Author's Accepted Manuscript

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 PII:
 S0166-0462(17)30443-X

 DOI:
 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.regsciurbeco.2017.12.001

 Reference:
 REGEC3319

To appear in: Regional Science and Urban Economics

Received date: 7 November 2017 Accepted date: 1 December 2017

Cite this article as: Sascha O. Becker, Peter H. Egger and Maximilian von Ehrlich, Effects of EU Regional Policy: 1989-2013, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.regsciurbeco.2017.12.001

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Effects of EU Regional Policy: 1989-2013*

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December 5, 2017

Abstract

This paper analyzes the regional effects of EU Regional Policy during four programming periods: 1989-1993, 1994-1999, 2000-2006, 2007-2013. In particular, the focus is on the impact of transfers during the Financial and Economic Crisis and on the effects of gaining versus losing treatment status under the main Regional Policy subprogram – referred to as Objective 1 or Convergence Objective. We find that effects of Objective 1 status on growth are positive though not very long-lived: the effects of *losing Objective 1 status* on economic growth are negative, and the earlier positive effects on growth in the period(s) of Objective 1 treatment more or less undone. We show that the effects are weaker during the Crisis than before, in particular, on per-capita income in countries where the Crisis hit harder.

Key words: Regional transfers; Local average treatment effects; European Union. **JEL classification**: C21; O40; H54; R11

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^{*} Acknowledgements: We thank the ESRC's "UK in a Changing Europe" initiative for financial support and Ivan Yotzov for excellent research assistance. We thank the Editor, Giovanni Peri, and two anonymous referees of this journal for very constructive comments. Guido Pellegrini, seminar participants at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission in Ispra, participants at the CESifo Venice Summer Institute 2017, a policy audience in Brussels and participants at the 7th European Commission Evaluation Conference "The Result Orientation: Cohesion Policy at Work" in Sofia gave very useful feedback.

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