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Reseña de "Regional Policy, Economic Growth and Convergence" de JUAN R. CUADRADO-ROURA (ed.)
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In this book we can find several analysis in regional development policies and the study of changes which have taken place in specific cases, concentrated these ones in spanish regions. The goal of this book has been to offer some contributions to the analysis of the relationship between economic growth, regional convergence and the regional policies applied in this country, using different approaches to an specific case study.

The book has two parts clearly differentiated. The first part, entitled, “The Spanish Experiences of Regional Policies”, where three works gave a review about regional problems and policies in Spain and its regions. The first paper, “Spain as a Case-Study: Regional Problems and Policies” by J.R. Cuadrado-Roura, begins with a historical vision of the regional problems since XVth Century until our days. The second work, “Regional Economy and Policy in Spain (1960-1975)”, by the same author, considers the main features of regional policy in Spain during this period, with a brief description of some of the most significant results, describing some background too, with reference to several previous policies. To finalize this first part, T. Mancha-Navarro and R. Garrido, in “The Evolution of Spanish Regional Policy, 1977-2008”, offers an overview of the evolution of Spain’s regional policy since joining the European Union (EU), focusing in the effects of the European Structural Funds Benchmarks.

The second part, “Regional Growth, Structural Changes and Convergence”, collects ten papers centred in the different views –with different methodologies- of the regional development in Spain during recent years. This part begins with a paper entitled “Macroeconomic Effects of the European Cohesion Policy in the Spanish Economy”, by S. Sosvilla-Rivero, where using HERMIN macroeconomic model of the Spanish economy, analysis at national level, the effects of the funds received in the two benchmarks 1989-2006 and 2007-2013. R. Garrido and T. Mancha-Navarro, in “The Spanish Regional Puzzle: Convergence, Divergence and Structural Change”, provide new empirical evidence on the evolution of regional disparities in Spain, and to relate such evolution to the structural changes that occurred in the Spanish economy and its regions from 1986 to 2007. In chapter 6, M. Mas, F. Pérez and J. Quesada, analyze over the last 20 years, the spanish economy and the growth trend in “The Sources of Spanish Regional Growth”. An analysis of the regional convergence using
0-convergence test. J.R. Cuadrado-Roura and A. Maroto-Sánchez, in “Regional Productivity Convergence and Changes in the Productive Structure”, provide some results and elements from an analysis of regional economic convergence in Spain taking into account the relationship between structural changes and productivity trends. In “Infrastructure Investment, Growth, and Regional Convergence in Spain”, by A. De la Fuente, estimates the contribution investment to the growth of output and employment in Spain and its regions analysing the impact of this factor on the process of regional convergence using a simple supply-side model estimated with a panel of Spanish regional data. O. Roca-Sagalés and H. Sala in “Public Capital Effects and Regional Spillover in Spain”, evaluate to what extent Spain as a whole and each of its regions individually respond to the economic stimulus provided by this investment using VAR methodology. In chapter 10, J.M. Pastor, J.L. Raymond, J.L. Roig and L. Serrano, “Supply and Use of Human Capital in the Spanish Regions”, go over the achievements of Spanish society as regards improvements in the per capita endowments of human capital, the degree of use of this potential human capital and the returns of this one, during the 1977-2007. In this same line, L. Ayaia, A. Jurado and F. Pedraja, in “Inequality and Welfare in Intra-Territorial Income Distribution” assess the variations in the differences regarding inequality and welfare level across the Spanish regions. In chapter 12, E. Reig, “The Competitiveness of the Spanish Regions”, reflects about the competitiveness following two approaches: prices and costs versus productivity. Finally, in chapter 13, J.R. Cuadrado-Roura, in “Regional growth and Regional Policies: Lessons from the Spanish Experience”, gives a new review of the last three decades in Spain and the Spanish researchers’s contributions in economics, at regional level.

So, to resume, in this book you can find several approaches to the regional Spanish reality with different types of methodologies as panel data, macroeconomic models, VAR analysis, -convergence tests, structural analysis, etc. We can miss other types of methodologies as an input-output, social accounting matrices or similars, but it is impossible to collect the different approaches in one book. The work is useful for researchers and politicians to be clearer the regional reality in Spain, but with applicability to other countries.

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