

Multiregional Input-Output Analysis of the Social impacts of EU structural FUNDS

Topic: Analyses of the European Union

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Jean Monnet famous quote "We are not forming coalitions of states, we are uniting men" encapsulated one of the deepest meanings of the ideal vision of Europe: the social commitment. European leaders throughout the years are proudly waving the social Flag as one of its constitutive and also differentiating elements in comparison with other visions of development. Its importance is stressed in the Treaty on European Union which states that "The Union shall establish a highly competitive social market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress... Furthermore, it shall combat social exclusion and discrimination, and shall promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and protection of the rights of the child" (art 3.3. TUE). European commitments with the social agenda transcend its own boundaries and "In its relations with the wider world, the Union shall uphold and promote its values and interests and contribute to the protection of its citizens. It shall contribute to the eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights, in particular the rights of the child..." (art 3.5. TUE).

The European Union structural Funds ("The Funds") had played a major role in the economic and social cohesion among European countries. In that sense, it could be interesting to analyse if these Funds also meet the high standards of the European social values. This paper will, first, try to analyse the impact of spatial distribution of the Funds 2007-2013 and the leakage effects to other territories. Secondly, and relying on the Social Hotspots Database, it would be addressed the social (gender equality, child labor, human rights) consequences of these expenditures, inside Europe as well as outside. The methodological approach will be a multiregional input-output (MRIO) model. This model will allow us to research into the trade relations of target regions in order to set the losses or gains of multiplier effects from the economic as well as social perspective due to the increasing trade globalization. Main data come from WIOD database and the European Union Budget office.