

About the Authors

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Paola Annoni is the Scientific Officer at the European Commission - Joint Research Centre. She conducts and coordinates methodological activity in the fields of socioeconomic indicators for policymaking and mathematical modeling for impact assessment. She has been involved in various international projects for the assessment of indexes such as the Web Index (World Wide Web Foundation), the Global Competitiveness Index (World Economic Forum), and the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (Mo Ibrahim Foundation and Kennedy School of Government). Her experience is in applied statistics, numerical modeling, sensitivity analysis, and partial order theory for multi-criteria analysis. She has an MSc in Physics and a PhD in Statistics.

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Beñat Bilbao-Osorio is an Associate Director and Senior Economist with The Global Competitiveness 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; at the Directorates of Science, Technology and Industry, and Education of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on innovation-related topics; and at 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).

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Jennifer Blanke is Chief Economist and Head of The Global Competitiveness Network 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 organizations. Dr Blanke obtained a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University and an MA and a PhD in International Economics from the Graduate Institute of International Studies (Geneva).

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Ciara Browne is an Associate Director of The Global Competitiveness Network, 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 *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. Ms Browne is further responsible for the organization and management of a series of competitiveness workshops in sub-Saharan Africa. 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).

Edoardo Campanella

Edoardo Campanella is a Fulbright Scholar at the Harvard Kennedy School, where he is pursuing a Master in Public Administration. He spent the summer of 2013 working at the World Economic Forum on the conceptualization of sustainable competitiveness. In the past, he worked as an economist at the World Trade Organization, contributing to its flagship publication *The World Trade Report*, and at the Italian Parliament, working on the sustainability of Italy's public finances during the euro crisis. His op-ed pieces on European economic and political issues have appeared in several international media outlets, such as Project Syndicate, Voxeu.org, Eurointelligence, and many others. Mr Campanella holds a degree in Economics from the University of Turin and an MSc in International Trade and Development from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona.

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