, 2015



Ugo Fratesi
Politecnico di Milano, Italy

Cohesion Policy for Different Countries and Regions

- **Is Cohesion policy equally effective in all countries?**
 - The policy is different in different countries
 - When restricting to similar policies, the effectiveness is not the same in all countries
 - The effects act on different variables in different countries
- **The effectiveness of Cohesion Policy in different regions**
 - Inside the countries, regions get different impacts
 - Weak regions get more impact from CP
- **Where Cohesion Policy should invest to be most beneficial in the long-run**
 - Impact of expenditure on individual axes related to the presence of complementary territorial capital assets
 - Invest in complementary assets and achieve a balanced structure
 - Don't forget weak regions
- **Should the policy be maintained at regional level?**
 - EWRC focused on people, partnership, instruments and relaunch

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