



Integration and Trade
Sector (VPS/INT)

Institute for the Integration of Latin
America and the Caribbean (VPC/INL)

SEVENTH EURO-LATIN STUDY NETWORK ON INTEGRATION AND TRADE (ELSNIT) TRADE AND REGIONAL DISPARITIES

KIEL, GERMANY, OCTOBER 23-24, 2009

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Euro-Latin Network on Integration and Trade (ELSNIT) is now accepting proposals for papers examining the links between *trade and regional disparities* along the macroeconomic, microeconomic, and institutional-legal dimensions. In particular, submissions of papers addressing the following questions are especially welcome:

- How does physical infrastructure affect trade costs and thereby disparities in macroeconomic and trade performances, both across countries within trade agreements and across regions within countries?
- What is the effect of this infrastructure on the level and the patterns of trade and business interactions among firms settled in different regions and among firms located at different sides of national borders?
- Can macroeconomic policies shape regional disparities by affecting both the level and distribution of infrastructure investments across regions?
- Does economic integration favor the development of transnational infrastructures thereby influencing the level and the speed of convergence across regions?
- What kind of role do regulation and competition policies in transportation services play in explaining regional disparities in transport costs and trade performance?
- To what extent is there a potential for conflict between trade liberalization, competition, and anti-trust policies and regional, national and sub-national policies aimed at reducing regional disparities?
- What impacts do specific institutional arrangements have on the effectiveness of public policies towards reducing trade costs and narrowing regional disparities?
- Do the design and the mix of policy instruments matter for the success of regional policies that target infrastructure for trade?

Both theoretical and empirical contributions will be considered, but in all cases priority will be given to papers identifying and shedding light on the policy questions outlined above, including case studies of policies followed by national or sub-national governments or international organizations, in particular (e.g., European cohesion funds). Furthermore, submission of papers that, in doing this, explicitly contrast successful and failed cases, either comparing regions within a country or countries within a certain trade agreement and/or geographical area, is strongly encouraged.

The selected papers will be presented along invited contributions at the Seventh Annual ELSNIT Conference to be held at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy in Kiel, Germany, on October 23-24, 2009.

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 best papers might be considered for publication in a special number of the *Review of World Economics*, subject to a regular refereeing process. The authors are, however, free to submit the papers elsewhere, stating that they were presented at the Seventh Annual ELSNIT Conference.

Procedures for Submission of Proposals

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 your institutional affiliation, and your interest to present the paper in the conference indicating the nature of the paper and the session (or sessions, if the paper makes this appropriate) you would like your paper to be considered. The papers should be written in English.

Submissions of PDF files should be sent to the following addresses: elsnit@iadb.org, with copy to the appropriate session coordinators as follows:

Session I: Policy and Theoretical Trade Contributions

Simon Evenett, University St. Gallen and CEPR (simon.evenett@unisg.ch)

Session II: Empirical Trade Contributions

Michel Fouquin, CEPII (michel.fouquin@cepii.fr)

Rolf Langhammer, IfW (rolf.langhammer@ifw-kiel.de)

Session III: Institutional and Legal Contributions

Marise Cremona, EUI (marise.cremona@eui.eu)

Jacint Jordana, IBEI and UPF (jjordana@ibei.org)

The deadline for submissions is **April 30, 2009**. The final selection of papers will be made by **June 1, 2009**. The final versions of the papers must be delivered by **September 30, 2009**.

The selected authors' and invited discussants' travel expenditures (economy class) and per diems to participate at the Conference will be reimbursed by the Inter-American Development Bank (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. From this year onwards, the conference will focus 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; and the IDB (INT/INTAL). Professors Omar Licandro (IAE, Barcelona, Spain) and Jacques Ziller (UP-FPS, Pavia, Italy) are external advisors to this Committee.