

The Impact of European Funding on Learning Outcomes of Pupils in Slovakia

Abstract

As a member of the European Union, Slovakia has access to various funding programs aimed at improving education and fostering economic development. This thesis examines the effectiveness of these funds in enhancing educational achievement in all relevant Slovakian primary and secondary schools. To assess the impact of European funds, the thesis employs fixed effects, between effects, and a difference-in-difference approach. We combine data collected from the National Institute of Education and Youth with socio-economic data. The analysis covers the period from 2007 to 2013, encompassing one funding cycle and allowing for a comprehensive evaluation of the long-term effects on educational achievement. The results do not reveal a correlation between European funds and the test scores of schools. However, a negative correlation was found between schools located in economically disadvantaged areas and with pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. The study also identifies several challenges and areas for future research for more efficient fund allocation.