



Progetto di Ricerca e Piano di Attività Assegno di Ricerca

“L’integrazione economica porta benefici in termini di integrazione politica?”

“Is economic integration beneficial for political integration?”

The founding fathers of the European Union insisted that economic integration is a necessary (but not sufficient) condition for achieving political integration. The whole process of European integration started with the aim of integrating the European countries’ economies in order to prevent political tensions between the (future) member countries. While the loss of some sovereignty was expected and well known, economists and political scientists have yet to decide on the real benefits of economic integration in terms of political integration.

In the European Union, in recent years, there has been a rapid increase in political divide and tensions between countries, and concerns have been expressed about the negative consequences of the lack of political harmony. The aim of the project is to analyse and quantify how economic integration aimed at stimulating and promoting economic well-being (through increased international trade) can help create greater political harmony between countries.

The aim of the research project is to provide a first and credible estimate of the political advantages of trade integration in European countries. To this end, it is intended to combine data relating to trade flows between European countries with data relating to votes and speeches by MEPs. The rapid development in big data analysis techniques makes it possible to exploit previously inaccessible sources of information. The research activity aims at producing the following results:

1. Creation of a database with the corpus of speeches by European parliamentarians, to be used for text analysis;
2. Creation of a database with trade flows within European countries that reports the details of both imports and exports in quantity and value up to the level of a single product (6-digit Harmonized System classification);
3. Writing of one or more working papers on the subject, to be submitted to international journals.

Il Responsabile scientifico

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(documento firmato digitalmente)
