NEWSLETTER No. 22

CompNet The Competitiveness Research Network

New CompNet Paper

Firm heterogeneity and aggregate business services exports: micro evidence from Belgium, France, Germany and Spain' .
(Andrea Ariu et al., ECB working paper no2097 / September 2017)

This paper uses detailed micro data on service exports at the firm-destination-service level to analyse the role of firm heterogeneity in shaping aggregate service exports in Belgium, France, Germany and Spain from 2003 to 2007.

The level and the growth of aggregate service exports are decomposed into different trade margins paying special attention to firm heterogeneity within countries. The findings include that the weak export growth of France is at least partly due to poor performance by small exporters. By contrast, small exporters in Belgium, Germany and Spain are the most dynamic contributors to their respective aggregate exports.

CAED conference

The Comparative Analysis of Enterprise Data Conference (CAED) is a high profile event on research based on firm-level data which takes place every 18 months since the early 2000. The most recent edition was organized by the Sogang University (Seoul) from the 22nd until the 24th of September.

Contributions from CompNet this time were made by Eric Bartelsman and Filippo di Mauro.

CompNet Conference 2018: Save the date!

The next CompNet annual conference will take place on the 21st and 22nd of June 2018 at the Leopoldina Conference Hall in Halle, Germany. Title, program and speakers will be announced in the near future.

Pictures provided by © Markus Scholz für die Leopoldina.

Start of the new data collection

The data collection for the 6th vintage of the CompNet dataset has begun. We are currently sending out the new code to the data providers, both central banks and statistical institutes, asking them to run the code on their rich firm-level database. We greatly value the contributions the data providers make to the project and we expect to get the first results back from them by the end of November. Already 16 country groups have committed to participating and we are in discussion with several others.

2nd CompNet Training course

Following the success of the _firm-level applied econometrics_ course at Tinbergen last July, CompNet has organized a second training, with the assistance of IWH experts – to be held at the European Commission on 15th and 16th of November.
The course will provide an accessible treatment of state-of-the-art methods used to estimate firm's performances and allocative inefficiencies, using firm-level data. Besides discussing recent empirical work in the field, the course will focus on practical issues by offering hands-on practical sessions.

PIIE conference

CompNet pledged to sponsor an anticipated event at the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) in Washington, DC. It will take place on November 9th, on the "Impact of lower productivity". Gian-marco Ottaviano and Filippo di Mauro will present a paper on firm heterogeneity and export competitiveness.

Call for Papers
11&12 January, Tokio

The Productivity Research Network (PRN) will organize its second workshop with the title "*Empirical research on productivity and innovation*". The organizing committee reaches out to researchers to submit their papers based on Asian data on a broad range of topics related to productivity dispersion, measurement of firm productivity, global value chains and financial constraints.

For more information please check our website. The paper submission deadline is the 1st of November.

In particular, participants will learn how to work with firm-level data and how to program estimation algorithms for the indicators discussed in class using Stata. The Outline is the following.

1. Introduction to working with firm-level data
   - Structure and sources
   - Preparing data for estimation
2. Estimation of production functions
   - Cobb-Douglas vs. translog
   - Shortcomings of OLS and Fixed Effects
   - Control function approaches
   - Output and input price bias
3. Firm's performance measures
   - Productivity vs. profitability
   - Markups
4. Allocative inefficiencies
   - Hsieh, Klenow (2009)
   - Bartelsman, Haltiwanger, Scarpetta (2013)
   - Petrin, Sivadasan (2013)
5. Working with CompNet data
   - An overview of the database

CompNet Policy Brief

We introduced a new section on the website, which gives an overview of CompNet's direct or indirect contributions to the policy debate. The CompNet Policy Brief series is always looking for new contributions either related to competitiveness topics or based on CompNet data. All network members and participating institutions can contribute. In case you are interested to contribute to this series, or you have a suggestion for a topic of the next policy briefs, please do not hesitate to contact the CompNet team at secretariat@comp-net.org.