

When the Spanish football national squad had won the 2012 Euro, it was obvious enough that, despite the crisis undermining the economy of Spain, most Spanish people felt very happy. This is the so-called feel-good effect of a mega-sporting event. A number of economic effects are also triggered by such events: those Spanish players selected in the national squad earned some monetary win bonuses, a number of spectators had spent their monies in Poland and Ukraine, and previously these two countries had invested in refurbishing old stadiums or building new ones, and son on and so forth. Thus, organizing mega-sporting events is used to have an economic impact. Is it socially costly, beneficial or a loss? Responding these questions is at the core of the economics of mega-sporting events, and the present special issue offers a sample of papers dealing with some of its multiple facets.

It is nearly always observed that the cost of hosting the Olympics reveals to be higher (ex post) than what it was claimed to be in the candidature file (ex ante). This is explained by a new analysis derived from the economic theory of auctions. Under certain conditions, an auctioning process comes out with a winner's curse: the city that wins the organization of the Games will necessarily loose money as it is demonstrated here by Wladimir Andreff.

Eric Barget and Jean-Jacques Gouguet centre their approach on how many tourists are attracted by mega-sporting events. They first check a number of methodological challenges that often distort the results in the calculation of the economic impact linked to the influx of tourists. They attempt to avoid the listed methodological mistakes starting from the so-called base theory which is applied here to tourism impact during the 2007 rugby World Cup in France. The regional impact depends very much on the foreign spectators' nationality, socio-demographic profiles and income.

Another obvious result of mega-sporting events is their sporting outcome. Some economic variables, such as GDP per capita and population, explain rather well the ranking of countries at the end of the Olympics contests. Here, adding some specific variables such as snow coverage and the number of winter sports facilities, Wladimir Andreff explains the distribution of medal wins at the Winter Olympics. Then, the same econometric model is used to predict the distribution of medal wins at the 2004 Sochi Winter Games.

After a mega-sporting event some legacies are left to the hosting country/city. Jean-Loup Chappelet contends that they can be seen as positive or negative,

tangible or intangible, territorial or personal, intentional or unintentional, global or local, short- or long-term, sport- or non sport-related. They can be assessed from the various event stakeholders' perspectives. The different facets of such legacies are exhibited in the case of the Olympic and Commonwealth Games.

To complete this 'Papers of Europe' special issue on the economics of sport, two studies of currently highly topical subjects are included in the general section. The first one, written by an international trade consultant, José Carlos de la Pola, takes a critical approach to the present tightening of economy policy that all the euro zone countries with problems were compelled to undertake under the pressure of the German economy. The author of the second paper, Assistant at the Complutense University of Madrid, Noemi Dans, focuses her paper on the theoretical analysis of foreign direct investment applying different country risk methods, and aiming at an assessment of the similarities between country risk's perceptions in trade and foreign direct investment.

This issue is completed with two book reviews. One is a reference book gathering the best 64 articles in sports economics published in various economic journals during the 2000s. The other one reviews the fundamental book in French about the economic and social impact of sport events and thus provides a panoramic view of the topic dealt with in this special issue.

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