

Are there reasons for an unconditional yes to the European Union?

Topic: Perspectives on Structure and Change

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The consequences of the crisis period which have affected the economy from the Euro zone, although hasn't hit with the same intensity to the different countries which integrates the EU, have created similar worries and the urgent need, in our opinion, of revealing the social, political and especially, the economic effects that the reached integration levels can exert on the future of the "region". The objective of this analysis is to determine the incidence that the integration has supposed in the different economies, in structural terms, being conscious of the transcendence of this study for the Spanish economy case, in relation with its labor market and the change on its productive specialization. In the research we propose to analyze the periods previous and subsequent to the integration of our country in the EU and inquire into the common and uncommon elements shared with the Greek, Portuguese and Italian cases -because we consider that these economies departed from similar conditions and have followed different evolutions - comparing them with the more advanced economies, specifically France and Germany. In relation with the method used, the analyses are made over the common base of its IO tables for a wide period. In particular, the changes that will be studied are they which happened in these economies during the period 1995-2011, in a way that they could be described in detail the divergent performances in the economic exercises, when the prosperity has been the dominant characteristic and in those which have been affected by the economic crisis. The results of this investigation will be presented for a common and significant range of economic activities, so the possibility of considering if being part of the EU has modified the productive specialization in each country is now open, linking this specialization to a bigger grade of homogeneity. In other words, the EU has supposed the creation of a space that shares not only currency but also the productive diversification. In this sense, other result is centered on the analysis of the competitiveness and the factors of bigger vulnerability, connecting them with its labour markets.