



Quantifying spillover effects of Next Generation EU investment

Philipp Pfeiffer with Janos Varga & Jan in 't Veld

European Commission, DG ECFIN

EU Conference on Modelling for Policy support

November 2021

Our work in a nutshell

- Next Generation EU (NGEU) a EU-wide investment and reform programme:
 - Response to COVID crisis: unprecedented policy package worth up to 5.4% of EU GDP
 - Funds are unevenly allocated across EU Member States -> supports convergence
- Questions: What is its macroeconomic impact? Under which conditions will the impact be large? Which factors are important for policy?
 - Our tool: A rich 28-region macroeconomic model developed at the European Commission, DG ECFIN
- We find a significant impact positive impact (EU real GDP up by 1.5%)
- Cross-country spillover effects are central for many countries

Model complexity reflects the purpose ...

- Dynamic and quantitative workhorse model with two main features:

1. Rich cross-country linkages:

- A detailed macro structure for each of the 27 EU Member States & rest of the world based on optimising households and firms (rich second-round effects)
- Trade in intermediate inputs (cross-border value chains), which is typically exploited only in static input-output-analysis

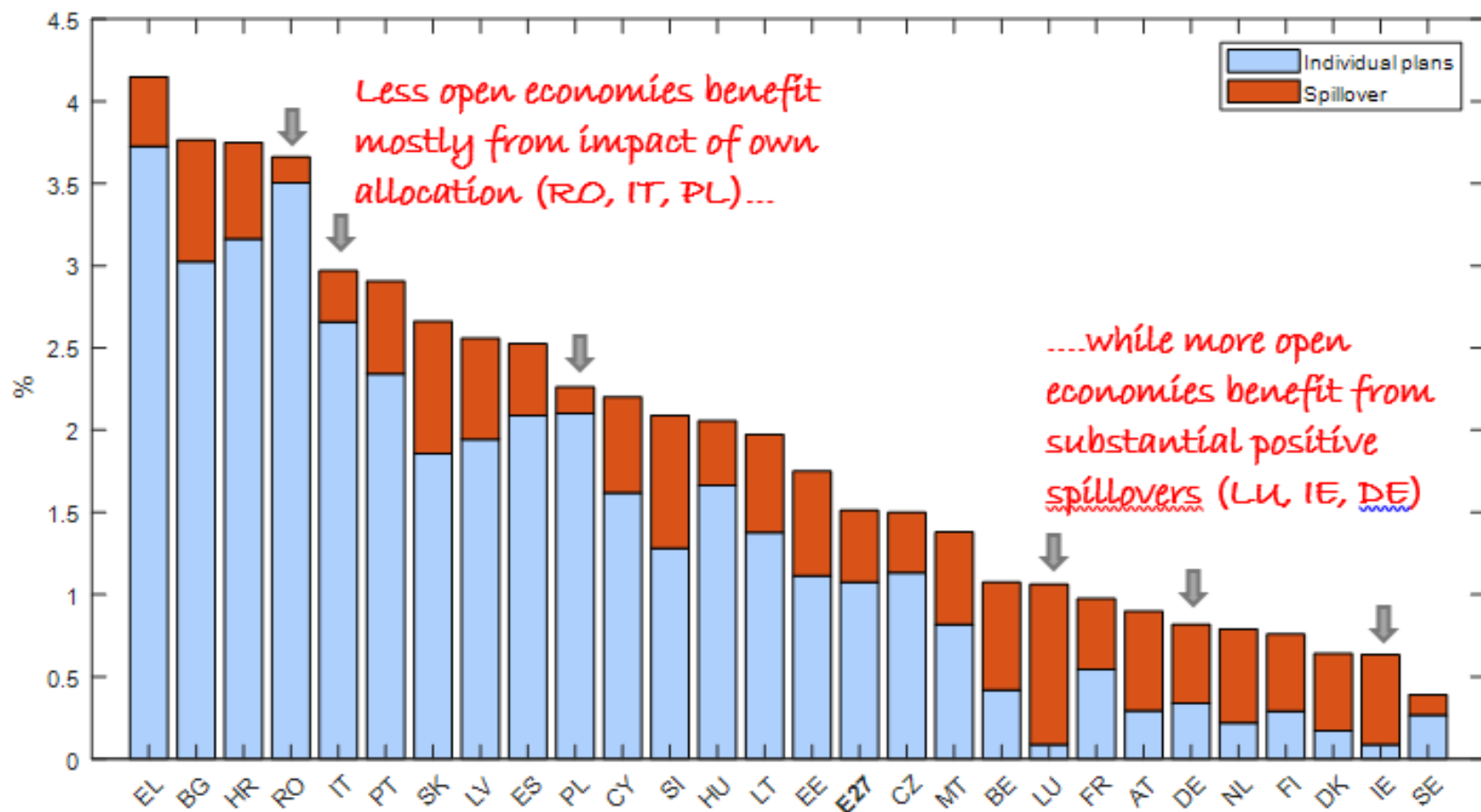
2. Detailed role for fiscal policy and public investment:

- Productive public capital and time-to-spend/build delays
- Stylised representation of NGEU financing (grants, loans, repayment)

... and requires abstraction

1. Principle of parsimony: analysis remains manageable despite model size
2. Missing information:
 - Not all information on recovery plans of the Member States was available -> we assume that all spending is public investment
3. Some aspects are hard to quantify or require strong assumptions:
 - a) Sensitivity analysis lays out alternative assumptions. However, we are often asked to produce a single “headline” number
 - b) Leave out some aspects: For example, NGEU has two legs: Investment and reforms; we did not quantify to the latter as it would have required (very) strong assumptions and blurred the main insights.

Modelling for policy support: Key results



- **Significant impact:** on average 1.5% increase in real GDP
 - Strongly supports convergence
- **Narrative: Spillover is crucial.**
 - Extrapolating from allocations to macroeconomic impact can, thus, be misleading
 - Particularly relevant for richer open economies
- We have also analysed **conditions for success**

Additional GDP generated by NGEU in 2024 (in % deviation from no-NGEU baseline)

Annex: Spillover in more detail

