

Guest Editorial

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A short presentation and description of the papers that have been selected from the First workshop of the Regional Studies Research Network on Geographical Localisation, Intersectoral Reallocation of Labour and Unemployment Differentials (GLUNLAB).

Keywords: Unemployment, Regional Economics

JEL Classifications: R10, R11, F15

This special issue is the result of the first workshop of the Regional Studies Research Network on Geographical Localisation, Intersectoral Reallocation of Labour and Unemployment Differentials (GLUNLAB I) which was organized by The Rimini Centre for Economic Analysis (RCEA) and the Department of Economics, University of Macedonia and held in Thessaloniki. The GLUNLAB I was a great opportunity for economists, economic geographers and geographers to meet and exchange ideas. The two keynote speeches were delivered by Professor Danny Dorling from the University of Sheffield and Professor Andrew E. Clark from the Paris School of Economics. Both contributed papers to this special issue.

Professor Dorling contribution deals with social evils, their characterization and evolution during the 20th century and early 21st century. In his paper Professor Dorling first describes, analyses and questions the social evils that have disappeared or are disappearing and then argues that the new set of emerging social evils would now include elitism, exclusion, prejudice, despair and greed.

Professor Clark is summarising recent findings with respect to geographical comparisons of income, unemployment, health and religion. At the same time he is presenting some new results regarding spatial spillovers in marriage.

The work by Christodoulakis and Mamatzakis examines the dynamics of the Greek labour market at the regional level and makes use of a Bayesian estimation procedure by means of Monte Carlo integration. The emerging evidence bears out that, since there are disparities in

the transitional probabilities across regions, convergence has not been achieved in the Greek regional labour markets.

Tyrowicz and Wojcik look at the regional dynamics of unemployment rates in Polish regions by applying β and σ convergence analysis to the registered unemployment data covering the period 1999-2008. Their findings suggest that there is no unconditional convergence and no evidence that cohesion efforts contribute to convergence.

Polasek et al. propose a new approach to evaluate infrastructure by means of a dynamic spatial econometric model that allows long-term predictions. The impact of two Austrian railway projects is also examined and positive returns are uncovered.

Aumayr develops an input-output framework to explore the inter- and intra-sectoral job-to-job worker flows for thirty-three industries in Austria. The role of different industries and their dynamics is uncovered.

Finally, Gruber investigates the agglomeration patterns in a New Economic Geography model when commuting is allowed. Commuting allows workers to continue living in agglomerations and enjoying the benefits of a larger product variety despite housing costs.

Last but not least we have to thank all those who have supported this workshop, namely the Regional Studies Association, the Rimini Centre for Economic Analysis and the University of Macedonia. Also we would like to thank the referees of this special issue for the timely and insightful feedback they have provided: Andrea Lamorgese (Bank of Italy), Theologos Pantelidis (University of Crete), Dimitris Korobilis (Glasgow University), Charalambos Christou (University of Macedonia), Dimitris Ballas (University of Sheffield), Claustre Bajona (Ryerson University), Leon Gonzalez Roberto (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan), Wolfgang Polasek (IHS), Yannis Georgellis (Brunel University) and Stefan Gruber (UMIT).