

Expression of Interest for hosting Marie Skłodowska – Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Lodz

1. DEPARTMENT INTERESTED IN HOSTING POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Faculty: Economics and Sociology
Department: Macroeconomics
Contact person – potential Supervisor (name, e-mail address, position in organisation, phone number): dr hab. Pawel Gajewski, pawel.gajewski@uni.lodz.pl
Website: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=7xkCcfIAAAAJ&hl=pl>

2. SCIENTIFIC AREA:

- Chemistry
- Economic Sciences
- Information Science and Engineering
- Environmental and Geosciences
- Life Sciences
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Social Sciences and Humanities

3. SHORT SUMMARY OF THE HOSTING DEPARTMENT (*max. 1 page*)

Activities and expertise:

The Department of Macroeconomics is part of the Institute of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Sociology, University of Łódź. The Department is headed by dr hab. Paweł Gajewski, prof. Uł, and brings together a team of researchers specialising in macroeconomic modelling, regional economic dynamics, monetary integration, labour markets, and fiscal policy mostly in the context of Central and Eastern European (CEE) economies.

The Department's core research strengths include:

- Regional and spatial macroeconomics: analysis of regional convergence, inflation persistence, firm entry dynamics, and economic resiliency across CEE regions using NUTS-2 and NUTS-3 spatial data, dynamic panel models, and local projection methods.
- Post-industrial urban transitions: applied research on economic restructuring, entrepreneurship, and innovation in cities undergoing post-industrial transformation, directly aligned with the University's strategic engagement in the UNIC European University Alliance.

- Growth and productivity: research on Total Factor Productivity (TFP) measurement, the productivity–wage nexus, and the role of multinational corporations (MNCs) in shaping growth trajectories in emerging European economies.
- Demographic change and economic performance: investigation of population ageing effects on macroeconomic convergence, fiscal sustainability, and labour market outcomes in the CEE region.
- Monetary and fiscal policy: monetary policy stress in EMU, Taylor-rule estimations, forward guidance effectiveness, fiscal sustainability in Visegrad countries, and macroeconomic policy coordination.

Department members regularly publish in internationally recognised peer-reviewed journals, including Eastern European Economics, Emerging Markets Finance and Trade, International Review of Financial Analysis, European Planning Studies, and Applied Economics Letters. The Department head serves as an editor of Eastern European Economics (Taylor & Francis).

Involvement in EU-funded research and training programmes/actions/projects:

- UNIC – The European University of Cities in Post-Industrial Transition (Erasmus+, 2022–ongoing): The University of Łódź is a member of the UNIC Alliance, a consortium of 10 European universities (coordinated by Erasmus University Rotterdam) dedicated to collaborative research, education, and societal engagement in post-industrial urban contexts. This provides the hosted fellow with access to mobility programmes, collaborative research funding (UNIC Fund for Virtual and International Projects), thematic research lines (sustainability, digitalisation, inclusion, entrepreneurship), and a pan-European network spanning Rotterdam, Cork, Bilbao, Istanbul, Malmo, Zagreb, Liege, Oulu, and Bochum.
- Erasmus+ staff and student mobility: The Faculty maintains active Erasmus+ bilateral agreements with over 30 partner institutions across Europe, facilitating researcher mobility and joint teaching activities.
- Faculty-level EU project portfolio: The Faculty of Economics and Sociology has a proven track record in EU-funded research, having participated in FP6, FP7, and Horizon Europe projects.

Key research facilities:

- Data and computational infrastructure: access to Stata, EViews, MATLAB, and R/Python environments for advanced econometric and spatial analysis.
- University of Łódź Library: a modern research library with extensive digital collections, including access to JSTOR, Web of Science, Scopus, EBSCO, and major economics journal archives. The library serves as a key node in the UNIC Alliance’s knowledge-sharing infrastructure.
- Research seminar and networking infrastructure: The Department runs a regular research seminar series featuring both internal and external speakers.
- Office and working environment: dedicated office space for the fellow, situated at the Faculty campus at ul. Rewolucji 1905 r. 41/43, Łódź.

Intersectoral secondments optionsⁱ

YES NO

4. PROPOSED PROJECT TOPIC

Productivity, Demographic Transition, and Economic Convergence in Central and Eastern Europe: New Evidence from Regional and Sectoral Analysis

Context and rationale. More than three decades after the fall of communism, the Central and Eastern European (CEE) economies have achieved remarkable convergence with Western Europe, yet significant challenges remain. Growth models relying on foreign direct investment, cost-competitive labour, and integration into global value chains appear to be reaching their limits. Simultaneously, the CEE region faces an accelerating demographic transition (rapid population ageing and declining labour force participation) that threatens to erode the productivity gains achieved during the catch-up period. Understanding the interaction between these structural forces is critical for both academic theory and evidence-based policy.

Objective. The proposed project seeks to investigate how demographic change, particularly population ageing, affects Total Factor Productivity (TFP) growth and economic convergence patterns across CEE regions and sectors. The fellow will develop novel econometric frameworks combining spatial analysis, dynamic panel methods, and local projection techniques to disentangle the channels through which ageing influences productivity, including labour market tightening, innovation incentives, sectoral reallocation, and the evolving role of multinational corporations. Expected outcomes. The project is expected to produce publications in internationally recognised peer-reviewed journal and policy recommendations for national and EU-level stakeholders on how to sustain convergence in the face of demographic headwinds.

Fit with the hosting environment. The project builds directly on the Department's established expertise in CEE regional economics, TFP analysis, and spatial econometrics, as well as the supervisor's international research network.

Training and career development. The fellow will benefit from training in spatial econometric techniques and regional data analysis, participation in research workshops and mobility opportunities, and mentoring in academic publishing through the supervisor's editorial role.

5. VALID FOR THE FOLLOWING HORIZON-MSCA--PF CALL:

2023 2024 2025 2026 2027

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships are selected by EC on the basis of annual calls for proposals. Forthcoming and open calls for proposals can be found on the Funding & tender opportunities Portal of the European Commission

6. DO YOU CONSIDER THE NEED OF ON-SITE MEETING DURING THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

YES NO

ⁱ Within non-academic organizations (enterprises, hospitals, government institutions, cultural institutions, non-governmental organisations such as foundations, associations or other legal entities) – may be planned during the project provided they are in line with the Guide for applicants regulations of the corresponding call.