

GEORGE PETRAKOS

Professor of Spatial Economic Analysis

Department of Planning and Regional Development

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<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=eFsnY7MAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>



UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALY



FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Economic theory and policy
- Regional economics and regional development
- Urban economics and urban policy
- Economic growth and development policy
- Economic restructuring and innovation policy
- International economics, European integration and transition

EXPERIENCE

- Director, Development Policy Laboratory, University of Thessaly, since 2021.
- Director, Confucius Institute, University of Thessaly and Central University of Finance and Economics (Beijing), 2019-24.
- Visiting Professor, London School of Economics and Political Sciences, Department of Geography and Environment, Sept 2018 – Aug 2019.
- Rector of the University of Thessaly, 2014 –2018.
- President of the Hellenic Universities Rectors Conference, 2015 – 2016.
- Secretary General, Ministry of Economy and Development, 2010–12.
- Chairman of the Investment Board of the JESSICA Development Fund, 2010-12.
- Chairman of the Investment Board of the JEREMIE Development Fund, 2010-12.
- Vice President of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA), 2007-2011.
- Councilor of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI), 2007-2009.
- Member of the Executive Research Board of the University of Thessaly, 2006-08.
- Chairman of the Department of Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly, 2000-04 and 2008-10.
- Director of the Laboratory for Regional Economic Analysis and Policy, 1998-2021.
- Academic Visitor, London School of Economics, Department of Geography and Environment, 2000.
- Visiting Professor, Victoria University, Australia, 2004.
- Professor (2004-2027), Associate Professor (2000-2004) and Assistant Professor (1995-1999) of Spatial Economic Analysis, Department of Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly.
- Lecturer in Economics, Department of International and European Economic Studies, Athens University of Economics and Business, 1991-95.
- Instructor of Economics, Department of Economics, Arizona State University, USA, 1986-1988.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Department of Economics, Arizona State University, USA (1988)

M.Sc. in Economics, Department of Economics, Arizona State University, USA (1987)

B.Sc. in Economics, Department of Economics, Athens University of Economics and Business (1982)

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

1. Petrakos, G., Niavis, S., Kallioras, D., Sotiriou, A. & Petrou K.N. (2026). Crossing the line? The Growth Costs of Excessive Income Inequality. *Journal of Economic Asymmetries* (submitted).
2. Petrakos, G., Kallioras, D., Sotiriou, A., Saratsis, Y. & Alexiou, S. (2026). Bridging the Gap? The Effects of EU Cohesion Policy on Regional and Income Inequalities *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* (submitted).
3. Niavis S., Petrou NK and Petrakos G. (2026) Cohesion Policy and the Challenge of Inequality: Insights from Female Entrepreneurship and Rural Development Programs in Left-behind Regions in Greece. *European Planning Studies* (submitted).
4. George Petrakos and Petrou N.K. (2026) Growth and excess income inequality: a global perspective, *Review of Development Economics*, 2nd revision submitted.
5. Niavis S. Petrakos G. and Kallioras D. (2026) From Growth to Fairness: Integrating Efficiency and Inequality into a single metric. *Quality and Quantity* (submitted).

RECENT PAPERS

1. Petrakos G., Alexiou S. and Sotiriou A. (2026) Unpacking Endogeneity: Growth, Discontent and Cohesion Policy in the EU Regions, *Growth and Change*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/grow.70097>.
2. Alexiou S., Petrakos G. and Sotiriou A. (2026) Integration without Convergence? Regional Growth and Discontent in Greece, *Review of Regional Research*, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10037-026-00282-2>
3. Petrakos, G. & Petrou, K.N. (2025). Climate change and income inequalities, *Sustainable Development*, <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.70175>.
4. Petrakos G., Sotiriou A. and Alexiou S. (2025) "The geography of integration and regional growth in the EU", *Regional Studies*, 59(1) 2534687, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2025.2534687> .
5. Niavis, S., Petrakos, G., Petrou, K.-N., & Saratsis, Y. (2025). Assessing the Impact of Smart and Green Transition Policies on Spatial and National Income Inequalities in EU Countries. *Sustainability*, 17(17), 7774. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su17177774>
6. Tsiapa M., Kallioras D., Petrakos G., Rasvanis E., Adamakou M., Manetos P. και Almazán-Gómez M. A. (2025), The geography of interregional FDI activity in Europe: Uneven distribution and determinants, *Spatial Economic Analysis*, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17421772.2025.2456185>.
7. Petrakos G., Sotiriou A. and Alexiou S. (2024) "The drivers of regional discontent in the EU", *Global Challenges and Regional Science*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gcrs.2024.100002>
8. Niavis S., Kallioras D. and Petrakos G. (2024) "The distributional characteristics of Interreg Transnational Programmes and their role in promoting regional cohesion", *Papers in Regional Science*, 103(6): 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pirs.2024.100057>.

9. Petrakos G., Topaloglou L., Anagnostou A. and Cupcea (2021) 'Geographies of (in)justice and the (in)effectiveness of place-based policies in Greece', *European Planning Studies*, **30**(5): 899–916 <https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2021.1928050>.
10. Adamakou, M.; Niavis, S.; Kallioras, D.; Petrakos, G. (2021) 'Understanding the Regional Engagement of Universities from a Stakeholders' Perspective: The Case of the University of Thessaly, Greece' *Sustainability* **13**: 1-14, 10565. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su131910565>
11. Petrakos G, Sotiriou A. (2021) 'Grexit and Brexit: Incidents, accidents and wake-up calls on the bumpy road of European (dis)integration'. *European Urban and Regional Studies*, **28**(1):20–25. doi:[10.1177/0969776420970613](https://doi.org/10.1177/0969776420970613)
12. Petrakos G., Kallioras D. and Artelaris P. (2020) 'Convergence and public debt in the European Union: an overlooked trade-off?' *Regional and Federal Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/13597566.2020.1809382.
13. Kallioras D., Monastiriotes, V. and Petrakos G. (2018) 'Spatial dynamics and agglomeration forces in the external EU periphery', *The Annals of Regional Science*, **60**: 591-612.
14. Monastiriotes, V., Kallioras D. and Petrakos G. (2017) 'The regional impact of European Union Association Agreements: An event-analysis approach to the case of Central and Eastern Europe', *Regional Studies*, **51**(10): 1454-1468.
15. Petrakos, G. and Psycharis, Y. (2016) 'The spatial aspects of economic crisis in Greece', *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, **9**(1): 137-152.
16. Crescenzi, R. and Petrakos G. (2016) 'The European Union and its neighboring countries: The economic geography of trade, Foreign Direct Investment and development', *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*, **34** (4), 581-591
17. Petrakos G., Tsiapa M. and Kallioras D. (2016) 'Regional Inequalities in the European Neighborhood Countries: The effects of Growth and Integration', *Environment and Planning C*, **34**(4): 698-716.
18. Anagnostou A., Kallioras D. and Petrakos G. (2016) 'Integrating the Neighbors: Trade relations between the EU and the ENP countries', *Comparative Economic Studies*, **58**(1): 17-42.
19. Artelaris P. and Petrakos G. (2016) 'Intraregional spatial inequalities and regional economic growth in the EU: Beyond the Inverted-U hypothesis', *International Regional Science Review*, **39**(3): 291-317.
20. Petrakos G. (2014) 'Economic Crisis in Greece: European and Domestic Market and Policy Failures', *Region et Developpement*, **39**: 9-33.
21. Petrakos, G. Fotopoulos, G. and Kallioras, D. (2012) 'Peripherality and Integration: Industrial Growth and Decline in the Greek Regions', *Environment and Planning C*, **30**(2):347-361.
22. Petrakos, G., Kallioras, D. and Anagnostou, A. (2011) 'Regional convergence and growth in Europe: understanding patterns and determinants', *European Urban and Regional Studies*, **18**(4): 375-391.
23. Artelaris, P., Arvanitidis, P. and Petrakos, G. (2011) 'Convergence patterns in the world economy: exploring the non-linearity hypothesis', *Journal of Economic Studies*, **38**(3): 236-252.
24. Arvanitidis, P., Petrakos, G. and Pavleas, S. (2010) "On the dynamics of growth performance: an expert survey", *Contributions to Political Economy*, **29**: 59-86.
25. Monastiriotes, V. and Petrakos, G. (2010) "Twenty Years of Economic Transition in the Balkans: transition failures and development challenges", *Southeastern Europe*, **34**(2): 54-174.
26. Kallioras, D. and Petrakos, G. (2010) "Industrial growth, economic integration and structural change: evidence from the EU new member-states", *Annals of Regional Science*, **45**(3), pp. 667-680.
27. Fotopoulos, G., Kallioras, D. and Petrakos, G. (2010) 'Spatial variations in Greek manufacturing employment growth: the effects of specialization and international trade', *Papers in Regional Science*, **89**: 109-133.

28. Petrakos, G. and Artelaris, P. (2009) "European regional convergence revisited: A Weighted Least Squares approach", *Growth and Change*, **40**(2): 314-331.
29. Petrakos, G. (2008) 'Regional inequalities in Europe: Evidence, theory and policy' *Town Planning Review*, Viewpoint, **79**(5): i-vii.
30. Petrakos, G. and Topaloglou, E. (2008), 'Economic geography and European integration: The effects on the EU's external borders', *International Journal of Public Policy*, **3**(3-4): 146-162.
31. Arvanitidis, P. and Petrakos, G. (2006), Understanding Economic Change in the Cities: A Review of Evidence and Theory, *European Spatial Research and Policy*, **13**(2): 97-122.
32. Topaloglou, E., Kallioras, D., Manetos, P. and Petrakos, G. (2005), Towards a border regions typology in the enlarged EU, *Journal of Borderland Studies*, **20**(2): 67-89.
33. Petrakos, G., Rodriguez-Pose, A., Rovolis A. (2005) 'Growth, Integration and Regional Inequalities in Europe', *Environment and Planning A*, **37**(10): 1837-1855.
34. Coccosis, H., Economou, D. and Petrakos, G. (2005) 'The ESPD relevance to a distant partner: Greece', *European Planning Studies*, **13**(2): 253-264.
35. Petrakos, G. and Economou, D. (2004) 'Spatial Asymmetries in Southeastern Europe', *Journal of Economic Asymmetries*, **1**(1): 127-149.
36. Dimitrov, M., Petrakos, G., Totev, S. and Tsiapa, M. (2003) 'Cross-border cooperation in South-eastern Europe: the enterprises' point of view', *Eastern European Economics*, **41**(6): 5-25.
37. Petrakos G. (2002) 'The Balkans in the New European Economic Space: Prospects of Adjustment and Policies of Development', *Eastern European Economics*, **40**(4):6-30.
38. Petrakos, G. and Economou D. (2002) 'The Spatial Aspects of Development in Southeastern Europe' *Spatium*, **8**:1-13.
39. Petrakos, G. and Tsiapa, M. (2001) 'The Spatial Aspects of Enterprise Learning in Transition Countries', *Regional Studies*, **35**(6):549-562.
40. Petrakos, G. (2001) "Patterns of Regional Inequality in Transition Economies", *European Planning Studies*, **9**(3):359-383.
41. Petrakos, G. and Saratsis, G. (2000) "Regional Inequalities in Greece", *Papers in Regional Science*, **79**(1):57-74.
42. Petrakos, G. and Totev, S. (2000) "Economic Structure and Change in the Balkan Region: Implications for Integration, Transition and Economic Cooperation", *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, **24**:95-113.
43. Ioannidis, Y. and Petrakos, G. (2000) 'Regional disparities in Greece: The performance of Crete, Peloponnese and Thessaly' *European Investment Bank Papers*, **5**(1):31-58.
44. Petrakos, G., Karaveli, E. and Mardakis, P. (2000) "Recent Developments in the Greek System of Urban Centers", *Environment and Planning: B*, **27**:169-181.

RECENT BOOKS, EDITING AND REPORTS

1. Petrakos G., Niavis S. and Kallioras D. (2026) *The Inequality Gap in Europe: Perceptions, Realities, Policies*, Edward Elgar.
2. Petrakos G. (2023) "Trade Structure and Green Development", Athens: Labor Institute (in Greek). Available at: https://www.inegsee.gr/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/PETRAKOS_EBOOK.pdf

3. Barbieri S. Rosso P. and Petrakos G. (2020) "*Regional Policy for Greece Post-2020: Regional Profiles*", OECD Territorial Reviews, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Available at: https://www.espa.gr/Lists/Custom_Announcements/Attachments/1309/Regional_profiles_gr.pdf
4. Crescenzi R. and Petrakos G. (2016) (Guest Editors) 'The European Union and its Neighboring Countries: The economic geography of Trade, FDI and Development' *Environment and Planning C*, **34**, Special Issue.
5. Petrakos G. and Psycharis I. (2016) *Regional Development in Greece*. Athens: Kritiki, 2nd edition (in Greek).
6. Dimou M., Petrakos G. and Psycharis Y. (Guest Editors) 'Economic Crisis in Greece' *Region et Developpment*, Special Issue, 2014.
7. Topaloglou E. and Petrakos G. (2008) '*Borders, Integration and Development*', Athens: Kritiki (in Greek)
8. Krieger-Boden C., Morgenroth E. and Petrakos G. (2008) *The Impact of European Integration on Regional Structural Change and Cohesion*, London: Routledge.
9. Bradley J., Petrakos G. and Traistaru J. (2004) *Integration, Growth and Cohesion in an Enlarged European Union*, Springer.
10. Petrakos G. (2002) (Guest Editor) 'Restructuring and Development in Southeastern Europe', *Eastern European Economics*, Vol. 40, No. 2, Special Edition.
11. Petrakos G. (2002) (Guest Editor) 'Restructuring and Development in Southeastern Europe I', *Eastern European Economics*, Vol. 40, No. 3, Special Edition.
12. Petrakos G. (2002) (Guest Editor) 'Restructuring and Development in Southeastern Europe II', *Eastern European Economics*, Vol. 40, No. 4, Special Edition.
13. Petrakos G. and Totev S. (2001) *The Development of the Balkan Region*, Aldershot: Ashgate.
14. Petrakos G., Maier G. and Gorzelak G. (2000) *Integration and Transition in Europe: The Economic Geography of Interaction*, London: Routledge.

ADVISORY

1. Study for the development of the Prefecture of Ileia with a focus on Ancient Olympia", *DiaNEOsis*, 2022.
2. Advisor in the project "Ex post evaluation of Cohesion policy programmes 2014-2020 financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)" *European Commission*, REGIO/2022/OP/0008 Package 6: SME Support (2021CE16BAT064). Project leader: CSIL-Centro Studi Industria Leggera SC.
3. "Resilient Western Athens 2030", *Development Association of Western Athens*, 2022-23.
4. "The development of human resources in the North Evia island". Study for the restructuring and development of North Evia island after the wildfires, *DiaNEOsis*, 2021-22.
5. "Regional Operational Program of Thessaly". Advisory services to the Managing Authority of Thessaly for the design of the Programming Period 2021-27, *Region of Thessaly*, 2021-22.
6. Study for the design of policies in the Mediterranean Basin for the improvement of the territorial governance of the INTERREG MED Program in the next Programming Period, *Managing Authority of the PANORAMED Program*, 2021-22.

7. "Support of Energy-dependent Municipalities of Western Macedonia and Megalopolis in the evaluation of the impact of the Just Transition Territorial Plan towards a smooth transition in the post-lignite period and the development of a sustainable productive system", *Network of Energy-dependent Municipalities*, 23/3/21-23/5/21.
8. Expert in the Project "Territorial review of Greece with a special focus on Cohesion Policy", *OECD*, Duration: 2018-20. Contract: 500077469.
9. "Support of the Region of Central Greece for the restoration of funding gap during the last programming periods", *Region of Central Greece Managing Authority*, 2020.
10. Strategic Development Plan of Volos, 2005, *City of Volos*, Coordinator.
11. Strategic Development Plan of Larissa, 2003, *City of Larissa*, Coordinator.
12. "Territorial Cooperation and transnational cooperation programmes within Structural Funds", expert, member of the Scientific Committee (ref 2004 CE 16 0 AT 040), *DG Regional Policy*. Project Leader: Centre for Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 2005.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

1. "JUSTPLACE - JUSTice and Participation through LocAlised and Citizen-centred Engagement - Redesigning democracy through people-in-places territorial strategies", *HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-08*, Partner 2026-28.
2. "ESSPIN - Economic, Social and Spatial Inequalities in Europe in the Era of Global Mega-trends", *HORIZON-CL2-2021-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-03*, Lead Partner, 2022-25.
3. "DISINREG - Regional inequalities, political discontent and the anatomy of integration and disintegration in Europe", *Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation*, Leader, 2022-24.
4. "The structure of the external trade of Greece and possibilities for a green growth strategy", Institute of Labor, Operational Program *EPANEK* 2014-20, Leader, 2021-22.
5. "Interregional Relations in Europe", *ESPON*, Contract: 2018/S-248-573542, 2020-22.
6. "Academic Performance and Regional Performance", ESF Greece OP 3.6 Improvement of Quality and Efficiency of Education System, *NSRF Greece* OP MIS: 5048958, Coordinator, 2020-21.
7. "Small Business Clinic", project No. T1EAK-02161, Action *Research>Create>Innovate*, Operational Program for Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, *ERDF Greece 2014-20*, (Coordinator). Duration: 2018-22.
8. "RELOCAL: Resituating the Local in Cohesion and Territorial Development", *HORIZON*, 2016-20.
9. "INACT: An integrated Approach for Promoting Cross-Border Business and Development", *INTERREG* IIIB, 2013-2015.
10. "SEARCH - Sharing Knowledge Assets: InteRegionally Cohesive NeighBorhoods", *FP7*, May 2011-March 2014.
11. "EUBORDERREGIONS - European Regions, EU External Borders and the Immediate Neighbours. Analysing Regional Development Options through Policies and Practices of Cross-Border Cooperation", *FP7*, 2011- 2014.
12. "TERCO - European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life", *ESPON* Applied Research under Priority 1 (2013/1/9), 2010 - 2013.
13. "PROMISE - Municipal Property Management in South - Eastern Cities" (South East Europe: Transnational Cooperation Programme) *INTERREG*, Project Lead Partner, 2009-2012.

14. "TELEACCESS - Creation of Telecenters to Support Learning, Entrepreneurship and Access to IS, in Isolated Areas", *INTERREG IIIB CADSES, NEIGHBOURHOOD PROGRAMME*, 2007-2008.
15. "FRONTIERS - Successful Interreg Projects' Planning and Implementation-The Case of Remote Areas, European Commission *INTERACT*, 2006-2008.
16. "DYNREG - Dynamic regions in a knowledge-driven global economy: lessons and policy implications for the EU", *6FP*, Lead partner for WP 2, Project Leader: ESRI, 2006-2008.
17. "EUDIMENSIONS", *6FP*, Lead Partner: University of Berlin, 2006-2009.
18. "FUTuRISM", *INTERREG III C Program*. Project Leader: The Region of Clermon-Ferant, 2006-2008.
19. "Migra-Value", *INTERREG III B Program*. Project Leader: Veneto Lavoro, 2006-2008.
20. "Identification of spatially relevant aspects of the information society", European Commission, *ESPO* 2006 Program, 2005-2006.
21. "GREENKEYS - Urban Green as a Key for Sustainable Cities", *INTERREG IIIB CADSES*, 2005-2008.
22. "MANWATER", *INTERREG III B ARCHIMED*. Project Leader: National Center for the Environment and Sustainable Development, 2006-2008.
23. "RIMED: Regional Integration and Metropolitan Development in Southeastern Europe", *INTERREG III CADSES*, Lead Partner, 2003-2005.
24. "EXLINEA - Lines of Exclusion as Arenas of Cooperation in Europe", *FP5*, 2002-2005.
25. "EURECO: The impact of European Integration and Enlargement on Regional Structural Change and Cohesion", *FP5*, 2002-2005.

TEACHING

Teaching experience of more than 35 years as an Instructor at the Department of Economics, Arizona State University (1986-88), a Lecturer at the Department of International and European Economic Studies, Athens University of Economics and Business (1991-95) and an Assistant/Associate/Full Professor at the Department of Planning and Regional Development, University of Thessaly (1989-). Teaching includes a large number of subjects. Undergraduate level: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, International Trade, Econometrics, Mathematical Economics, Urban Economics, Regional Economics, Regional Development and Studio of Regional Policy. Graduate level: Economic Geography, Urban and Regional Economics, European Integration, Regional Development, European Cohesion Policies, Seminar on Managing Change. Many lectures as visiting or invited professor in many Universities, including Cambridge, LSE, Victoria

INVITED / KEYNOTE SPEAKER

As the Rector of the University of Thessaly, Secretary General of the Ministry of Development, Vice-President of the ERSA and Chairman of the Department of Planning and Regional Development, I have been invited to speak in a large number of Conferences and Congresses, or address events organized by Universities, Chambers, Professional or Scientific Associations, Ministries, Local or Regional Authorities. More recent presentations with an academic content include the following:

1. Petrakos G. (2026) From Absorption to Productivity: Lessons from the RRF Experience: A note on design, implementation and impact, *LSE Hellenic Observatory*, Roundtable Discussion, 12 May 2026
2. Petrakos G. (2025) Αναπτυξιακές Πολιτικές για μια Προοδευτική Διακυβέρνηση, *Παραγωγική Ελλάδα 2030*, Ξενοδοχείο Caravel, Αθήνα, 10 Οκτωβρίου 2025.

3. Petrakos G. (2023) Cohesion Policy 5.0: The Road Ahead, *Regional Growth Conference*, Patras, 17 May 2023.
4. Petrakos G. (2021) '*Shaping Cities in the Urban Age*', LSE Hellenic Observatory Athens Lectures Series, Invited Speaker, Thursday 11 February, 16:00-17:30 (UK Time)/ 18:00-19:30 (GR Time).
5. Petrakos G. (2020) '*The Development of Cities*' Invited Speaker, Online Workshop: *SmartCities digital transformation & digital competences for smart cities*' personnel, DEVOPS, 3 June 2020.
6. Petrakos G. (2020) '*The Strategy of Regional Cohesion and Development in the new decade*' Invited Speaker in *National Development Conference for the New NSRF 2021-27*, Ministry of Development and Investment, Athens 17 January, 2020.
7. Petrakos G. and Chen J. (2019) '*Chinese Cities: Urban development, socio-economic transformations, policy challenges and comparisons with the European experience*', Invited Speakers, *4th International Conference CHANGING CITIES: Spatial, Design, Landscape & Socio-economic Dimensions*, Chania, Crete Island, Greece, 24-29 June 2019