

# European Economic Policy

## Computer Practice



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## COMPUTER PRACTICE

### Computer Lab: EUCITLAB

#### Aim of the class:

- **Organize students into groups having selected a “problematic” sector (good or service).**
- **Discover three key sources of primary information for your essay.**

The idea is to create a EUCITLAB made by the students. We will soon have a webpage up and running and the idea is to upload your reports and videos and other material to display:

1. Students arrange themselves into groups of 5 and select the “problematic” sector their essay will study.
2. EU policy can be evaluated in many different ways – we will explore some of these different ways in the next few classes.
3. One over-looked but very important way is to ask citizens/users for their opinion.
4. We saw yesterday in class how the EU has gradually expanded its powers from a simple common market to entering many different policy domains.
5. Why does the EC have powers on the topic of “consumers”?

[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/index_en.htm)

Why is the EC publishing a report this year on “vulnerable consumers”?

6. The EC has recognized that consumers are not alike and rational. We will discuss this in a class soon. It has recognised it needs to better understand the heterogeneity of consumers. This can provide different feedback to the EU to improve its policy.

For about 20 years the EC has started asking citizens and consumers what they think about different products and services that have been subject to EU policy:

1. Let’s start with Monitoring Consumer Markets in the European Union 2013 PART I:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumer\\_evidence/consumer\\_scoreboards/market\\_monitoring/docs/consumer\\_market\\_monitoring\\_2013\\_part\\_1.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumer_evidence/consumer_scoreboards/market_monitoring/docs/consumer_market_monitoring_2013_part_1.pdf)
  - Table of contents: the countries included in the survey, the concepts (how opinion is measured in the MPI), Structure of the report (EU-28 – I, Market reports – II, Country Reports III, and interactive dashboards IV).
  - MPI composite indicator: comparability, trust, problems & complaints and expectations.
  - MPIs is the same supplemented with “switching” only for some products/services (only 14 markets).
  - MPIc is MPI supplemented with “choice”.
  - MPIsc is MPI supplemented with “switching” and “choice” (only 14 markets).

- Next we have evidence there are differences between the goods and service sectors across the EU-28. Table – page 20.
  - Table 21. We should not assume there is always a lineal progress year to year. See how trust, staying positive, has declined for example, in all markets in 2013.
  - Let's go now to MPI in the EU-28 to get a "global view". Table – page 22.
  - Here we can see those goods and services which score over or under the average score.
  - Why do services score less than goods?
  - Why do some goods or services score less than others?
  - These results are further disaggregated below.
  - For example, how easy is it to compare services/goods?
  - Is that the problem in "your" sector? Have a look.
  - Do the same for "trust" – page 29.
  - Complaints – page 36.
  - Expectations – page 40.
  - Switching (only for some products or services) – page 43.
  - Choice – page 51.
  - This is your job to work out in your reports.
  - The idea is each group selects a "problematic" sector.
- **Seminario 4.** In class we will discuss the format of your report. Word length, structure, analysis, bibliography, expectations and so on.
  - **Seminario 5. Computer lab 3.** Today we progress in researching for the policy report. Here are the steps to follow:
    1. In groups, define MPI, MPIS, MPIC and MPISC. Make a table with your definitions.
    2. Divide your group into two sub-groups.
    3. One sub-group reads Part II of the Monitoring Consumer Markets, the other sub-group reads Part III.
    4. Each sub-group produces a short draft (half a page) on the status of their problem sector – either on the market itself (Part II) or country differences (Part III).
    5. Plan how your group will divide up the rest of the work towards your report. Your preliminary presentation is on 14 April.

### **Sub-group I. Read the relevant pages for your sector:**

- Monitoring Consumer Markets in the European Union Part II - Market reports:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumer\\_evidence/consumer\\_scoreboards/market\\_monitoring/docs/consumer\\_market\\_monitoring\\_2013\\_part\\_2.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumer_evidence/consumer_scoreboards/market_monitoring/docs/consumer_market_monitoring_2013_part_2.pdf)

**Sub-group II. Read the relevant pages on how opinions differ on your sector according to country:**

- Monitoring Consumer Markets in the European Union Part III - Country reports:

[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumer\\_evidence/consumer\\_scoreboards/market\\_monitoring/docs/consumer\\_market\\_monitoring\\_2013\\_part\\_3.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumer_evidence/consumer_scoreboards/market_monitoring/docs/consumer_market_monitoring_2013_part_3.pdf)

For more information, students may find some in-depth market reports here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumer\\_evidence/market\\_studies/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumer_evidence/market_studies/index_en.htm)