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Ezoneplus: Research project, European Commission, Fifth Framework Programme, 2001-2004

Editor's Note

Welcome to this year's first issue of the Ezoneplus Newsletter. This issue announces the final Ezoneplus conference "Exploring Uncharted Waters" in Berlin, 18 June, 2004. In addition, we provide you with a survey of our newest Ezoneplus Working Paper.

Finally, you may find helpful the table of contents of a recent publication distilled from the Ezoneplus Conference "Strategy of EMU Enlargement - Background, Optimal Choices, Consequences" that had been put together by our Warsaw colleagues.



FIFTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

1. Final Ezoneplus Conference in Berlin, June 18th

Purpose

This conference marks the end of a 36-months research project that has been supported by the European Commission (5th FP). In addition to the German coordinator, the participants include distinguished scholars from universities and research institutes in Estonia, Finland, Italy, Slovenia, Poland, and Portugal. The purpose of the conference is to present the project's Final Report, which will contain its main findings, and to initiate a public debate on the next step of the Union's widening, i.e. EMU enlargement. The conference will take advantage of the fact that this independent group of scholars has been studying the relevant issues for more than three years and will come up with policy advice regarding goods and services, capital, and labour markets, fiscal and monetary policies, and the social dimension.

The final Ezoneplus Conference will take place on 18 June, 2004, in Berlin.
[**further information**](#)

Conference Participants

We expect 50 to 70 participants to take part. The group will consist of

- national and international scholars, as well as representatives from
- the private and public banking and business communities,
- political institutions, associations and unions,
- national and international media.

Preliminary Conference Program

09.00-09.30	Introduction by Prof. Michael Bolle , Freie Universität Berlin
09.30-09:45	Welcome Note by Dr. Peter Fisch , EU Commission, Brussels
09:45-10.30	Speech by Caio Koch-Weser , German Ministry of Finance (invited).
10.45-11.30	Presentation of major findings and discussion I: Exchange Rate Adjustment (Prof. Orsi, Bologna; Prof. Lavrac , Ljubljana)
11.45-12.30	Presentation of major findings and discussion II: Trade and FDI (Prof. Caetano , Évora)
12.30-13.30	Lunch Buffet
13.30-14.30	After Lunch Speech by N.N.
14.45-15.30	Presentation of major findings and discussion III: Labour Markets and the Social Dimension (Prof. Paas , Tartu; Prof. Kiander , Helsinki)
14.45-15.30	Presentation of major findings and discussion IV: Fiscal Policy (Prof. Żukrowska , Warsaw)
16.30-17.00	Final Discussion

2. New Ezoneplus Working Papers

(1) Working Paper No. 20, March 2004

Renzo Orsi, Katarzyna Żukrowska et al.

Policy Advice: Markets and Policies

Policy Advice: Markets and Policies

This paper aims at the provision of applicable recommendations for institutions and actors involved regarding the EMU accession process both in CEE and in the eurozone. In order to provide topical advice, the first part, on markets, concentrates on theory and empirics of labour markets, financial markets and foreign direct investment, whereas the second part, dealing with policies, puts emphasis on exchange rates, FDI, labour markets, and the social dimension. It turns out that benefits and losses of EMU accession may differ with regard to the different issue areas. To get to clear-cut recommendations, diverging impacts and their balance have been taken into consideration. Special regard has been given to divergent groups of winners and losers during accession, its impact on the political decision-making process, and ways to compensate for them.

[Link to the paper](#) (PDF 460 KB)

2) Working Paper No. 04, March 2004

Achim Kemmerling:

The Political Economy of Eastward Enlargement. A Survey of the Literature with Comments (in German)

The Political Economy of Eastward Enlargement. A Survey of the Literature with Comments

This working paper surveys the relevant literature in both political science and economics to explain why and how the Eastward enlargement of the EU has been agreed upon. The focus lies on delivering a politico-economic account of EU's recent history. The comments stress the role of two findings. First, EMU enlargement may be considered as a necessary requirement for EU enlargement itself to take place. This adds to an understanding why the final outcome of the negotiations led to full membership as opposed to other alternatives. Second, such a full membership entails redistributive effects both across and within countries. This explains why full membership was renegotiated in sensitive policy areas, once the prime decision for enlargement had been taken.

[Link to the paper](#) (PDF 125 KB)

3. Book on Ezoneplus Warszawa Conference

Zukrowska, Katarzyna and Dominik Sobczak (eds.).

Strategy of EMU Enlargement - Background, Optimal Choices, Consequences. Warszawa: Instytut Wiedzy, 2004. (ISBN: 83-89132-13-3)

The volume includes papers that were presented at a conference on the “Strategy on EMU enlargement” organised by the Warsaw School of Economics on 12 December 2003 within the schedule of meetings planned within the Ezoneplus program, supported by the 5th Framework Program of the EU. The papers published do not give the entire scope of information that was offered during the meeting, as not all participants had written their papers, and the course of discussion is not covered fully by the publication. Nevertheless, the core philosophy presented during the conference can be easily found in the publication, which is divided into three parts:

- The first part deals with fiscal and monetary strategies of CEEC accession to the EMU;
- the second one offers economic and political background for EMU enlargement; and
- the third one covers strategic viewpoints concerning EMU enlargement given in the course of the discussion.

Papers presented at the conference on the “Strategy on EMU enlargement” organised at the Warsaw School of Economics.

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The complete book is available online. Click [here](#) to download the PDF Version (999KB).



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