
The European Union 50 Years On: Modelling Economics and Politics of European Integration

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The Sixth Europaeum Economic Workshop “The European Union 50 Years On: Modelling Economics and Politics of European Integration” took place in Prague, October 5–6, 2007. The workshop was organised at Charles University in Prague by the Institute of Economic Studies of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and was co-funded by the Czech Science Foundation, the CEZ Group and the Europaeum, a consortium of leading European universities. The Prague workshop continued in the same vein as the previous five Europaeum workshops, held at the University Paris I (2002), Oxford University (2002), Charles University in Prague (2004), Bologna University (2005), and University of Helsinki (2006).

The main aim of the event was to foster further joint research between the Europaeum and other leading universities, for both PhD candidates and senior staff, and bring them into the discussion on topics concerning economics and politics in the European Union.

The director of the Institute of Economic Studies, Michal Mejstřík, and the secretary general of the Europaeum consortium, Paul Flather of Oxford University, opened the workshop. Participants from 10 European universities and other institutions (Charles University in Prague, Bologna University, University of Helsinki, University of Turku, St Petersburg State University, University of Naples, Leiden University, the Au-

tonomous University of Barcelona, the Institute of Industrial Research in Vienna, and the Czech National Bank) presented 18 research papers. The contributions were grouped into six thematic sections.

The following papers were presented in the section “The Labour Market and Social Security”: Labour Market Policies and Outcomes in the EU-27, by Ricardo Rovelli from the University of Bologna; Immigration Policy and Social Security Reform: An Optimal Combination, by Gurgen Aslanyan from Charles University in Prague (CERGE-EI); and the Political Risk of Social Security: Evidence from Reforms in Hungary and the Czech Republic, by Juraj Kopecsni from Charles University in Prague.

The section “Cooperation and Conflict” included papers on game theoretical modelling: The Inefficient Centralisation of Imperfect Complements, by Martin Gregor from Charles University in Prague; Fish Wars: From Competition to Cooperation, by Andrey Garnaev from St. Petersburg State University; and Partial Cooperation and Non-Signatories Multiple Decision, by Lina Mallozzi from the University of Naples.

Three papers presented in the “EU Decision Making” section were focused on voting behaviour in EU institutions: Explaining Voting Behaviour in the Council of the European Union, by Madeleine O. Hosli from Leiden University; National, Political and Institutional Influence

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in European Union Decision Making, by František Turnovec from Charles University in Prague; and Budget Allocation in an Expanding EU by Mika Widgrén, from the Turku School of Economics.

Papers on monetary policy rules, international trade flows, foreign direct investments and industrial policies were presented in the sections “Monetary Policy and International Trade” and “Growth and Employment” with titles such as: Time-Varying Policy Neutral Rate in Real Time: Predictor of Future Inflation?, by Roman Horváth from the Czech National Bank and Charles University in Prague; The Monetary Policy Rules in EU-25: Heterogeneity and Common Patterns, by Bořek Vašíček from the Autonomous University of Barcelona; Determining Factors of Exports and Imports: A Synthesis of Explanatory Paradigms, by Vladimír Benáček from Charles University in Prague; Emission Policy in an Economic Union with Poison Technological Change, by Tapio Palokangas from University of Helsinki; Growth and Employment Potentials of Selected Technology

Fields, by Wolfgang Koller from the Institute of Industrial Research, Vienna; Foreign Direct Investment and Productivity Spillovers in Central and Eastern European Countries, by Adam Gerl from the Czech National Bank and Charles University in Prague; and Financial Integration of Stock Markets among New EU Member States and Euro Area, by Ian Babetskii from the Czech National Bank.

Two papers presented in the “Miscellaneous” section discussed topics of social choice and the empirical results of opinion surveys: More Borda Count Variations for Project Assessment, by Hannu Nurmi from the University of Turku and Home Bias among European Students, by Gianpaolo Rossini, University of Bologna.

The full texts of the contributions of some of the above-mentioned authors are published in this special issue of the AUCO Czech Economic Review.

The creative spirit of the meeting facilitated extensive discussions and encouraged the development of further inter-institutional research cooperation.