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## **Convergence in the Enlarged European Union**

a cura di Serena Giusti e Lucia Tajoli

ISPI-Egea, 2003

Pagine 319, ISBN 88-238-4047-3

**Contents:** This publication appears thanks to the support of the Representation of the European Commission in Milan in co-operation with the European Parliament Information Office in Milan in the framework of the PRINCE programme. It collects a selection of the works produced within a project monitoring the EU enlargement process undertaken by ISPI together with five Research Institutes in the acceding countries. The book looks at the meaning of convergence within the enlarged EU as one of the driving forces for the future of Europe. Convergence is not a pre-requisite of integration but certainly it helps to build up a more cohesive Union. The more the EU members are integrated, the more they are also likely to be convergent. Convergence also offers countries which cannot aspire to the EU membership the possibility to take part in some of the UE policies.

Here the focus is on European convergence after enlargement. The book tries to assess, in different fields, what are the similarities and the differences between the candidate countries and the EU member states. How far are accession countries from the current EU members? How rapidly are they converging towards the EU? In which policies are the greatest discrepancies among the two groups emerging? The concept of convergence has been analysed from a real, monetary, social and political perspective.

**Index:** Foreword. Introduction: The Accession Countries in the Process of European Integration: from Westernisation to Convergence. Section I – Economic integration and convergence: The integration with the European Union: possible scenarios. The case of Poland; European economic convergence and trade structures; Slovak trade policy after accession to the European Union; Foreign direct investments in the EU integration process: the case of Slovakia. Section II – Monetary convergence: Alternatives and dilemmas of joining the economic and monetary Union for the accession countries; Is the current account sustainable in the accession countries?; Exchange rate regimes in the light of the economic and monetary Union membership: the case of Bulgaria. Section III – Social convergence: Migratory flows and policies in the new European space; Free labour mobility in the enlarged EU: the case of Slovakia. Section IV – Foreign and security policy convergence: The EU and Nato enlargement impact on European foreign and security policy; Baltic security and the Atlantic divide. List of contributors.

Palazzo Clerici  
Via Clerici, 5  
20121 Milano  
Tel. 02.86.33.131  
Fax 02.86.92.055 - 02.86.33.13.264