

*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

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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

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## 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?

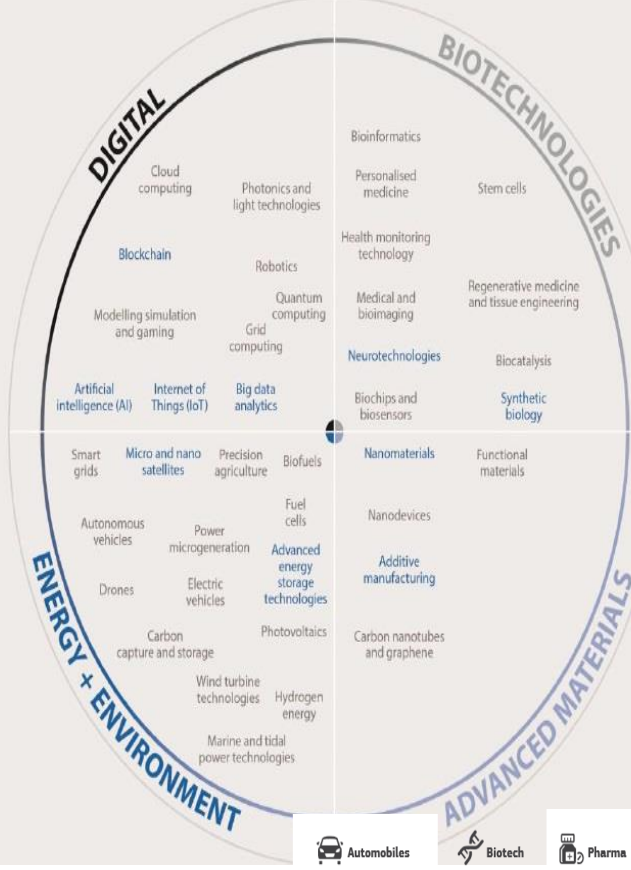
- **Issue of **capacity** and effectiveness**
  - Countries with no tradition of / capacity for regional policy
  - Mobilisation of regional actors ‘horizontally’ across space
  - (Cost-)effectiveness of common policy framework and evaluation
- **Issue of ‘the functions of **government**’**
  - Allocation (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



### EU

#### INVESTMENT IN R&D (bn EUR)



#### NET SALES (bn EUR)



#### INTENSITY (INVEST./SALES)



### US

#### INVESTMENT IN R&D (bn EUR)

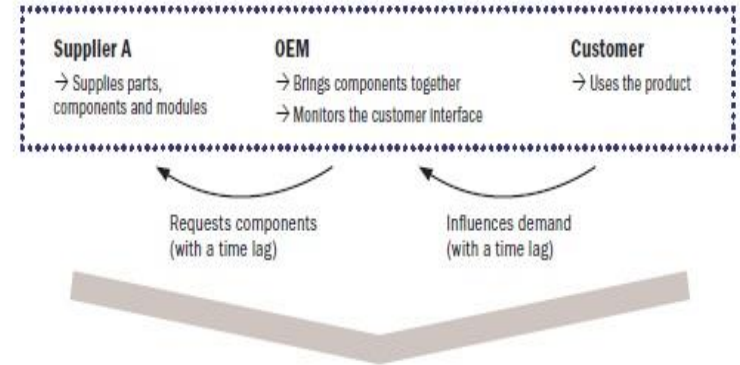


John Bachtler, Peter Wostner, Vera Martins

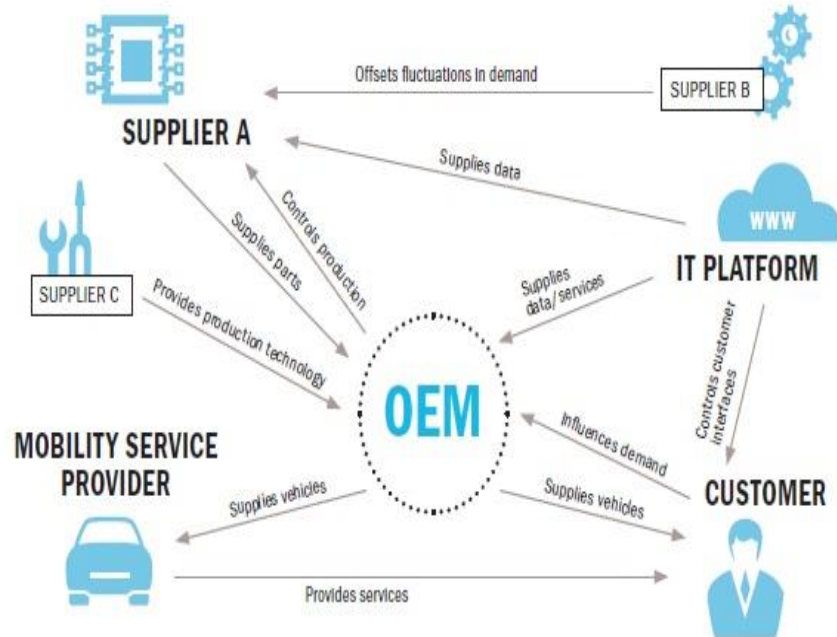
IN THE FUTURE, VALUE WILL BE ADDED ACROSS NETWORKS OF MANY CLOSELY CONNECTED PLAYERS WHO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER IN REAL TIME

Example: Impact of the digital transformation on the automotive industry

## From rigid value chains...



## ... to dynamic value-added networks





**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**

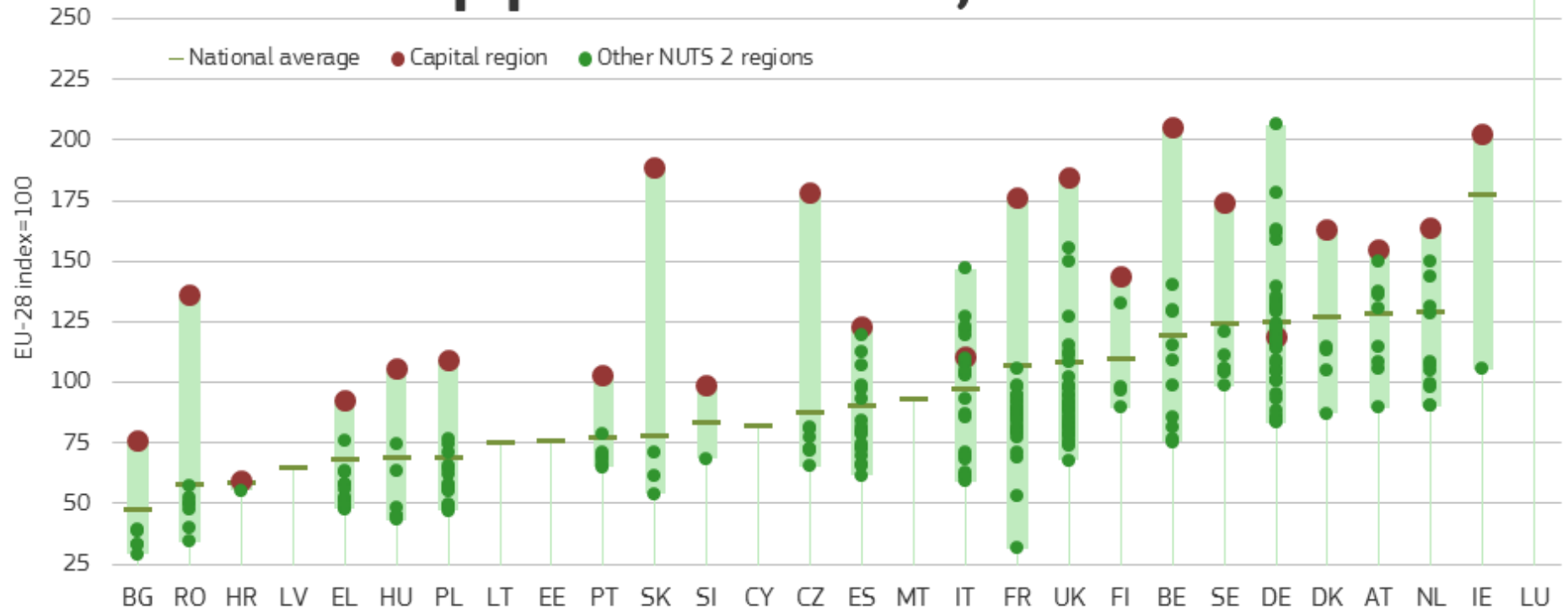
- Counter-europeanisation trend → embeddedness cannot be taken for granted
- Main element of AV: longer term focus → binding budgets to a long term vision, away from shorter-term, changing political interests → risk of re-patriation is weaker regional policies in the MSs

- **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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