

XIII EURO-LATIN STUDY NETWORK ON INTEGRATION AND TRADE (ELSNIT) TRADE FACILITATION

KIEL, GERMANY, OCTOBER 23-24, 2015

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Euro-Latin Network on Integration and Trade (ELSNIT) is now accepting submissions of papers examining the organization and operation of customs and other border agencies as well as specific trade facilitation initiatives and their impact along the economic and institutional dimensions. In particular, submitted papers should address questions such as--but not limited to--the following:

- **Specific Initiatives.** *WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA):* What is the gap between countries' current statuses and those to be reached according to the commitments in the TFA? Are there national road maps for fulfilling these commitments? *Risk Management:* How prevalent is risk management among border agencies? How do they perform their risk analysis? Which criteria are used to allocate shipments to the different verification channels? Do these criteria differ for export, imports, and transit? How? What is the share of import and export declarations that undergo physical inspections? *Authorized Economic Operators (AEO):* What are the eligibility criteria for these programs? How many and what kinds of firms are AEO-certified? What is the share of trade covered by AEO programs? How many mutual recognition agreements were signed? *Single Windows (SW):* Which countries have a trade SW in place? How have these SW been implemented? Are trade SW comprehensive in terms of relevant agencies and procedures? *Transit Trade and Simplified Trade Regimes:* What are the best practices regarding transit schemes? Who are the users of simplified export/import regimes?
- **Impacts.** How much can we expect trade costs to decline as a result of the TFA? Are there complementary measures that would leverage its implementation? What would be the impact of the implementation of the TFA on world trade and specific regions and/or countries? How do delays associated with administrative processes affect firms' and thereby their countries' trade? What are the channels through which these effects arise? What are the mechanisms behind these impacts? Do the effects vary across firms, products, and destinations? How do trade facilitation measures interact with other trade and infrastructure policies in shaping trade outcomes? Do harmonization, coordination, and mutual recognition among countries make a difference? To what extent trade facilitation results in changes in employment and productivity?
- **Political Economy Issues.** What are the institutional challenges faced in implementing the TFA? What kind of and how much technical assistance efforts would be needed to implement it? Is technical assistance enough? Should other investments be considered? What type of investment? What are the obstacles to reform customs and other border agencies and what are those to design and implement trade facilitation initiatives such as single windows and integrated transit systems? How can these obstacles be overcome? How do stakeholders participate and interact in this area? Under which conditions interagency cooperation and coordination is more likely to occur? What role can the private sector play?
- **Institutions and procedures.** *Institutions:* How many and what agencies are involved in the administrative processing of trade flows between countries? How are these agencies organized? What are their budgets and number of employees? How do they allocate resources across areas and programs? What practices do border agencies follow to recruit, remunerate, and promote personnel? How stringent are their ethic codes? *Procedures:* How do agencies' procedures look like? Are these procedures coordinated with each other? Are their information systems interconnected? How long does it take to complete the procedures? Do these procedures and their completion times vary across entry/exit points, firms, products, or destinations? Why?

Both theoretical and empirical contributions will be considered, but in all cases priority will be given to papers identifying and shedding light on relevant policy questions such as those outlined above, including case studies of policies followed by national or international organizations, in particular. Furthermore, submission of papers that, in doing this, explicitly contrast successful and failed cases, comparing countries within a certain geographical area, is strongly encouraged. Important lessons are expected to be drawn from these contributions for Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The selected papers will be presented along invited contributions at the XI Annual ELSNIT Conference that will be hosted by the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW) in **Kiel, Germany, on October 23-24, 2015.**

A recognized expert in the field will comment upon each paper. All the papers and discussions will be circulated as working documents of the network. The authors are free to submit the papers to academic journals, stating that they were presented at the XI Annual ELSNIT Conference.

Procedures for Submission of Papers

All researchers who are associated with a European or Latin American/Caribbean based academic or research institution are eligible to submit papers. While detailed abstracts will be accepted, there is a strong preference for nearly completed papers. Submission should be accompanied by a statement declaring the institutional affiliation of the authors. The papers should be written in English.

To register for the conference and submit a paper, please fill out this **FORM** and follow the instructions therein.

The deadline for submissions is **May 15, 2015**. The final selection of papers will be made by **June 10, 2015** by the network coordinators –László Bruszt (EUI), Marise Cremona (EUI), Matthieu Crozet (CEPII and University of Paris 1), Simon Evenett (University St. Gallen and CEPR), Holger Görg (University of Kiel and Kiel Institute for the World Economy), Bernard Hoekman (EUI and CEPR), Jacint Jordana (IBEI and UPF), Gianmarco Ottaviano (London School of Economics, University of Bologna, CEP, and CEPR), and Christian Volpe Martincus (IDB/INT)--together with Professor Jacques Ziller (UP-FPS, Pavia) who is an external advisor to the network. The final versions of the papers must be delivered by **September 20, 2015**.

The selected authors' and invited discussants' travel expenditures (economy class) and per diems to participate at the conference will be reimbursed by the IDB. Detailed guidelines explaining the logistics of the conference will be provided at a later stage. Please circulate this call for papers among your colleagues and other potentially interested parties.

Background Information

The Euro-Latin Study Network on Integration and Trade (ELSNIT) is an initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank to create in Europe a forum on integration and trade issues relevant to Latin America and the Caribbean. The main objectives of the Network are to generate research, studies and debate on these issues, draw on a rich European experience and perspectives and increase interaction between European and Latin American researchers. The annual conference organized in the framework of the Network focuses on a particular issue each year.

The ELSNIT Network is coordinated by a Steering Committee that currently consists of the Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales (CEPII), Paris, France; the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW), Kiel, Germany; the European University Institute (EUI), Florence, Italy; the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI), Barcelona, Spain; the University of St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland; the Centre for Economic Performance (CEP), London, United Kingdom; the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), London, United Kingdom; and the IDB (INT and INTAL).