Introducción

The aim of this Special Section is to analyze the relationships between Public Sector and economic growth in the European Union through several perspectives. The contributions can be grouped into two parts. First, papers focused on decentralization, public spending, taxation, public debt and bureaucracies as classic topics in the study of the relation between Public Sector and growth. Second, the special section contains contributions on regional disparities and entrepreneurship, two areas of great interest for the Public Sector with relevant policies to diminish and impulse respectively. Thus, this Special Section contains seven articles summarized below.

In the first paper, *Fitjar, Muringani and Rodríguez-Pose* study the decentralization, quality of government and regional economic growth. The results for 26 regions indicate that the quality of regional government is a better predictor of economic development than decentralization. In addition, decentralization works best in regions with a higher quality of government.

The second paper, by *Bandrés and Gadea,* explores the causal relations between public spending and economic growth. They analyze 25 European countries and the conclusions do not support the fulfillment of the well-known Wagner's Law. Besides, they find a negative effect of public size on economic growth.

Blanco and Delgado study the connection between taxation and economic growth through a quantile regression approach. In an analysis for 2004 – 2016, they conclude a negative effect of the tax burden, with higher impact at the last quantiles, evidencing a non-linear relationship between tax burden and economic growth in the European Union. However, the top corporate tax rate appears as non-significant in their analysis.

Sosvilla-Rivero and Puig analyze the impact of public debt on economic growth in the EMU countries for the period 1961-2013. The results show that the impact of the public debt varies across EMU countries, but also over time. Hence, they suggest that the pace of fiscal adjustment should be adapted to the evolving characteristics of each country over time.

In the fifth paper, *Onrubia, Pérez and Sánchez-Fuentes* study the public sector bureaucracies, fundamental for the implementation of the roles assigned to the government sector and particularly relevant for the European Union, as countries within this group tend to have larger governments, on average, than other OECD countries worldwide. In this paper, the authors engage, first, in a thorough review of the extant literature, focusing the discussion on the main economic channels. Second, they provide an empirical exercise that illustrates the links between bureaucratic/institutional quality and economic growth.

Ezcurra focuses on the regional disparities in 28 Member States over the period 1996-2010. The analysis confirms that within-country inequality is an important component of overall inequality across European regions. In addition, the results also underline the relevance of national development for within-country inequality, with a non-linear relationship.

The Special Section ends with the paper by *Urbano, Aparicio, Audretsch and Noguera*. They explore the impact of institutions on the probability to become a woman and man entrepreneur during the recent economic crisis. They show that institutions (educational level and unemployment rate) exert an effect on the probability of becoming entrepreneurs.

The current issue also includes three interesting articles in the General Section: *Marti-Selva and Puertas-Medina* study the participation of the European Union in global chains of value from logistic and economic perspectives, *Froes de Borja Reis, Cardoso and Barbosa* review the evolution of the concept of "development" with a South perspective and *Podadera Rivera and Garashchuk* elaborate a Strategic Partner's Attractiveness Index for the EU.

Finally, this issue ends with two reviews: *Larrú,* about "After Piketty: The Agenda for Economics and Inequality", and *Vaca-Hernández* on "Multilateral Development Banks: Governance and Finance".

I would like to close this Introduction really acknowledging the support by the Editorial Team of *Revista de Economia Mundial*, and especially by *Maria Teresa Aceytuno*. I am also in great debt with the authors and the anonymous referees. I hope that the contributions included in this issue are of interest both for academics and policy-makers.

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