

NEWSLETTER No. 25

CompNet The Competitiveness Research Network



Call for Papers:

CompNet-EBRD Workshop

The Call for Papers for the CompNet-EBRD Workshop on *Localisation and Productivity* taking place on October 9, 2018 in London is on-going. The workshop will be divided into three sessions with each of them addressing a different dimension of localisation economies: innovation, global value chains and migration. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of July. Please send your paper to:

secretariat@comp-net.org

Data Collection

The data collection phase for the 6th Vintage of the CompNet database is nearly completed. The last sets of data are being sent by the data providers and reviewed by the CompNet team. The database is expected to go online – for data providers and participating institutions – in July 2018.

New User Guide

Together with the new database, an updated version of the User Guide is planned to be released to the benefit of data users.

CompNet Conference 2018

The 2018 CompNet annual Conference will take place on the 21st-22nd June 2018 at the Leopoldina conference hall in Halle, Germany. The main topics of the conference will be **Economic growth, Trade and Productivity dispersion**.



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CompNet Workshop: the 6th Vintage of the CompNet Database

On 26th April the 6th vintage of CompNet data was presented during the one-day workshop hosted by the ECB. The workshop brought together data users and data providers, including representatives from the ECB, Halle Institute, European Commission, several NCBs and National Statistical Institutes, the EBRD, EIB, ESM, OECD, as well as research institutes and the academia.

During the Workshop, the significant improvements in the quality of the dataset, in terms of representativeness and comparability, were reported. In particular, the preliminary versions of the cross-country report and the comparability report were discussed in detail. The former validates CompNet's main indicators by comparing their levels and dynamics with those from aggregate standard sources, shows the granularity of information available for each indicator, and sheds some light on policy issues of interest. The latter provides detailed information on cross-country comparability, as well as all metadata underlying the dataset.

The main conclusion is that the overall representativeness of data in each of the participating countries is of very good quality as compared with other sources. Regarding the issues that remain to be addressed, the comparability report makes very operational recommendations to data providers to further improve harmonisation in future vintages.

The final versions of the two reports are expected to be released in July 2018.



During the Workshop, several papers based on CompNet's dataset were presented in order to show the possibility to conduct micro-founded analyses on a wide range of variables, including e.g. trade, job creation and destruction, labour productivity, TFP.

Finally, the workshop was a unique opportunity for discussion between data providers and data users about the data compilation process, discussing in detail the remaining bottlenecks, as well as ways to further improve the smooth running of CompNet's statistical codes and the possible future extensions of information.

Is corruption efficiency-enhancing? A case study of the Central and Eastern European region

A new journal article by Claire Giordano and Paloma Lopez-Garcia was recently published in the European Journal for Comparative Economics. The authors use the CompNet data matched with BEEPS data to investigate the role of firm-level bribes in explaining the efficiency of within-sector production factor allocation across firms in nine Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries during the period 2003-2012. The paper finds a positive significant association between corruption and both labour and capital misallocation dynamics, once country framework conditions are controlled for. The paper can be found [here](#).