



# **Microeconomic data for fact-based trade, growth and jobs policy design**

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- **Points to take home !**

- ❑ **The firm is an important unit of observation (where the action is!)**
  - ❑ **Heterogeneity and skewness matter**
  - ❑ **Conclusions based on aggregates (averages) need to be qualified/nuanced**
  - ❑ **To understand determinants of firm efficiency and success is crucial in understanding the drivers of competitiveness.**
- **EFIGE:**
    - **Dataset:** its release is welcomed and we look forward to working with it
    - **Research:** a rich and growing body of stylized facts and policy insights
  - **Insights are useful and in line with our work at the Commission (examples):**
    - External imbalances and competitiveness (Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure)
    - Trade and its relation with employment and productivity
    - The role of firm size (its distribution) and its possible policy determinants
    - Role of innovation/skills in productivity and external competitiveness
    - Role of access to credit/financing conditions



## Some questions:

- To what extent can dynamic effects be analysed with this dataset? Role and determinants of entry and exit (both in the market and in terms of export activity)?:
  - **Are best performing firms also more "agile" (better equipped) to deal with shocks?**
  - **How do firms adjust to demand shocks in destination markets in terms of intensive and extensive margins?**
  - **Is there a role for policy in fostering this agility at firm level or should one rely on entry/exit (contraction/expansion) to achieve this agility" at the aggregate level?**
- Going forward: what is next in terms of developing the dataset? Future research projects?