

About the Authors

Beñat Bilbao-Osorio

Beñat Bilbao-Osorio is an Associate Director and Senior Economist at The Global Benchmarking Network at the World Economic Forum. In this capacity, he carries out research on national competitiveness issues with a special focus on Latin America and Iberia. In addition, he analyzes the role of innovation and information and communication technologies in fostering competitiveness and is co-editor of *The Global Information Technology Report*. Prior to joining the Forum, Dr Bilbao-Osorio worked at the Directorate-General for Research & Innovation of the European Commission, where he was responsible for the economic analysis of European Innovation Policy. Prior to that, he worked at the Directorates of Science, Technology and Industry, and Education of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on innovation-related topics as well as the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO) on international trade competitiveness analysis. His main research fields are innovation, skills, and economic development, where he has published extensively. Dr Bilbao-Osorio holds a degree in Economics from the Universidad Comercial de Deusto (Spain), a Master in European Studies from the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium), and a PhD in Economic Geography from the London School of Economic and Political Science (UK).

Jennifer Blanke

Jennifer Blanke is Senior Director, Lead Economist, and Head of The Global Benchmarking Network team at the World Economic Forum. Since joining the team in 2002, she has written and lectured extensively on issues related to national competitiveness and has edited a number of competitiveness reports, with a particular regional focus on Western Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. From 1998 to 2002, she was Senior Programme Manager responsible for developing the business, management, and technology sections of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos. Before joining the Forum, Dr Blanke worked for a number of years as a management consultant for Eurogroup, Mazars Group in Paris, France, where she specialized in banking and financial market organization. Dr Blanke obtained a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University (US) and an MA and a PhD in International Economics from the Graduate Institute of International Studies (Geneva).

Ciara Browne

Ciara Browne is an Associate Director of The Global Benchmarking Network at the World Economic Forum, where her responsibilities include managing the network of Partner Institutes worldwide and coordinating the Executive Opinion Survey process. Ms Browne is also involved in the production of *The Global Competitiveness Report* and the Network's other benchmarking studies. She works closely with the Forum's media team in conveying the findings of the various competitiveness reports to the media and the public. Before joining the Forum, she served for several years with the International Organization for Migration, where she worked for a mass claims processing program. She has a BA (Hons) degree from the University of Manchester (UK).

Roberto Crotti

Roberto Crotti is a Quantitative Economist with The Global Benchmarking Network at the World Economic Forum. His responsibilities include the computation of a range of indexes as well as data analysis for various projects and studies. His main areas of expertise are quantitative research, forecasting, macroeconomics, and public economics. Prior to joining the Forum, he worked as an Analyst in the private consulting and forecasting sector. Mr Crotti holds an undergraduate degree in Economics/Economic Policy from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, Italy, and an MA in Economics from Boston University in the United States.

Margareta Drzeniek Hanouz

Margareta Drzeniek Hanouz is Head of Competitiveness Research and a Director and Senior Economist with The Global Benchmarking Network at the World Economic Forum, where she researches and writes on issues of national competitiveness, especially those related to the Arab world, Eastern Europe, and international trade. She is lead author or editor of a number of regional and topical reports and papers, including *The Global Enabling Trade Report*. Previously she oversaw the economic modeling for some of the Forum's scenario projects and was charged with developing the economics section of the program for the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos. Before joining the Forum, Dr Drzeniek Hanouz worked for several years with the International Trade Centre in Geneva, where she was in charge of relations with Central and Eastern European countries. Dr Drzeniek Hanouz received a Diploma in Economics from the University of Münster and holds a PhD in International Economics from the University of Bochum, both in Germany.

Brindusa Fidanza

Brindusa Fidanza is an Associate Director of Environmental Initiatives at the World Economic Forum. She engages business, governments, and experts in developing tailor-made project and programmatic approaches to catalyzing private capital into low-carbon infrastructure in developing countries through the Green Growth Partnership initiative. She is a regular contributor to low-carbon and green growth reports, and facilitates private-sector input into the Clean Energy Ministerial process and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Most recently, she led the Critical Mass initiative for scaling up low-carbon infrastructure financing for developing countries and was a facilitator of the Task Force on Low-Carbon Prosperity, which reported on building blocks of the low-carbon economy to the UK G-20 presidency in 2009. Before joining the Forum, Ms Fidanza worked in corporate affairs with RJ Reynolds International, on governmental capacity building with the Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations, and on trade and environment issues with the UN Economic Commission for Europe. She holds an MA in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International Relations (Geneva) and an MA in Global Ecology and Sustainable Development from the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (Geneva). She is a 2011 graduate of the Global Leadership Programme of the World Economic Forum.

Thierry Geiger

Thierry Geiger is an Economist and Associate Director with The Global Benchmarking Network at the World Economic Forum. He leads the competitiveness research on Asia, supervises the development and computation of a wide range of composite indicators, and is responsible for the Network's technical assistance and capacity-building activities. His areas of expertise are private-sector development, international trade, and applied economics. Mr Geiger is a co-author of the Forum's flagship publications *The Global Competitiveness Report*, *The Global Information Technology Report*, and *The Global Enabling Trade Report*. He is the lead author of several regional and country studies. A Swiss national, Mr Geiger holds a BA in Economics from the University of Geneva, an MA in Economics from the University of British Columbia, and was a Fellow of the Forum's Global Leadership Programme. Prior to joining the Forum, he worked for the World Trade Organization and Caterpillar Inc. He is Co-Founder of Procab Studio, a Geneva-based IT company.

Tania Gutknecht

Tania Gutknecht is Community Manager with The Global Benchmarking Network at the World Economic Forum. Her responsibilities include co-managing the network of Partner Institutes worldwide and driving the Executive Opinion Survey process. She also is responsible for the production of *The Global Competitiveness Report* and related benchmarking studies. She collaborates closely with the Forum's media and digital content teams in conveying the findings of the competitiveness reports to the public through press, Web, and social media. Prior joining The Global Benchmarking Network team, Ms Gutknecht worked with the Centre for Business Engagement at the World Economic Forum, where she coordinated high-profile events and meetings to address the challenges of inclusive social and economic growth; built relationships with C-suite executives of partner companies; and oversaw the operation-management responsibilities of a team of coordinators. Ms Gutknecht holds an MA in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International Studies (Geneva) as well as an MSc in International Management from the University of Geneva.

Caroline Ko

Caroline Ko is a Junior Economist with The Global Benchmarking Network. Her responsibilities include the computation of various indexes and research for various projects and studies. She is co-author of the *Europe 2020 Competitiveness Report* and has been involved in conceptualizing the B20 Employment Recommendations. Prior to joining the Forum, she worked for an economic policy consultancy in the UK, where she analyzed economic and financial policies in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. She also worked for the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs of the European Commission, where she assessed financial development in the new member states. She holds an undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of Groningen and an MSc in Economics and Finance from the University of Tilburg, both in the Netherlands.

Xavier Sala-i-Martin

Xavier Sala-i-Martin is a Professor in the Department of Economics at Columbia University. He was previously an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics at Yale University and a Visiting Professor at Universitat Pompeu Fabra. His research interests include economic growth, macroeconomics, public finance and social security, health and population economics, monetary economics, poverty, inequality, estimation of the world distribution of income, and measuring competitiveness. He is a consultant on growth and competitiveness for a number of countries, international institutions, and corporations. Professor Sala-i-Martin is a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He earned his MA and PhD, both in Economics, from Harvard University. He collaborates closely with the World Economic Forum in his capacity as Chief Advisor to The Global Benchmarking Network.

Cecilia Serin

Cecilia Serin is the team coordinator for The Global Benchmarking Network. Her responsibilities include supporting the team in the production of the various reports and coordination of the Sustainable Competitiveness project. Prior to joining the Forum, she worked at the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), where she was responsible for organizing the bi-annual Global Roundtable on Sustainable Finance. She also worked at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on various sustainability issues. Ms Serin holds a BSc in Business Administration from the International University of Monaco, and an MSc in Development Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science (UK).