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Measuring the Draghi Agenda and European Competitiveness across EU Member States

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Abstract

Europe faces structural challenges linked to weak productivity growth, a widening innovation gap relative to other major economies, high and volatile energy costs, and increasing strategic dependencies. The 2024 Draghi Report provided a comprehensive diagnosis of these weaknesses and proposed a new strategy to strengthen Europe's long-term economic performance. In 2025, the European Commission's Competitiveness Compass translated this diagnosis into three transformational imperatives: closing the innovation gap, combining decarbonisation with competitiveness, and reducing excessive dependencies, supported by five horizontal enablers related to simplification, the Single Market, financing, skills and quality jobs, and policy coordination. This study proposes an empirical framework to examine how this emerging policy agenda can be monitored and assessed across the EU-27. The research design is based on a multidimensional country-level panel using harmonised Eurostat indicators covering productivity, investment, research and development, digitalisation, artificial intelligence adoption, energy costs, renewable energy, human capital, trade dependence, and business dynamics. The framework distinguishes policy implementation from intermediate outcomes and final economic performance. A multidimensional implementation index is proposed to capture cross-country differences across the main pillars of the Competitiveness Compass. The empirical strategy combines descriptive and multivariate analysis with panel-data techniques, subject to data availability. The study aims to provide a transparent framework for monitoring implementation and assessing its relationship with productivity and broader economic performance as post-reform evidence becomes available.

Keywords: Decarbonization; Innovation; Panel Data; Productivity; Strategic Dependencies