Introductory remarks

Filippo di Mauro
Chairman of CompNet

Virtual Conference Bratislava

22 June, 2020
Thanks

- Thanks very much to National Bank of Slovakia for hosting us.
- Sorry not be able to be in fascinating Bratislava
- Challenging times.

- Despite the difficulties CompNet has been very active and present in the research and policy debate

- Will mention some highlights
The 7th Vintage of the CompNet Dataset

- 19 countries
- ...and a few more possibly in the pipeline (Ireland, Malta....)
- Technically, we have improved
  - outlier routines
  - New variables
  - Cross country comparability
- More in the new User-Guide
- The dataset is by now Top-standard and is used in several hundreds research groups
  ➔ Available to members already.
  ➔ From September to others
Meetings and initiatives

- **3rd CompNet Data Provider Forum**
  - Mid-April 2020......we keep discussing the experience related to the just completed data collection in preparation for the new data collection end 2020

- **2020 Firm Productivity report**
  - May 2020....our flagship report published, also with a chapter with Marc Melitz

- **EU Productivity Boards (PB)**
  - June 2020...we engage in dialogue and presented our report

- **Training**
  - Even before the crisis, we had introduced e-learning courses on micro-econometrics on use of CompNet dataset for polic and research
  - Further rounds next summer and next Fall.
The COVID crisis and productivity growth

Filippo di Mauro, Chad Syverson 15 April 2020

The world went into the COVID crisis in the midst of a 15-year-long productivity growth slowdown. This column considers the channels through which the crisis might shift the growth rates of productivity and output. Globalisation, labour mobility and small firms may all fall victim to the crisis if the world does not succeed in reopening borders, refraining from trade and currency wars and focusing on policies to boost productivity. On the upside, the broad adoption of new technologies – such as IT skills during the epidemic – and strong reallocation pressures may provide an independent boost on productivity as we come out of the crisis.

After the initial wave of the pandemic recedes, productivity will (have to) become yet again a primary concern of economists and policymakers. There are a number of reasons why this crisis might further impair productivity growth, including higher transactions costs (Baldwin and Weder di Mauro 2020), lower mobility, and a reduced scope of resource reallocation across firms, sectors, and countries. There might also

Related

Labour markets during the Covid-19 crisis: A preliminary view
Olivier Cobian, Yuriy Gorodnichenko, Michael Weber

COVID-19, teleworking, and productivity
Masayuki Morikawa

The labour market policy response to COVID-19 must dampen worker volatility
CompNet and Coronavirus crisis: a map for action

Which research questions

- How will the crisis affect aggregate productivity?
- How will the crisis affect productivity dispersion? (across firm dimension, sectors, countries)

Which data: How can CompNet contribute?

- Distributions
- Sectoral data
- Regional data

Which other data we are using:

- High frequency data (business data, VAT authorities)
- Home working /automation diffusion
- Covid Risk by sector

To recap: plenty of questions with a few guesses for now on the COVID impacts that we are trying to verify, namely on

- Technology adoption (+)
- Cleansing / reallocation (+)

- Supply chain disruptions (-)
- Financial frictions (-)
Forthcoming events

- Code Revision Led by Prof. Bartelsman
  July - October 2020
- Code Testing
  November 2020
- Data Collection
  December 2020 - May 2021
- Release of the 8th Vintage
  June 2021
- Bratislava Conference
  June 2020
- Annual Conference Webinar
  June 2020
- Annual Conference at ECB
  September 2020
- Annual Conference at ECB
  February 2021
- Finpro 2 at EBRD
  September 2021 (Tentative)
- Conference at Banque de France
  December 2021
We are welcoming new Members

- The German Council of Economic Experts (Sachverständigenrat)

- KRTK of Hungary

- Banque de France and Banco do Portugal have re-joined CompNet.
Thanks again for the hospitality to Central Bank of Slovakia

To all...Enjoy the Conference!