Abstract

We analyze the European labor market as a whole, and evaluate the extent to which EU workers face a labor market that is regulated in similar ways across national boundaries.  In other words, we explore the Europeanization of labor markets.  Focusing on the period since the Single European Act took effect in 1986, we use individual-level data from the Labor Force Surveys and macro-level data from various sources to measure five elements of the European labor market.  These are: collective bargaining institutions, unemployment rates, incorporation of foreign-born workers, sectoral restructuring, and economic recession.  Where individual-level data are unavailable, we use population-weighted macro-level measures.  Preliminary results paint a picture of an EU labor market that is still highly nationalized, but growing increasingly open to labor mobility, and increasingly similarly (de-) regulated.