



Special Session Proposal

RSPS Special Session on: Science, Policies and Methods on the free movement of goods, services, people and capital across the Mediterranean

Riccardo Turati, Riccardo.turati@uab.cat, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Abstract

Europe plays a prominent role as one of the main attractive macro-areas of goods, people and capital. The establishment of the Single Market in 1993, the implementation of the Schengen Area in the 1990s and the subsequent EU enlargement made the European Union one of the most prominent areas of free movement of goods, capital and people. Such increased mobility not only influenced the economic and political development of European countries (Becker and Fetzer, 2017, Moriconi et al., 2018) but also enhanced the attractiveness of the European Union, becoming one of the main recipients of international migrants, foreign goods and capitals. Such enhanced attractiveness is particularly relevant for all North African and Middle East countries as countries of emigration, characterized by their close geographical proximity to the EU, huge economic disparities and high fertility rate (Docquier and Machado, 2017). Moreover, political turmoil, like the Arab Spring or the Syrian Civil War, and cultural disparities acted as relevant push factors for Northern African natives to move abroad (Docquier et al., 2020).

Although the strong ties shared by countries on the two sides of the Mediterranean Sea, the literature still provides little or small evidence concerning the implications of the movement of goods, capital and peoples at regional level. For instance, the standard macroeconomic approach to emigration assumes that all sending countries' regions are identically exposed to emigration, while anecdotal evidence has shown huge disparities within countries. For illustrative purposes, 72 % of Senegalese migrants abroad in 2013 came from six of the fourteen Senegalese administrative regions. Hence, emigration is likely to influence within countries economic disparities and technological development, through its effects on productivity and exposure to foreign culture and technology (Turati, 2020).

The aim of this Special Session is to reassess the implications and impact of the movements of people, goods and capital across the Mediterranean using regional science methods and exploiting within country variations. The papers presented in the ERSA Special Session will be published, after submission and a clean review process, into a Special Issue of *Regional Science Policy and Practice* on this subject in 2022.

References

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