

Productivity Gains from Services Liberalization in Europe¹

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Abstract

As part of the Single Market Program the European Commission commanded the liberalization and regulatory harmonization of utilities, transport and telecommunication services. This paper investigates whether and how this process affected the productivity of European network firms. Exploiting the variation in the timing and degree of liberalization efforts across countries and industries, we find that liberalization increased firm-level productivity but had no reallocation impact. Based on our estimates, the average firm-level productivity gain from liberalization amounts to 38 percent of the average total within-firm productivity gain in network industries. The results underscore the growth-promoting role of liberalization efforts.

Abstrakt

Jako součást programu jednotního trhu, Evropská Komise nařídila liberalizaci a harmonizaci regulací sektorů utilit, dopravy a telekomunikačních služeb. V tomto článku zkoumáme jestli a jakým způsobem tento proces ovlivnil produktivitu firem v Evropských síťových odvětvích. S využitím variace v časování a rozsahu liberalizačních snah mezi krajinami a sektory jsme zjistili, že liberalizace zvýšila firemní produktivitu, ale neměla realokační vliv. Na základě našich odhadů, průměrný růst firemní produktivity způsoben liberalizací činil 38 procent celkového průměrného růstu firemní produktivity v síťových odvětvích. Tyto výsledky zdůrazňují prorůstovou roli liberalizačních snah.

JEL codes: D24, K23, L11, L51

Keywords: productivity, liberalization, allocative efficiency, services, firm-level data

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