



Call for Papers
International Workshop on
Regions, firms, and FDI
21-22 August 2014, Ghent (Belgium)

jointly organized by

Department of Economics, Ghent University
International Network for Economic Research (INFER)

Workshop Objectives

This workshop brings together researchers from various disciplines to discuss recent topics related to **Regions, firms and FDI**. Researchers are invited to submit both theoretical and empirical papers. In particular, we welcome papers related to the following topics:

- Firm heterogeneity and regional dynamics
- Regional reallocation after the crisis
- EU regional policy effects
- Location choice of MNEs
- Localized spillover effects from FDI
- Trade between regions versus trade between countries

Keynote Speakers

We are happy to welcome the following internationally distinguished keynote speakers:

Prof. Nathalie Chen (University of Warwick)

Prof. Harry Garretsen (University of Groningen)

Organization

The workshop is jointly organized by the **Department of Economics of Ghent University** and the **International Network for Economic Research (INFER)**. It is organized within the framework of the projects “Location choice of multinational firms in Europe” funded by the Special Research Fund of Ghent University and “Firm heterogeneity and the demand and supply side of FDI spillovers” funded the Flemish Fund for Scientific Research (FWO). We further acknowledge additional funding to both projects by the National Bank of Belgium.

Prof. B. Merlevede’s research group at the Department of Economics of Ghent University focuses on (empirical) research in issues in international and regional economics using European firm-level data.

INFER is a non-profit international scientific organization that stimulates research and research networking in all fields of economics through international workshops and conferences. Website: www.infer-research.net.

Submission of Papers

Full papers may be submitted, preferably in pdf-format, by sending an e-mail to **Bruno.Merlevede@ugent.be**.

Submission Deadline: 15 June 2014.

Authors are allowed to submit more than one paper. By early July 2014 authors will be notified whether their paper is accepted for presentation at the workshop.

Paper presenters are expected to discuss one other paper during the workshop. The discussant assignments will be made by the workshop organizers at a later date. As the workshop intends to build a network in this research area, participation is welcome even without paper contribution.

Registration

All participants have to register for the workshop. A registration fee has to be paid. Please note that paper submission is not regarded as a registration. After your registration, you will receive a confirmation e-mail.

Please register and pay the registration fee on the INFER website (www.infer-research.net). Note that you can use the same website to become an INFER member.

Deadline for registration and payment: July 15, 2014.

The registration fee for presenting and non-presenting participants is:

100 EUR (for INFER members)

150 EUR (for others)

(Please note that the annual INFER membership fee is 25 EUR only)

This fee includes lunches, drinks and a conference dinner (August 21). It does not include travel or accommodation costs. Participants should take care of booking their own accommodation.

In case of late registration, the fees will be increased by 50 %.

Location, Travelling and Accommodation

The workshop takes place at Ghent University, Belgium. Ghent (www.cityofghent.be) is one of Europe's greatest discoveries – small enough to feel cosy but big enough to stay vibrant. It has enough medieval frivolity to create a spectacle but retains a gritty industrial edge that keeps things 'real'. Tourists remain surprisingly thin on the ground, yet with its fabulous canalside architecture, wealth of quirky bars and some of Belgium's most fascinating museums, this is a city you really won't want to miss. Ghent hides away in the middle of Belgium's big three – Brussels, Bruges and Antwerp. Most Belgium-bound visitors rushing between these see nothing more than the stately fortifications of Ghent's St Pieter's Station. Those who do hop off the train and stroll along the Leie River to the historic centre will have their eyes out on stalks. Here hides one of Europe's finest panoramas of water, spires and centuries-old grand houses. But this is no place to simply kick back: Ghent has one of Europe's most dynamic festival scenes, which vies for visitors' attention. (Read more: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/belgium/flanders/ghent#ixzz2zjkkc09h>)

Travelling to Ghent (in Dutch: Gent) is rather easy. There is a direct train connection between Gent and all other Belgian train stations, including Brussels-South train station where most international trains arrive. If you travel to Belgium by plane, it is best to fly to Brussels Airport and then take a direct (or indirect during the weekend, changeover in Brussels) train from the airport to Ghent (station: Gent-Sint-Pieters) which takes about 1 hour.

Many airlines, in particular Brussels Airlines, offer direct flight connections to Brussels Airport. For more info see:

<http://www.brusselsairport.be/en/> http://www.brusselsairlines.com/en_be/

Alternatively one can travel to Belgium by low-fare airlines, which often fly to Brussels South Airport (Charleroi). You then have to take a bus to Brussels afterwards (minimum 1 hour, depending on traffic), followed by a train to Ghent. Hence travelling via Charleroi airport is not very convenient, but it is likely to be cheaper. For more information: <http://www.charleroi-airport.com/>

For your travel arrangements, please take into account that all presentations take place between August 21 (starting 9h at the earliest) and August 22 (ending at 2 pm at the latest).

Scientific Committee

Bruno Merlevede (Ghent University)

Mariana Spatareanu (Rutgers University)

Koen Schoors (Ghent University)

Glenn Rayp (Ghent University)

Jan Van Hove (University of Leuven and INFER)

Local organizer: Department of Economics, Ghent University

For more information, please contact Prof. Dr. B. Merlevede, Bruno.Merlevede@UGent.be