



IZA Press Release – September 19, 2013

**“Poland should soon join the Euro – for its own benefit and that of Europe”
IZA Director Zimmermann calls for open EU labor markets at EIB Prize Ceremony in Warsaw**

Poland’s swift accession to the Eurozone would further accelerate the country’s economic rise and stimulate growth in the European Union as a whole, according to Klaus F. Zimmermann, Director of the Bonn-based Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA). Zimmermann received the European Investment Bank’s first EIB Prize during a festive ceremony in Warsaw on September 19, 2013. In the light of growing euroscepticism in Poland, Zimmermann referred to the country’s remarkable economic achievements and called Poland the “best prepared candidate” for joining the Eurozone. “The economic opportunities are by far greater than the risks. I am in favor of strengthening the euro as an anchor of stability for the global financial system, and I would be pleased if Poland supported this path,” he added.

Zimmermann also called for unrestricted labor mobility within the EU as the key to growth and employment. At only one percent, intrastate mobility is much lower than in other regions, such as the U.S. or Canada. The opening of the EU labor markets to Eastern Europe turned out beneficial for the entire EU, not least for Poland. This is why the European Commission should push for free mobility among all members, argued Zimmermann. “Mobility incentives would particularly help the seven million European youth who are currently not in work or training,” he said.

Zimmermann was selected as the inaugural recipient of the European EIB Prize for his lifetime scientific contribution, including academic excellence and publication record as well as impact on public policy or society at large, with specific relevance to the prize’s topic, “Growth, employment and convergence, with applications to the European Union.” According to the Nobel laureate Christopher Pissarides (London School of Economics), who chaired the prize committee, Zimmermann’s outstanding research on migration and labor market issues has “led to a better understanding of the forces at work in Europe and of suitable policy prescriptions.” EIB President Werner Hoyer presented the Prize, worth 40,000 euros, during the ceremony in Warsaw.

About the laureate:

Klaus F. Zimmermann (60) is Full Professor of Economics at the University of Bonn and Director of the Bonn-based Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA). The independent research institute employs the world’s largest network of over 1,200 economists from more than 45 countries. Zimmermann has initiated migration research in economics in Europe and has studied the creation and effectiveness of labor market reforms. He has made important contributions for the understanding of their consequences for employment, economic success and integration. Important research projects have dealt with the effects of East enlargement of the European Union for the European labor markets and the economic consequences of ethnic diversity. Zimmermann is committed to the diffusion of research to policy and society. He regularly advises the European Commission and the World Bank on labor market and migration issues. Read more: <http://www.iza.org/home/zimmermann>

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About the EIB Institute:

Established in 2012 as part of the European Investment Bank Group, the EIB Institute is dedicated to supporting 'European initiatives for the common good'. The Institute sees itself as a catalyst for social, cultural, educational and research activities that are directed towards economic and social development in EU Member States and European partner countries. Read more: <http://institute.eib.org>

More information about the EIB Prize:

<http://institute.eib.org/programmes/knowledge-2/eib-prize/>