



## ABSTRACT WORKING PAPER 5.12

### THE QUALITY OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF EU AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

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The paper focuses on a comparative analysis of the institutional quality of the European Union countries and its neighbors: candidate countries, European Neighboring countries (South and East) and Black Sea countries. The main aim is to highlight trends of convergence or divergence of institutional quality across time for single countries or groups of countries and their influence on global competitiveness. Based on reliable data from the World Economic Forum (WEF), reflecting the assessment of qualified experts of the business sector, a methodological framework is elaborated, in order to test empirically, our main hypothesis: The contradictory process of Europeanization towards integration promotes the improvement of institutional quality of national environments in different ways, which are expressed in trends of convergence and/or divergence, changing over time depending on different domestic responses to adopt the “European acquis” and other driving forces (globalization, financial crisis etc.). Furthermore, the improvement of institutional quality (government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, control of corruption) influences positively the path of economic development and global competitiveness of a country / group of countries.