

June 26, 2018

Summary 7th Annual Conference 2018

On June, 21st and 22nd, 2018, the 7th Annual CompNet Conference was hosted in Halle in the festivity room of the main building of the 'Leopoldina', the German National Academy of Sciences. With regard to the title "Economic Growth, Trade and Productivity Dispersion", the presentations revolved around questions of productivity across firms, competition, factor reallocation, welfare, and globalization, just to name a few.

The event started on Thursday morning with Filippo Di Mauro (chairman of CompNet) welcoming everyone, followed by the keynote speech by Prof. Gianmarco Ottaviano. He presented a paper on intellectual property protection and global value chain. Then, two sessions, including a total number of seven presentations, each followed by a discussion were set for the day.

The first session "productivity" covered the topics size-productivity wage premiums, the relation between productivity- and GDP-volatility, as well as the contribution of small firms to the production frontier. In the second session "misallocation, frictions", four papers were presented dealing with several potential determinants (e.g.; constraints, firm characteristics, corporate taxation) of resource misallocation and with adjustments of firms to financial shocks. Between presentations, was ample time to talk to the presenters of the two poster sessions about their research on various productivity-, labour market-, or CompNet-related topics

Day two started with a keynote speech by Prof. Ufuk Akcigit, who summarized various empirical trends on firm dynamics and discussed the underlying mechanisms using growth theory. Afterwards, in the session "trade, internalization, globalization" the speakers presented their findings on the effects of protectionism on firms' population and productivity as well as the effects of real exchange rate movements on firm productivity.

The Conference finished with a last session on investment in intangibles assets. The presentations dealt with the relation between counter-cyclical macroeconomic policy and the impact of financial friction on intangible investment as well as measures to unlock investment in intangibles.

Generally, the conference was a great success. It gave perfect possibility to exchange and networking and showed what CompNet data can bring forth. For the complete program as well as the presentations and posters, please follow this link to the CompNet website.