

# Analysing Economic Growth and Debt Relationship in a Panel of European Countries

Giuliana Passamani<sup>a</sup>, Roberto Tamborini<sup>a</sup>, Matteo Tomaselli<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Economics and Management  
University of Trento, Trento (Italy)

<sup>b</sup>PhD in Economics and Management  
School of Social Sciences  
University of Trento, Trento (Italy)

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**Abstract:** The idea that public debt has a negative impact on economic growth has been very popular in literature, and it has been the guide towards the adoption of policies of debt reduction. Through empirical and theoretical models, many studies have attempted to provide support for this claim and for the existence of general debt thresholds above which debt would negatively affect growth. However, because of heterogeneous conditions, it is unlikely that such thresholds could be generalized to any country and any period.

Going beyond the estimation of debt-thresholds, our work aims to deepen the relationship between public debt and economic growth by analysing a slightly unbalanced panel data set with 25 Western and Eastern European countries, with quarterly data from 1999Q1 to 2015Q4. After testing for unit roots, we perform a cointegration analysis both at country and panel level to understand for which countries a cointegration relationship between GDP and debt exists, and thus for which countries of our data set a long-run relationship between these variables can be described. Then, we specify a panel-VAR model to compare our groups of countries, and finally we decompose GDP into its main subcomponents to find out whether or not cointegration arises at the aggregate level only.

Our findings show that a) a long-run relationship between public debt and GDP exists for some countries but it cannot be generalized, and b) the short-run linkage between public debt and GDP is negative, but it is determined by the events that follow the financial crisis.

**Key words:** Economic growth, Public debt, Cointegration analysis.

# 1 Introduction and related literature

## 1.1 The pursuit of the *debt threshold*

The empirical interest in the debt-growth relationship abruptly emerged at the end of the 2000s. Starting with the financial crisis of 2008 and then with the debt crisis in the Eurozone, those countries in the European Monetary Union (EMU) with a high debt-to-GDP ratio have faced a dramatic worsening in their debt sustainability as perceived by the market. Some governments have coped with this situation by implementing a set of restrictive fiscal policies, whose aim was to reduce government budget deficits and outstanding public debts that were considered no longer sustainable and a burden on the future growth of the economies.

One of the main supports for the implementation of these corrective measures came from the influential paper by Reinhart and Rogoff (2010), whose main finding is a negative relationship between growth and debt above a general threshold of 90 percent of the debt-to-GDP ratio. Although Reinhart and Rogoff's work (2010) was deeply criticized, first by Irons and Bivens (2010) for what regards the applicability of the analysis to U.S. and the implied causality<sup>1</sup>, and then by Herndon et al. (2013) for the methodology<sup>2</sup>, it has sparked a wave of studies searching for debt thresholds in advanced countries: the pursuit of the general *debt threshold* above which growth is jeopardised by public debt.

Taking a step back, before the financial crisis the empirical research focus was essentially on poor and developing countries. This literature was supported by the debate around the debt cancellation programs, that becomes popular since the 80s (see for instance Krugman (1988)). In this vein, by employing a large panel data set of developing countries, Pattillo et al. (2011) has found a threshold for the debt-to-GDP ratio of 35-40 percent, above which growth is negatively affected, and a negative marginal impact of debt on growth even at a half of this estimated threshold. Second, by employing spline interpolation, the authors have found the existence of a non-linear relationship between the two variables. Third, they have argued that the investments level is not the main channel through which excessive external debt affects growth<sup>3</sup>. Nguyen et al. (2003) has reached a similar conclusion for low-income countries by arguing that a level of internal debt above 50 percent of GDP<sup>4</sup> can negatively affect growth because of an inefficient use of the available resources.

In the more recent post-crisis literature, the debt-growth debate has changed perspective by hinging the analysis on high-income countries and, in particular, on EMU's members and their constraints. Even though the most popular idea is that there is a negative relationship between debt and growth (and that negative effects arise earlier for poor countries than for rich countries), empirical results can actually be divided into three categories: 1) Public debt jeopardizes growth above a certain threshold of the debt-to-GDP ratio; 2) Public debt has no effects on growth above a certain threshold; and 3) Public debt has a positive effect on growth above a certain threshold.

The first group includes the majority of the threshold-based works, and it is not possible to list

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<sup>1</sup>Their application of the Granger causality test have showed that debt does not cause growth and growth does not cause debt.

<sup>2</sup>The analysis was spoiled by coding errors, selective exclusion of available data, and unconventional weighting of summary statistics.

<sup>3</sup>This statement is known as the *Neoclassical crowding-out effect*. For a theoretical discussion, see for instance Bernheim (1989) and Hemming et al. (2002).

<sup>4</sup>Or above 20-25 percent if its net present value is considered.

all of them here. Caner et al. (2010) performed a comparison between developing and developed countries. By employing a large dataset of 99 countries, it has showed that growth is negatively affected above 77 percent of the long-run debt-to-GDP ratio, and above 64 percent if only developing countries are considered. The same conclusions have been reached by Cecchetti et al. (2012) (which has identified a threshold at the 84 percent of GDP and at 96 percent of GDP when a control variable for crisis periods is added) and by Afonso and Jelles (2013) (which has found a negative impact of debt on growth, besides an effect of worsening of financial crises above a threshold of 90 percent of GDP).

A group of studies has attempted to better describe the whole relationship. Baum et al. (2012) has showed that, on the basis of a data set including 12 EMU countries from 1980 to 2008, the short-run impact of debt on growth is positive and statistically significant for low levels of debt-to-GDP, but decreases and eventually has a negative impact above a threshold of 95 percent. It has also pointed out that the long-term bond interest rate is subject to an increased pressure when the debt-to-GDP ratio is above 70 percent. Checherita-Westphal and Rother (2012) has employed an extended data set to the period 1970-2010 to show that the relationship linking debt and growth is concave and U-shaped, with a turning point around 90-100 percent of GDP, and the existence of such a relationship has been ascribed to public investments and total factor productivity. Finally, in another paper, Checherita-Westphal et al. (2012) proposed a theoretical explanation for the U-shaped relationship<sup>5</sup>.

At the same time, other studies reached the conclusion that no relationship seems to link debt and growth. Cordella (2010), Egert (2015), and Presbitero (2012) have showed that a non-linear relationship exists, but debt becomes irrelevant for high levels of debt-to-GDP ratio. Presbitero (2012) explained these findings referring to country-specific factors, sample composition and to the fact that "debt overhang is a growth constraint only in countries with sound macroeconomic policies and stable institutions" (Presbitero, 2012:1). In another work, Eberhardt and Presbitero (2015) claimed that, by applying a standard Error Correction Model<sup>6</sup> (ECM) and accounting for heterogeneity, a non-linear relationship between debt and GDP across-countries actually arise<sup>7</sup>. However, a systematic within-country relationship has not been found and a general debt-to-GDP threshold has been deemed to be unlikely to exist.

Summing up all the contributions, it is difficult to derive a unified thinking and it seems that heterogeneous conditions do not allow to derive a general relationship between growth and debt. Leaving aside the paper by Reinhart and Rogoff (2010) and its direct critiques, the majority of the studies supported the view that debt jeopardizes growth above a certain thresholds (but there is no agreement on its level), whereas other authors found no evidence about the existence of such a threshold. Finally, some authors supported the existence of a positive relationship above a certain threshold (see Minea et al., 2012, according to which debt reduces growth for values of debt-to-GDP ratio below a threshold of 115 percent, but this effect disappears and becomes positive above that threshold).

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<sup>5</sup>Greiner (2012) has criticized this conclusion. Specifically, it claimed that the model was based on a very simple and unrealistic fiscal policy with exogenously fixed deficits, and that "once a more general debt policy is considered, one finds that smaller public deficits and lower public debt always generate a higher growth rate" Greiner (2012:6).

<sup>6</sup>See Appendix A for further details

<sup>7</sup>It must be underlined that, in this study, debt has been regarded as exogenous with respect to growth.

In general, a debt threshold may be useful from a political and institutional perspective, but, because of heterogeneity, it would be optimistic to believe that such a threshold could be applied to any country in any period. This is exactly the conclusion presented in Chudik et al. (2015). Based on a data set of advanced and emerging countries, the research has not found any evidence about a general debt threshold. However, authors showed that this conclusion does not compromise the existence of a long-run negative relationship between rising public debt and growth, suggesting that "the debt trajectory can have more important consequences for economic growth than the level of debt-to-GDP itself" (Chudik et al. 2015:28). In conclusion, the value of the debt-to-GDP ratio at a given point in time is perhaps too narrow a variable to explain such a complex thing as growth.

## 1.2 Beyond thresholds: a general causal relationship involving debt and growth

Without estimating specific debt thresholds, other authors have attempted to study the debt-growth linkage from an empirical point of view. Deshpande (1997) has explicitly dealt with the Neoclassical claim that public debt crowds out investments but, unlike Nguyen et al. (2003), it considered external debt only. With a data set that includes 13 countries characterized by high debt-to-GDP ratios, external debt was found to exercise a negative impact on investments. In the same vein, Balassone et al. (2011) has used Italian data from 1861 to 2009 to show that the negative relationship between public debt and growth is mainly due to the negative impact of debt on the investment level. Evidence about the existence of a negative relationship is also supported by Ceh Casni et al. (2014) (whose analysis has been based on Central, Eastern, and Southeastern European countries data) and in Bordo et al. (2010) (in which, by exploiting a data set of developing countries, "both hard currency debts and capital inflows are associated with crises that lower growth temporarily and permanently reduce output compared to the long-run trend", Bordo et al. 2010:661). A different methodology has been proposed by Panizza and Presbitero (2014), that initially confirmed the existence of a negative relationship between debt and growth but, once an instrumental variable for the public debt based on the exchange rate was introduced, the linkage between the two variables disappeared. These authors have explicitly excluded causality after the inclusion of the instrumental variable, a conclusion in line with Irons and Bivens (2010), cited in the previous section.

A deeper analysis of causality was performed by Kumar and Woo (2015) by adopting a panel data set of both advanced and emerging economies. This study has accurately considered the intertemporal nature of the relationship, examining the influence that the public debt has on the growth rate of the subsequent five to twenty years. The analysis has suggested the existence of a negative relationship between the initial debt and the subsequent growth or, in other words, "a 10 percentage point increase in the initial debt-to-GDP ratio is associated with a slowdown in real per capita GDP growth of around 0.2 percentage points per year, with the impact being somewhat smaller in advanced economies" (Kumar and Woo, 2015:25).

Finally, Lof and Malinen (2014) has proposed a panel VAR analysis on the stationary growth rates of debt and GDP of 20 advanced countries, and it has reached opposite conclusions to Kumar and Woo (2015): debt has no statistically significant effects on growth but, in fact, growth has a statistically significant negative effect on public debt. In other words, the negative correlation between debt and

growth is due to the negative impact that growth has on debt.

As before, it is difficult to derive a univocal conclusion for econometric analyses and it is not easy to solve the causality direction dilemma. Even when it is recognized that a general debt threshold for economic growth is unlikely to exist, results about the nature or the direction of the causal effect do not agree. In any case, the existence of a significant negative relationship between debt and growth is the predominant thinking, although in contrast with the conclusions of a long list of theoretical works. Thus, it is important to understand not only if debt and growth are somehow linked, but also whether public debt has a long-term negative impact on growth. This is the main goal of this study, which is organized in the following way: firstly it analyses whether a long-run linkage between GDP and public debt exists by performing a cointegration analysis (section 2) from which general implications are inferred through panel models (section 3), and then it attempts to go in depth by decomposing GDP into its subcomponents (section 4).

## 2 Does a long-run relationship exist?

### 2.1 Methodology

In order to describe the long-run relationship between GDP and public debt, we have employed a cointegration analysis both at country and at panel level. The presence of cointegration implies that, even though the two variables are integrated, a linear combination of them is stationary, i.e. they share a common stochastic trend. In this case, it is possible to rewrite the model to identify a long-run component and a short-term adjustment.

At country level, the Johansen trace test statistic (see Johansen, 1991) has been applied to determine the cointegration rank. The estimated VAR model reformulated in error correction terms is, for each country:

$$\Delta X_t = \Pi X_{t-1} + \Gamma_1 \Delta X_{t-1} + \dots + \Gamma_{k-1} \Delta X_{t-k+1} + \Phi_1 D_t + \epsilon_t \quad (1)$$

where  $t = 1, \dots, T$  indicates time periods,  $X_t$  is a squared  $N \times N$  matrix including the  $N$  variables of interest (in our case there are two variables, the logarithms of the public debt and of the GDP),  $k$  is the number of lags,  $D_t$  is a vector of deterministic variables containing a constant term, a linear trend and, eventually, seasonal dummies, and  $\epsilon_t \sim iid N_T(0, \Omega)$  are error terms. In model 1, the matrix of interest is  $\Pi$ : if the rank of  $\Pi$  is  $R < N$ , then  $R$  cointegration relationships exist and  $\Pi$  can be decomposed into the product of two  $N \times R$  matrices,  $\alpha\beta'$ , with a stationary product  $\beta'Y_t$ . Matrix  $\alpha$  includes the adjustment parameters, which determine the speed of convergence towards the long-run relationships, while matrix  $\beta$  includes the cointegration vectors.

In our specific case, the estimated model assumes the form of a *Restricted Linear Trend Model*, which allows the cointegration relationships to have a constant and to be trend stationary; this model is appropriate because we do not know *a priori* whether the trends in our variables cancel out in the cointegration relationships. Following Dennis (2006:6), this model is derived from equation (1) and can be written as:

$$Z_{0t} = \alpha\beta'Z_{1t} + \Psi Z_{2t} + \epsilon_t \quad (2)$$

where  $Z_{0t} = \Delta X_t$ ,  $Z_{1t} = \begin{bmatrix} X_{t-1} \\ D_{t-1}^R \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $Z_{2t} = \begin{bmatrix} \{\Delta X_{t-i}\}, i = 1, \dots, k-1 \\ D_t^U \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\Psi$  includes  $\Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_{k-1}$ , and  $D_{t-1}^R = t$ ,  $D_t^U = 1$ . For what regards the analysis at panel level, we have applied Pedroni tests (see Pedroni, 1999) and Westerlund tests (see Westerlund, 2008). As explained in Section 1.2, the interest is in the relationship between them.

When cointegration has been detected and in order to give an interpretation to the cointegration relationship, we have tested for each country the stationarity of an imposed homogeneous relationship between the two variables. In details, the equilibrium relationship between debt and GDP can be extensively written as:

$$\beta_1 \ln(DGG_t) + \beta_2 \ln(GDP_t) + \beta_3 T_{first-break} + \beta_4 T_{second-break} + \beta_5 Trend = u_t \quad (3)$$

and, by imposing the coefficients of  $\ln(DGG_t)$  and  $\ln(GDP_t)$  to be 1 and -1 respectively:

$$\ln(DGG_t) - \ln(GDP_t) + \beta_3 T_{first-break} + \beta_4 T_{second-break} + \beta_5 Trend = u_t \quad (4)$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{DGG_t}{GDP_t}\right) = u_t - \beta_3 T_{first-break} - \beta_4 T_{second-break} - \beta_5 Trend \quad (5)$$

Since we can rewrite  $(\ln(DGG_t) - \ln(GDP_t))$  as  $\ln(DGG_t/GDP_t)$ , equation (4) describes in fact the evolution of the logarithm of the debt-to-GDP relationship. In other words, whenever the corrected p-values do not allow to reject the imposed restriction on the cointegration vector at the usual 5 percent significance level, i.e.  $H_0 : \beta = (1, -1, \beta_3, \beta_4, \beta_5)$ , the cointegration relationship can be interpreted as the debt-to-GDP ratio; on the contrary, whenever this restriction is statistically rejected, the "pure" debt-to-GDP ratio does not represent the long-run relationship between debt and GDP.

## 2.2 Data set description

Our analysis is based on a slightly unbalanced panel data set including quarterly data for 25 Eastern and Western European countries<sup>8</sup>. Annual data were inadequate for our scope both because available time series include relatively less observations than quarterly time series, and because some links between the two variables could not arise in low frequency data.

The two main variables of the data set are the gross domestic product and the general government public debt, both expressed at constant prices<sup>9</sup>. Constant prices time series are necessary in order to leave aside inflation and to accurately identify the long-run relationship. Data about GDP cover

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<sup>8</sup>Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and UK.

<sup>9</sup>Obtained by dividing the current values by the GDP deflator (2010=100).

the period from 1999Q1 to 2015Q4 and they have been adjusted for seasonality by applying the X-13 ARIMA<sup>10</sup> technique. The seasonal adjustment and the logarithm transformation allow respectively to exclude seasonal cycles and misleading phenomena, and to reduce the volatility of the time series. For the majority of countries, data about public debt cover the period from 2000Q1 to 2015Q4 and have been adjusted for seasonality only when seasonality was previously identified. Overall, there are 1700 observations for the GDP and 1612 observations for the public debt. Whenever a strongly balanced data set is required for the analysis, a reduced data set to the period 2000Q1-2015Q4 has been employed. Table 1 in Appendix summarizes the structure of our data set. All countries have experienced a decline in the GDP because of the crisis, but the greatest changes occurs in the debt levels of some countries (e.g. Bulgaria, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Spain).

From these time series, the growth rates have been obtained. They are represented in Figure 1, while their summary statistics are shown in Table 2 jointly with the correlation coefficient. Apart from the negative growth rates experienced by the countries during the financial crisis, the GDP growth rates' dynamics look to be more stable than the debt growth rates. Furthermore, though a non-zero correlation coefficient does not imply a relationship between the variables, even less a causal relationship, it is interesting to observe that correlation coefficients are different from zero in the majority of cases (19 countries out of 25 show a correlation coefficient greater than 0.1 in absolute value), but the sign is almost always negative, reflecting the fact that to a positive variation in one variable corresponds a negative variation in the other.

The Spearman's rho, less sensitive to outliers and used to capture whether a variable is a monotone function of the other, is also almost always negative. More important, Spearman's coefficients are always far from 1 and -1, thus indicating that a decreasing monotonic trend between GDP and debt exists but it is generally weak. Finally, the Kendall's tau, which captures the rank ordinal association between the two variables, does not show a strong ordinal correlation between the two variables.

In order to check whether a general intuition can be derived for the whole panel, the scatter-plot of all the growth rates has been represented in Figure 2. In line with the graphs proposed by Eberhardt and Presbitero (2012) or by Herndon et al. (2013), no clear relationship emerges from it. The regression line is slightly downward sloping but this result is clearly determined by few outliers. In fact, when these observations are removed, the linear regression line becomes almost flat. Figure 3 combines the two series into the well-known debt-to-GDP ratio that, with quarterly data, assumes different values than with yearly data. The distributions of the debt-to-GDP ratio among countries are different both in terms of level and in terms of dispersion, but what arises is a general positive skewness, with the right tail longer than the left tail for almost any country.

In the following paragraphs we attempt to look for a long-run relationship between debt and GDP but, for the moment, the graphical analysis does not allow to derive any hint about the existence of such a relationship. By looking at the correlation coefficients the two series seem to be correlated, but by looking at the scatter-plot of the growth rates no clear relationship arises. Moreover, the boxplots representing the distributions of the debt-to-GDP ratio lead to identify a great degree of heterogeneity between the countries.

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<sup>10</sup>Provided by the X13 U.S. Census Bureau software.

## 2.3 Country-level cointegration analysis

Time series have been studied with two sets of tests: unit-root tests, to determine whether the series are stationary, and cointegration tests, to determine whether a linear combination is stationary, even in the case in which they are individually non-stationary. The analysis has been performed with Matlab R2015b and CATS 2.0.

The unit-root analysis has been used for each country to find out the order of integration of each time series. The augmented Dickey and Fuller test (ADF) and the KPSS test have been performed and both have confirmed that GDP and debt can be considered as non-stationary I(1) series<sup>11</sup>. Therefore, a cointegration analysis has been carried out and the detailed results are reported in Table 3. By looking at it, the columns denoted by *Parameters* show the number of lags included, whether there are one or more significant breaks, and whether centered seasonal dummies or other dummies have been included. This part corresponds to the choice of the model, done by selecting the maximum number of lags through the AIC/FPE criterion, and then adjusting it by looking at the tests on residuals (*Autocorrelation* - LB, LM(1) and LM(2) tests - and *Normality* columns) and by including, eventually, appropriate dummy variables. Finally, the columns *Test on restricted model* show the p-values and the corrected p-values of the significance tests performed on the imposed restriction on  $\beta$ <sup>12</sup> (see Section 2.1).

The main results of the analysis are reported in the two columns denoted by *Cointegration rank*, where the p-values and the corrected p-values<sup>13</sup> of the Johansen trace test are reported. At the significance level of 5 percent, 14 countries show no cointegration: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, UK. For all the other countries one cointegration relationship has been detected. Therefore, countries can be divided into at least two groups, those that show cointegration and those that do not show cointegration, though on the basis of different econometric models (thus implying different equilibrium relationships between debt and GDP). In order to give an interpretation to these relationships, the coefficients of  $\ln(DGG_t)$  and  $\ln(GDP_t)$  have been subsequently set to 1 and -1 respectively, as explained in Section 2.1, and the resulting estimated debt-to-GDP relationships ( $\ln(DGG_t/GDP_t)$ ) are shown in Figures 4, 5, and 6. This restriction cannot be statistically accepted for every country in

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<sup>11</sup>The ADF test for unit-root has been performed with the inclusion of a number of lags from 0 to 8. Results show that the null-hypothesis of unit-root cannot be rejected at 5 percent level for the two variables, both in the basic case and in the trend-stationary case. Therefore, ADF test suggests that GDP and debt are non-stationary. The number of country-observations is not small, but this result could have been determined by the impossibility to reject the null-hypothesis because of the lack of enough information in the time series. Therefore, as a comparison for the ADF test, a KPSS test has also been performed, with the inclusion of the same number of lags considered for the ADF test. Results are slightly less favourable to the non-stationary hypothesis: in fact, for the GDP case, the presence of a unit-root has been confirmed at a significance level of 5 percent for all countries except France and Ireland (for more than 2 lags), while, for the debt case, the test does not allow to reject the null at a significance level of 5 percent for Estonia and Czech Republic (respectively for more than 3 and 4 lags). The analysis has been repeated for the growth rates of the GDP and of the public debt respectively. The results of the ADF and KPSS tests generally agree at 5 percent level, and the time series of the two growth rates can be regarded as stationary. Given these results and by looking at the p-values corresponding to the number of lags suggested by the AIC/FPE criterion, we decided to consider all the series as I(1).

<sup>12</sup>The null is not rejected for Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Sweden, and Slovenia.

<sup>13</sup>The p-values based on the Bartlett correction for small sample sizes are also reported - See Johansen (2002).



the cointegration group<sup>14</sup>, thus underlying the fact that the long-run relationship cannot be always described as the debt-to-GDP ratio. Moreover, by looking at the outliers around 2008 and 2009 in the second graph of each figure, it is clear how the estimated models are unable to fully capture the impact of the financial crisis, which will be explicitly considered below.

Finally, it has been analysed whether debt or GDP can be treated as weakly exogenous, an analysis that has not often been done in other studies. In fact, for some countries, either debt or GDP can be considered as weakly exogenous, thus implying that debt cannot be considered as an independent variable for every country<sup>15</sup> and that, in this circumstance, a single-equation model is appropriate.

In conclusion, the existence of a cointegration relationship between debt and GDP cannot be generalized, as well as the existence of a unique model for every country. Moreover, on the basis of these findings and without relying upon the debt-to-GDP thresholds, it is possible to divide the countries in the data set into four groups, that will be used to analyse the GDP-debt relationship in the following section:

1. Cointegration, debt is weakly exogenous: Cyprus, France, Italy;
2. Cointegration, neither GDP nor debt is weakly exogenous: Austria, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Sweden.
3. No cointegration, debt is weakly exogenous: Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland Czech Republic, Ireland, Greece, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia.
4. No cointegration, neither GDP nor debt is weakly exogenous: Romania, Slovenia, Spain, UK.

## 2.4 Panel-level cointegration analysis

In order to identify a general debt-GDP relationship, it is worthwhile to work at panel level instead of at country level. Thus, the unit-root analysis and the cointegration analysis have been carried out again by employing the panel statistics available in Stata 13. Panel unit-roots tests, Im-Pesaran-Shin (IPS), Fisher-type ADF, Breitung test and Harris-Tzavalis test confirmed the fact that the time series are  $I(1)$ <sup>16</sup>. Therefore, two cointegration tests have been performed to detect cointegration at

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<sup>14</sup>In particular, it is accepted at the 1 percent level for Austria, Cyprus, Hungary, Italy, and Luxembourg.

<sup>15</sup>At the 5 percent significance level, debt can be treated as weakly exogenous for Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia. For the remaining countries, i.e. Austria, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, an UK, neither debt nor GDP can be considered as weakly exogenous.

<sup>16</sup>The IPS test explicitly allows to work with an unbalanced data set. It verifies the null-hypothesis that all panels contain a unit-root against the alternative hypothesis that at least one panel is stationary. This test has been performed without the inclusion of a time trend and with 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 lags. As expected, at a confidence level of 5 percent the null hypothesis is never rejected for the public debt. The same is true for the GDP but, for the 1 lag case, p-values allow rejection only at 1 percent level. These results are confirmed by the Fisher-type ADF test and even with the inclusion of a time trend. These conclusions are confirmed by other two tests, the Breitung test and the Harris-Tzavalis test, that are based on the strong hypothesis that all panels share the same autoregressive parameter. These tests, that allow to introduce two corrections for panel data, require a balanced panel; therefore, they have been applied to the reduced dataset 2000Q1-2015Q4. The first test does not reject the null of unit-root for every panel even when sectional dependence is allowed, while the latter does not reject the null of unit-root for every panel even when the small time-period sample adjustment is introduced. In conclusions, it seems reasonable to consider GDP and debt as non-stationary for every country

panel-level: Pedroni tests and Westerlund ECM tests, whose results are shown in Appendix, Table 6<sup>17</sup>. Conclusions, however, do not agree. On the one hand, Westerlund tests always accept the null of no cointegration: they do not detect cointegration neither at panel level (correctly) nor at group level, when countries have been grouped according to the four categories identified at the end of the previous section. On the other hand, Pedroni tests always accept the null of no cointegration when a time trend is included but, without a time trend, some of the seven tests lead to the rejection of the null while others lead to its acceptance. Only for the fourth sub-panel (no cointegration with no weakly exogenous variables) the test statistics all agree with the country-level tests.

On the basis of these results it is impossible to use panel tests to confirm the country-level results. Probably, the reason lies in the fact that the latter do not allow the same level of details of the country-level tests: panel tests require one variable to be weakly exogenous with respect to the other, and it is not possible to include breaks in the trend component.

### 3 Dynamic panel estimation

In the previous sections four groups of countries have been identified according to the existence of a cointegration relationship and to the weak exogeneity of one variable with respect to the other. The existence of a cointegration relationship implies a long-run relationship between debt and GDP but it does not say anything about the nature of such a relationship and about the sign of the short-run adjustments. In order to compare the groups of countries and attempting to derive general implications, four error-correction models have been estimated by employing panel dynamic techniques<sup>18</sup>. Results are shown in Table 7.

Column (1) and column (2) are referred to Group (1) and Group (2) (countries that show cointegration between debt and GDP), while column (3) and column (4) are referred to Group (3) and Group (4) (countries that do not show cointegration). All the estimated models include the lagged GDP growth rate ( $gGDP_{i,t-1}$ ) and the lagged debt growth rate ( $gDGG_{i,t-1}$ )<sup>19</sup>, a constant ( $c$ ), a dummy variable  $Euro_{i,t}$  that captures the entrance in the monetary union, and the lagged cointegration relationship  $CR_{i,t-1}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} gGDP_{i,t} &= c + \gamma'_1 gDGG_{i,t-1} + \beta'_{11} gGDP_{i,t-1} + \beta'_{12} Euro_{i,t} + \alpha'_1 CR_{i,t-1} + u_{i,t} \\ gDGG_{i,t} &= c + \gamma'_2 gGDP_{i,t-1} + \beta'_{21} gDGG_{i,t-1} + \beta'_{22} Euro_{i,t} + \alpha'_2 CR_{i,t-1} + u_{i,t} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

which reduces to a single-equation model when one of the dependent variables is weakly exogenous.

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and, in particular, integrated of order 1. This is confirmed by the results of the IPS test and the Fisher-type test for the growth rates: the null hypothesis is, in both cases, clearly rejected.

<sup>17</sup>Pedroni tests have been performed with and without trend; Westerlund tests have been performed with the inclusion of 2 lags, a constant, robust p-values and with and without a time trend. Westerlund tests have been repeated with a different number of lags but results have not changed much (for simplicity, these estimates are not reported).

<sup>18</sup>A dynamic panel model introduces endogeneity, thus Arellano-Bond estimators with robust standard errors have been used (performed by Stata 13).

<sup>19</sup>More lags have been added but they have not lead to any improvement.

By focussing on the first column in Table 7, all the exogenous variables are statistically significant at least at 10 percent level, but two coefficients are particularly relevant for the analysis. First, the statistical significance of the coefficient  $\alpha$  of the cointegration relationship implies the tendency to converge towards the long-run relationship. Second, the negative sign of the debt growth rate implies a negative short-term relationship between the GDP growth rate and the debt growth rate. This sign was somehow expected and it reflects the negative correlations presented in Section 2.2, besides the findings of all those works that have described a negative relationship between debt and GDP. It is possible to notice that the same conclusions are also true for column (2), since both the sign of the debt growth rate in the first equation and the sign of the GDP growth rate in the second equation are negative. However, for this group, the cointegration relationship is statistically significant for the first equation only.

Columns (3) and (4) do not include  $CR_{i,t-1}$  because they are based on non-cointegrated countries but, even so, results are comparable with columns (1) and (2). On the one hand, column (3) depicts a negative relationship between GDP and debt growth rates (like column (1)), though the estimated coefficient is twice as great as the previous one. On the other hand, a negative relationship arises in column (4) when the debt growth rate is the dependent variable, but not when the GDP growth rate is the dependent variable. Lastly, it can be noticed that  $Euro_{i,t}$  is always significant, indicating that all groups of countries experienced a shift (with respect to before and to those countries outside the EMU) in both debt and GDP levels after the adoption of the single currency.

In summary, GDP and debt seem to converge towards their long-run relationship (when it exists), while the short-run relationship is negative in all cases except for Group (4) where, for the  $gGDP_{i,t}$  case, it is not significant. Consequently, it is not possible to claim that there is a great difference in the relationship between debt and GDP among groups of countries that show a different long-run behaviour.

### 3.1 Model validity: Robustness, goodness of fit, and heterogeneity

The findings of the previous section could be affected by endogeneity, led by omitted factors bias. In order to check the validity of the previous conclusions, the following variables have been added to the basic model: inflation ( $Infl_{i,t-1}$ ), growth rates of the general government revenues ( $DRGG_{i,t-1}$ ), real effective exchange rate ( $DREER_{i,t-1}$ ), long-term average bond yield ( $Dr_{i,t-1}$ )<sup>20</sup>. Results are shown in Table 8 and they do support the strength of the basic results. In fact, the sign and the significance of the cointegration relationship, of the GDP growth rate and of the debt growth rate do not change, while the magnitude of the estimated coefficients changes only slightly. Moreover, it seems that the new explanatory variables do not always improve the explanation of the dependent variables  $gGDP_{i,t}$  and  $gDGG_{i,t}$ , though it must be underlined that the estimated coefficients have the expected sign, when significant<sup>21</sup>.

Thus accepting to work on the basic model (6), the goodness of fit has been tested through the

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<sup>20</sup>These variables are treated as exogenous and they have been individually studied for check stationarity. Whenever necessary, growth rates have been taken

<sup>21</sup>Exceptions are represented by the coefficients of  $DRGG_{i,t-1}$  and  $Dr_{i,t-1}$  for Column (1), probably because of omitted variables or a low number of observations.

Shapiro-Wilk test for normality performed on the residuals of each model and of each country. This test has been repeated two times, one for the series of the residuals, and one for the same series without some observations referred to the 2008 crisis<sup>22</sup>. P-values are reported in Table 9 and they clearly confirm that the estimated models are often inadequate to capture the 2008 downfall. In fact, for the majority of countries the p-values of the Shapiro-Wilk statistics allows to reject the null hypothesis of normality, but once few observations referred to the financial crisis are removed, the same test statistics does not reject normality for the countries' majority.

Secondly, the Arellano-Bond panel test has been applied to test for the presence of first order and second order residuals serial correlation, which may bias the standard errors and affect the other statistical tests. At a significance level of 1 percent the null hypothesis of no serial correlation cannot be rejected for all groups and all orders, while at 5 percent significance level the null is rejected for the presence of second order serial correlation for Group (2) - *gGDP* case only (see Table 10). Therefore, residuals do not seem heavily affected by serial correlation problems.

Two conclusions are possible. First, the estimated models fit quite well the empirical data for the majority of countries but they are not able to capture the whole impact of the financial crisis. The same can be noticed by looking at Figures 4, 5, 6: the cointegration relationships named  $Beta1 * R1(t)$  are not able to capture the impact of the crisis, though the models on which they are based include the pertaining time breaks. Second, the differences in the specifications for the cointegration analysis and the differences in the behaviour of the residuals of the dynamic panel models fully reflect the heterogeneity of the country in the dataset: it has not been possible to determine a unique model, and the panel models do not perfectly fit every country. Therefore, even if it is possible to derive general conclusions, it is possible as well to claim that they may not apply to any country.

### 3.2 Financial crisis and austerity regime: Development of the basic model

It is undeniable that the financial crisis has represented an important change in the macroeconomic regime of many countries, a change that is fully reflected in the dynamics of both public debt and GDP and that has been followed by the widespread implementation of austerity measures. In order to account for these aspects, the basic econometric model discussed in the previous sections has been extended to incorporate the following variables:

- $Crisis_{i,t}$ , a dummy equal to 1 from 2008Q3 to 2009Q4, which captures the impact of the financial crisis.
- $Austerity_{i,t}$ , a dummy equal to 1 from 2010Q1 to 2015Q4. The impact of the austerity measures in Europe varies from country to country, but this temporal dummy should capture the impact of the post-crisis period, which coincides with the generalized austerity period.
- Two interaction terms between the previous dummies and the main independent variable (i.e.,  $gDGG_{i,t}$  and  $gGDP_{i,t}$ , according to the model that is being estimated).

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<sup>22</sup>A maximum of three observations between 2008Q1 and 2009Q1 have been excluded.

The estimated models incorporating these explanatory variables are shown in Table 11. In contrast to what has arisen in Table 8, in this case the general conclusions of the basic model are not valid anymore.

In column (1)  $CR_{i,t-1}$  and  $Euro_{i,t}$  remain statistical significant and their sign do not change with respect to 7, but  $gGDP_{i,t-1}$  is no more significant and  $gDGG_{i,t-1}$  becomes positive. Since the variables  $Crisis_{i,t}$ ,  $Austerity_{i,t}$ , and one of the two interaction terms are significant and negative, it is possible to say that the negative feedback of  $gDGG_{i,t-1}$  on  $gGDP_{i,t}$  is now incorporated by these new variables. For the first equation referred to Group (2), i.e. column (2),  $Crisis_{i,t}$  and  $Austerity_{i,t}$  acquire again a negative sign, but now  $gDGG_{i,t-1}$  and the interaction terms are not statistical significant. In the second equation, the coefficient of  $gGDP_{i,t-1}$  remains negative and significant but its magnitude is less than a half with respect to 7, and  $Crisis_{i,t}$ 's coefficient is significant and positive, reflecting the increase in public debts during the financial crisis. Therefore, for Group (2)  $Euro_{i,t}$  and  $CR_{i,t-1}$  do not change much with respect to the basic model, but the short-run relationship between debt and GDP disappears in the first equation, while it becomes considerably lower in the second equation. Moreover, in the second equation the coefficient of  $Crisis_{i,t}$  correctly captures again the increment in the amount of public debts during the financial crisis, but the coefficient of  $Austerity_{i,t}$  is not significant, as for the interaction terms, thus indicating that the countries in Group (2) did not experience a general reduction in public debts during that period or, otherwise, that the austerity measures were not efficient or not implemented. The same conclusions reached for Group (2) are also true for Group (3) and Group (4). It is worthwhile noting that in column (4) also the interactions term are significant, and that the sign of the  $Austerity_{i,t}$ 's coefficient in the  $gDGG_{i,t}$  equation is positive and statistical significant, reflecting the fact that, in the austerity regime, the countries in this groups experienced a general increase in their public debts, and not a reduction.

Summing up, the inclusion of temporal dummies variables and appropriate interaction terms to account for the financial crisis and the subsequent austerity period has totally changed the conclusions reached in the previous section on the basis of model 6: the short-run relationship between public debt and GDP is no more negative (except for the second equation of column (2)), and it is now incorporated by the temporal dummies and the interaction terms, thus implying that the negative sign was due to the post-2008 events. Furthermore, the distinction between "crisis" and "austerity" allows to see that in both periods (and not only in the first one) all groups experienced a fall in their GDP growth rates and a positive (or, at least, non-significant) impact on their debt growth rates.

## 4 GDP decomposition

Although debt and GDP have been found to be cointegrated, this is not a general result since no cointegration is almost as common as cointegration in the data set. It is important to underline that all those studies analysing debt and growth by employing the GDP series do not consider the fact that GDP is an aggregate economic variables formed by many subcomponents. Therefore, the relationships linking debt and GDP could reflect themselves into the relationships between public debt and the GDP components, but it could also be the converse, i.e. the relationships between the debt components and the GDP components offset at the aggregate level. In this case, the cointegration relationships can be

considered, in a certain sense, as founded, since the econometric properties at the aggregate level are not in contrast with the properties at the disaggregate level.

For this reason the analysis has been repeated by considering exports, imports, gross fixed capital formation, public expenditure, and consumptions instead of GDP. Results are shown in Appendix B, from Table 12 to Table 16 (a synthesis is reported in Table 17), and three groups of countries have been identified:

- No cointegration at the aggregate level and no cointegration at the disaggregate level<sup>23</sup>: Greece, Spain, Portugal.
- Cointegration at the aggregate level and cointegration at the disaggregate level: Austria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Lux, Sweden.
- No cointegration at the aggregate level and cointegration at the disaggregate level: Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, UK.

These three groups allow for considering the results of paragraph 2.3 as founded: when cointegration arises at aggregate level, it also arises for at least one subcomponent. Noteworthy is the case of Finland: cointegration arises for all subcomponents but not for the GDP, a result that may be explained by the fact that the statistical properties of the time series at the aggregate level are not equal to the properties at the disaggregate level.

## 5 Conclusions

In this work we have attempted to find out whether a long-run relationship between government debt and GDP growth exists. Then, we have described it and we have also analysed the short-run feedback that links debt and GDP. On the basis of our findings we can conclude that a long-run equilibrium relationship exists for some countries - and debt and GDP tend to adjust towards it - but it is not generalizable. Therefore, we have divided the countries in our data set according to a search for the proper econometric model to estimate, and we have exploited this strategy to compare the identified groups. Our estimations show that there is a short-run relationship between public debt and GDP (except for one sub-case) whose effect depends on some variables for the financial crisis and the austerity period, thus showing the fact that the negative relationship between debt and GDP is a consequence of exogenous events or factors. Moreover, our cointegration analysis and the panel estimates highlight the high degree of heterogeneity that characterized the countries in our dataset. In fact, a single equation describing the GDP-debt relationship and a single long-run equilibrium relationship do not seem to exist.

Subsequently, in order to support our findings, we have taken the GDP components into account and we have repeated the analysis for each of them: results clearly show that the cointegration relationship between debt and GDP are all empirically founded and they are detected into at least one component. At the same time, the majority of countries that does not show cointegration at

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<sup>23</sup>For at least one component.

the aggregate level shows cointegration at least for one component, thus reflecting the fact that the properties of the time series at the aggregate level change with respect to the disaggregate level.

Finally, our panel cointegration analysis has highlighted the limits of the available panel cointegration tests in econometric theory and, as a consequence, has not allowed us to confirm our country-level results.

# Appendix

Table 1: Data set structure

Country	GDP <sup>1</sup>	Pubic debt <sup>2</sup>	Seasonally adj.	EMU
1. Austria	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP, Debt	1999
2. Belgium	1999Q1-2015Q4	1999Q1-2015Q4	GDP, Debt	1999
3. Bulgaria	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	-
4. Cyprus	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	2008
5. Czech rep	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	-
6. Denmark	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	1999
7. Estonia	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	2011
8. Finland	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP, Debt	1999
9. France	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP, Debt	1999
10. Germany	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	1999
11. Greece	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	2001
12. Hungary	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	-
13. Ireland	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP, Debt	1999
14. Italy	1999Q1-2015Q4	1999Q1-2015Q4	GDP, Debt	1999
15. Latvia	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	2014
16. Lithuania	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP, Debt	2015
17. Luxembourg	2000Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	1999
18. Netherlands	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	1999
19. Portugal	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	1999
20. Romania	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	-
21. Slovak rep	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	2009
22. Slovenia	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	2007
23. Spain	1999Q1-2015Q4	1999Q1-2015Q4	GDP	1999
24. Sweden	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP	-
25. UK	1999Q1-2015Q4	2000Q1-2015Q4	GDP, Debt	-

Source: Eurostat.

<sup>1</sup>Gross domestic product at market prices (*namq\_10\_gdp*)

<sup>2</sup>General government consolidated gross debt (*gov\_10q\_ggdebt*)



Table 2: Data summary and correlations

Country	gGDP		gDGG		Correlation	Kendall's Tau	Spearman's Rho
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
Austria	0,004	0,008	0,007	0,026	-0,061	-0,006	-0,002
Belgium	0,004	0,007	0,003	0,011	-0,470	-0,138	-0,186
Bulgaria	0,009	0,016	-0,008	0,060	-0,238	-0,196	-0,290
Cyprus	0,004	0,011	0,015	0,054	-0,284	-0,160	-0,249
Czech rep	0,007	0,012	0,022	0,045	0,056	0,057	0,103
Denmark	0,002	0,009	-0,003	0,058	-0,319	-0,015	-0,031
Estonia	0,009	0,026	0,017	0,069	-0,185	-0,113	-0,182
Finland	0,004	0,014	0,008	0,050	-0,203	-0,004	-0,025
France	0,003	0,006	0,011	0,010	-0,281	-0,138	-0,187
Germany	0,003	0,009	0,005	0,017	0,011	-0,044	-0,064
Greece	0,000	0,018	0,009	0,036	0,025	-0,050	-0,074
Hungary	0,005	0,011	0,010	0,043	-0,120	0,060	0,079
Ireland	0,010	0,019	0,020	0,061	-0,509	-0,368	-0,535
Italy	0,001	0,008	0,004	0,010	-0,138	0,005	0,013
Latvia	0,009	0,023	0,026	0,100	-0,299	-0,052	-0,069
Lithuania	0,010	0,029	0,019	0,055	-0,090	-0,041	-0,057
Luxembourg	0,007	0,018	0,027	0,093	-0,151	0,250	0,340
Netherlands	0,003	0,007	0,005	0,034	-0,258	-0,013	-0,029
Portugal	0,001	0,008	0,015	0,024	-0,152	-0,107	-0,151
Romania	0,008	0,017	0,020	0,071	-0,342	-0,116	-0,184
Slovak rep	0,009	0,022	0,011	0,039	-0,013	0,035	0,058
Slovenia	0,006	0,014	0,025	0,055	-0,264	-0,157	-0,220
Spain	0,005	0,008	0,012	0,027	-0,734	-0,478	-0,675
Sweden	0,006	0,012	0,001	0,036	-0,006	-0,026	-0,052
UK	0,005	0,007	0,017	0,036	-0,358	-0,149	-0,213

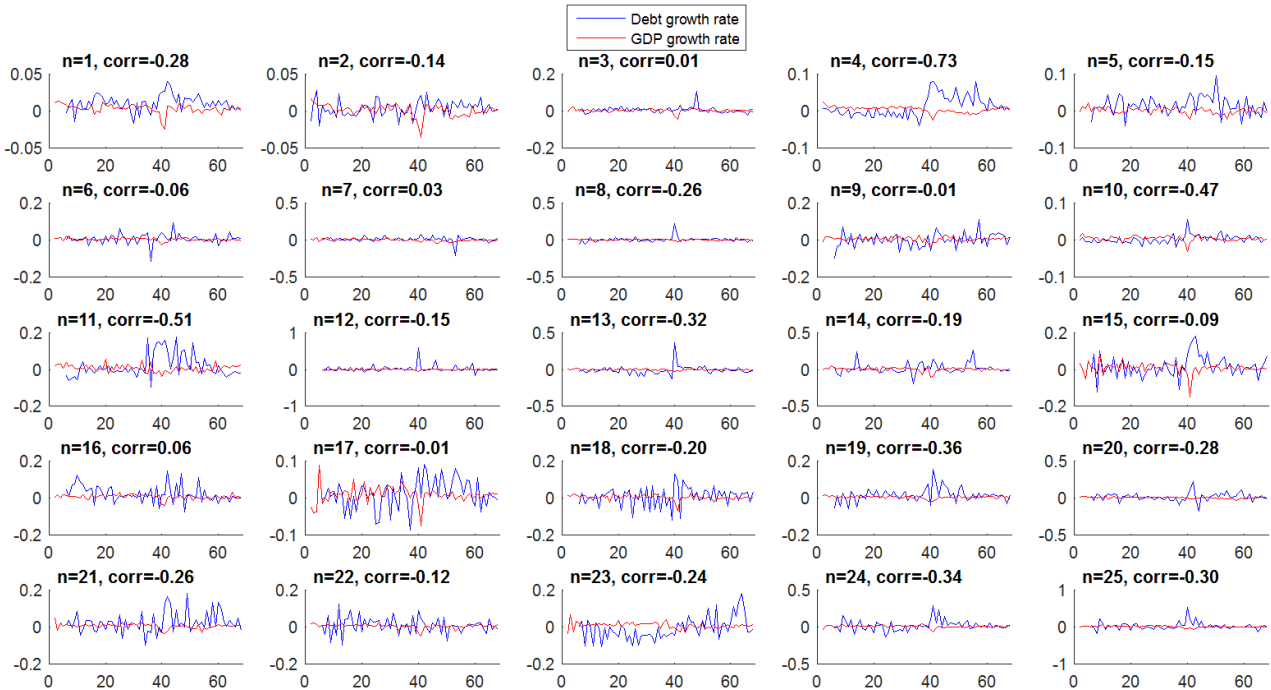


Figure 1: Debt and GDP logarithm growth rates

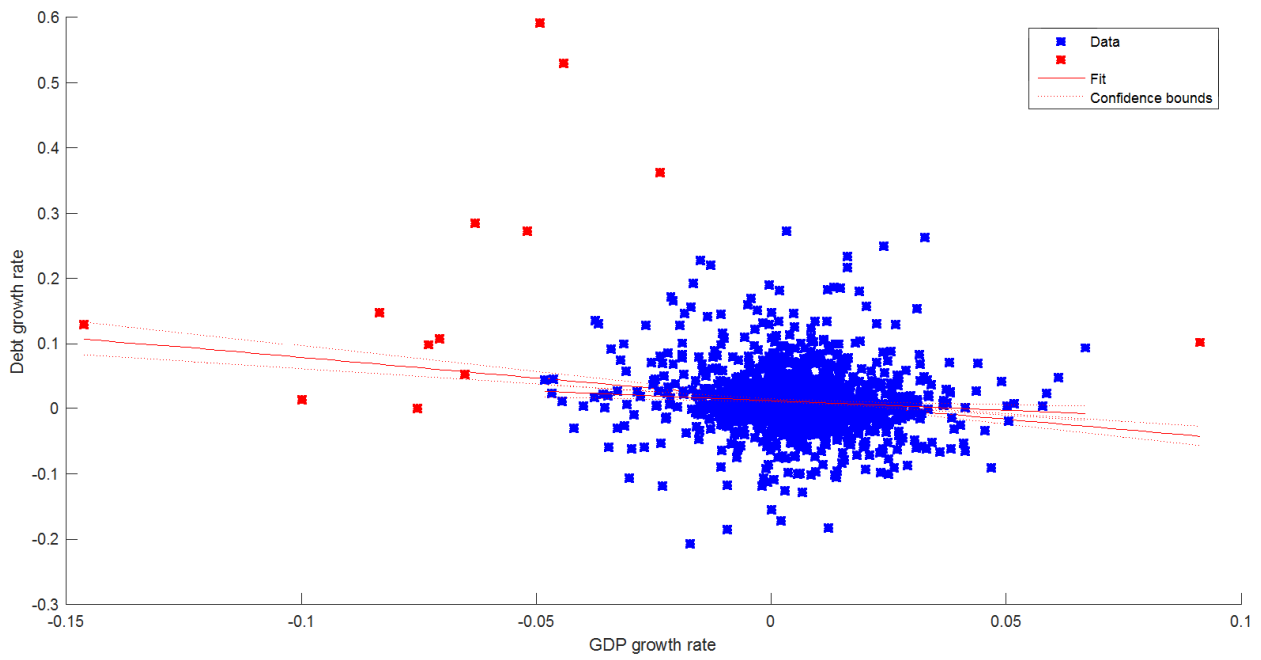


Figure 2: Debt and GDP quarterly growth rates, scatterplot with regression lines

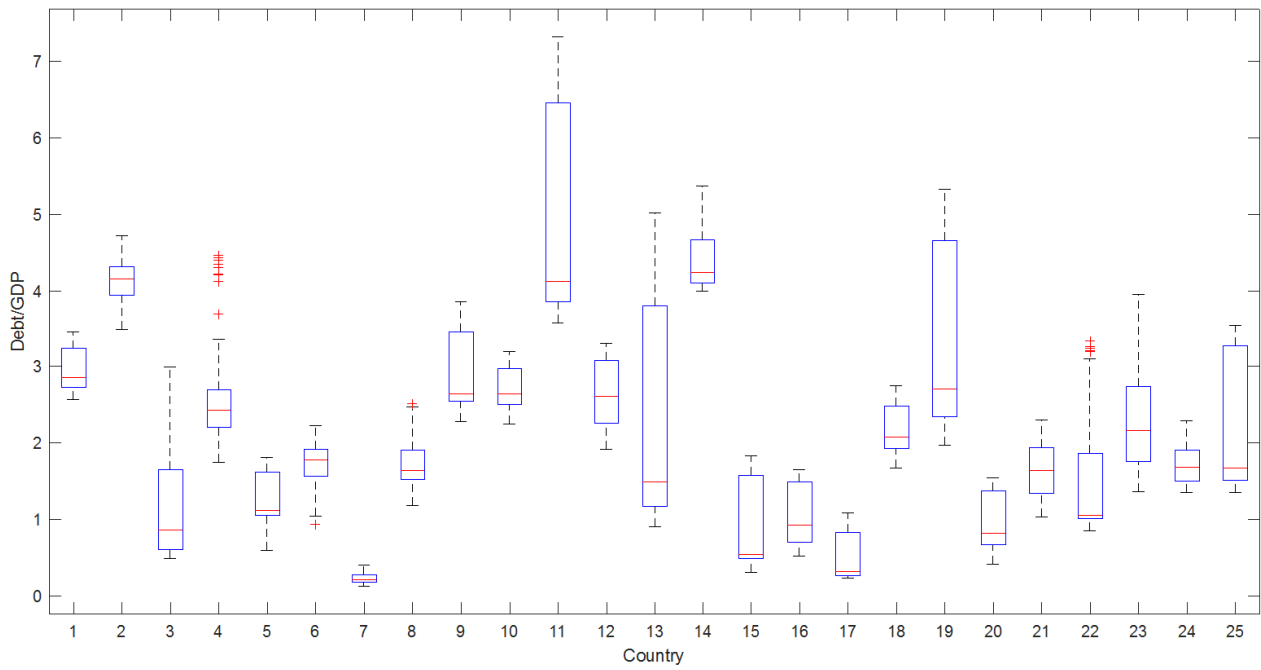


Figure 3: Quarterly debt-to-GDP ratio, boxplots by country

Table 3: Cointegration analysis: Johansen trace test with Bartlett Correction (BC), tests on residuals, and tests for weak exogeneity (p-values)

Country	Cointegration rank		Cointegration rank (BC)		Residual autocorrelation				Normality	Weak exogeneity			Parameters		
	r=0	r=1	r=0	r=1	LB test	LM(1) test	LM(2) test	GDP		Debt	#Lags	Breaks	Sea. Dummies	Other dummies	
Austria	0	0.384	0	0.485	0.371	0.387	0.269	0.102	0	2	2008Q2	No	2007Q3		
Belgium	0.323	0.503	0.406	0.548	0.207	0.484	0.112	0.171	0.439	2	2008Q3	No	2007Q3, 2008Q4		
Bulgaria	0.097	0.316	0.107	0.32	0.195	0.446	0.263	0.16	0.389	1	2008Q4	No	-		
Cyprus	0.047	0.442	0.053	0.447	0.938	0.93	0.352	0.05	0 (0.003)	0	2008Q2, 2013Q3	Yes	2009Q2, 2009Q4		
Czech rep	0	0.008	0	0.008	0.02	0.144	0.581	0.527	0.105	1	2008Q4, 2013Q1	No	-		
Denmark	0.004	0.959	0.012	0.981	0	0.941	0.165	0.947	0	3	2008Q3	No	2006Q2, 2008Q4		
Estonia	0.001	0.003	0.001	0.003	0.339	0.203	0.822	0	0.14	1	2008Q3, 2012Q2	No	2007Q2, 2008Q1		
Finland	0.001	0.016	0.001	0.028	0.259	0.687	0.191	0.105	0.353	2	2008Q3	Yes	-		
France	0	0.069	0.001	0.088	0.143	0.952	0.697	0.069	0.66	2	2008Q4	No	2009Q1, 2009Q2		
Germany	0.02	0.302	0.023	0.302	0.008	0.343	0.051	0.246	0.002	1	2008Q3	No	2009Q1, 2010Q4		
Greece	0.01	0.029	0.012	0.03	0.287	0.483	0.07	0.746	0.212	1	2008Q3, 2011Q4	No	2012Q1		
Hungary	0	0.855	0	0.871	0.582	0.329	0.974	0.613	0	2	2008Q4	Yes	-		
Ireland	0	0.003	0.001	0.004	0.001	0.199	0.821	0.024	0.623	1	2008Q2, 2013Q1	No	-		
Italy	0	0.131	0	0.133	0.221	0.754	0.839	0.354	0.226 (0.337)	1	2008Q4, 2011Q3	No	2009Q1		
Latvia	0	0.071	0	0.138	0.174	0.348	0.031	0.256	0	3	2008Q4	No	2008Q3		
Lithuania	0	0.04	0.004	0.054	0.176	0.126	0.466	0.305	0.005	2	2008Q4, 2010Q2	No	2009Q1		
Luxembourg	0	0.193	0	0.197	0.271	0.099	0.06	0.075	0	1	2008Q4	No	-		
Netherlands	0.637	0.807	0.715	0.874	0.011	0.356	0.423	0.574	0.257	2	2008Q2	No	2008Q4, 2014Q1		
Portugal	0.376	0.524	0.396	0.524	0.213	0.703	0.642	0.388	0.526	1	2008Q3	No	2009Q1, 2011Q2		
Romania	0	0.043	0	0.044	0.839	0.007	0.381	0.783	0	1	2008Q4	No	(2009Q1)		
Slovak rep	0.161	0.505	0.175	0.509	0.686	0.284	0.435	0.292	0.517	1	2008Q2	No	2009Q1		
Slovenia	0	0.034	0	0.035	0.191	0.662	0.504	0.053	0	1	2008Q2	No	2011Q1		
Spain	0.124	0.395	0.233	0.529	0	0.31	0.397	0.054	0.003	2	2008Q1	No	2012Q4		
Sweden	0	0.201	0.001	0.259	0.015	0.613	0.179	0.958	0.018	2	2008Q4	No	2010Q4		
UK	0	0	0	0.001	0.046	0.081	0.019	0.564	0.022	2	2008Q3	No	-		

Table 4: Unit-root tests for unbalanced panel data

IPS unit-root test for unbalanced panels (p-value)					
	0	1	2	3	4
ln(GDP)	0	0,0122	0,1043	0,188	0,4587
ln(DGG)	0,999	0,999	0,999	0,999	0,999
gGDP	0	0	0	0	0
gDGG	0	0	0	0	0

Fisher-type test (ADF - chi squared distribution)					
	0	1	2	3	4
ln(GDP)	0	0,0452	0,4783	0,5997	0,9351
ln(DGG)	0,999	0,999	0,999	0,999	0,999
gGDP	0	0	0	0	0
gDGG	0	0	0	0	0

Table 5: Unit-root tests for balanced panel data

Breitung test	
ln(GDP)	0,9987
ln(DGG)	0,9997

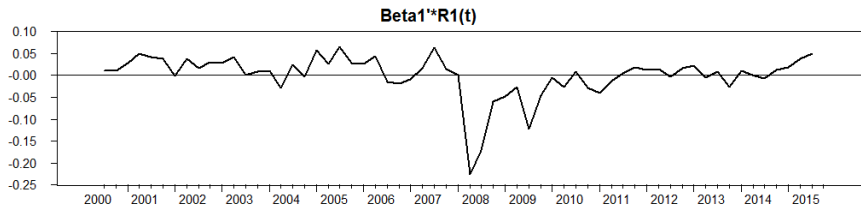
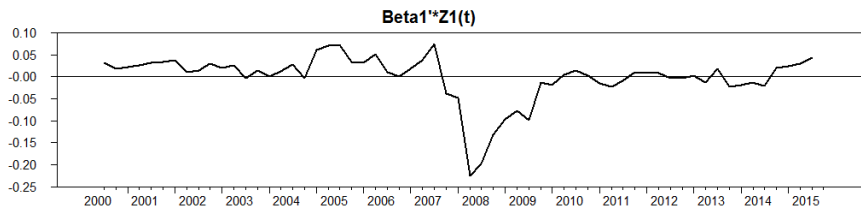
  

Harris-Tzavalis test (p-value)	
ln(GDP)	1
ln(DGG)	0,9742

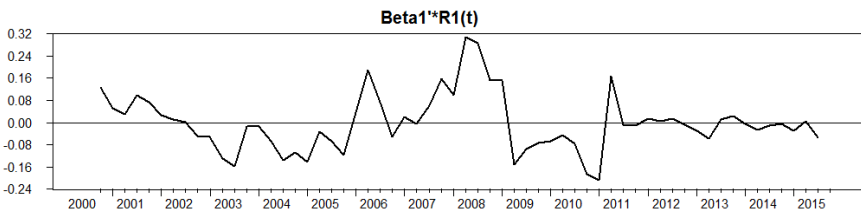
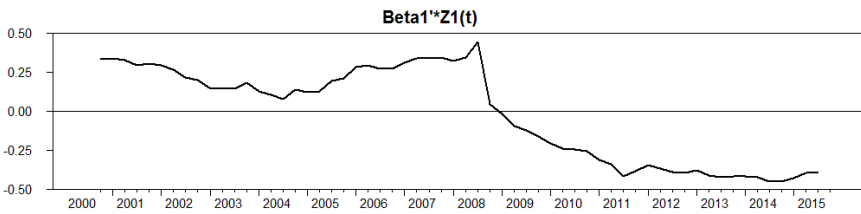
Table 6: Panel cointegration tests

Pedroni (Test statistics)					Westerlund (Robust p-value)				
Data set					Data set				
Dependent V.	DGG	DGG	GDP	DGG	Dependent V.	DGG	DGG	GDP	DGG
Independent V.	GDP	GDP	DGG	GDP	Independent V.	GDP	GDP	DGG	GDP
Trend	No	Yes	No	Yes	# Lags	2	2	2	2
Vp	-2.423***	-0.1596	-2.488***	-1.646*	Constant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RHO <sub>p</sub>	-2.716***	0.1067	2.52***	0.1522	Trend	No	Yes	No	Yes
Tp	2.913***	0.1802	2.297**	0.4463	Bootstrap	100	100	100	100
ADF <sub>p</sub>	2.679***	0.01176	2.821***	0.1602	Gt	0.99	0.66	0.8	1
RHO <sub>g</sub>	3.669***	0.1205	3.651***	0.156	Ga	1	0.9	1	0.96
Tg	4.062***	-0.7092	3.241***	-0.6497	Pt	0.78	0.68	0.38	1
ADF <sub>g</sub>	3.473***	-0.2289	2.694***	-0.2323	Pa	0.98	0.79	0.82	1
# Countries	25	25	25	25	# Countries	25	25	25	25
# Obs	1612	1612	1612	1612	# Obs	1612	1612	1612	1612
Cointegration. Debt is weakly exogenous					Cointegration. Debt is weakly exogenous				
Dependent V.	DGG	DGG	GDP	DGG	Dependent V.	DGG	DGG	GDP	DGG
Independent V.	GDP	GDP	DGG	GDP	Independent V.	GDP	GDP	DGG	GDP
Trend	No	Yes	No	Yes	# Lags	2	2	2	2
Vp	-0.6699	-0.2484	-1135	-0.1324	Constant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RHO <sub>p</sub>	0.983	0.254	0.1418	0.8476	Trend	No	Yes	No	Yes
Tp	0.1173	-0.1868	1.736*	0.2309	Bootstrap	100	100	100	100
ADF <sub>p</sub>	0.1224	-0.1404	0.5863	0.1362	Gt	0.95	0.45	0.12	1
RHO <sub>g</sub>	1.78*	0.6417	2.233**	0.1522	Ga	2.98	0.81	0.52	0.98
Tg	2.04***	0.03919	2.846**	0.892	Pt	0.46	0.5	0.2	1
ADF <sub>g</sub>	2.166**	0.1041	0.1024	0.9076	Pa	0.81	0.68	0.5	1
# Countries	3	3	3	3	# Countries	3	3	3	3
# Obs	196	196	196	196	# Obs	196	196	196	196
Cointegration. No weakly exogenous variable					Cointegration. No weakly exogenous variable				
Dependent V.	DGG	DGG	GDP	DGG	Dependent V.	DGG	DGG	GDP	DGG
Independent V.	GDP	GDP	DGG	GDP	Independent V.	GDP	GDP	DGG	GDP
Trend	No	Yes	No	Yes	# Lags	2	2	2	2
Vp	-0.1577	0.08053	-0.9209	0.7438	Constant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RHO <sub>p</sub>	0.1063	0.3478	0.4011	-0.6744	Trend	No	Yes	No	Yes
Tp	0.8033	0.3253	-0.4725	-0.8591	Bootstrap	100	100	100	100
ADF <sub>p</sub>	0.1071	-0.3186	-0.1163	0.01297	Gt	0.9	0.81	0.4	0.95
RHO <sub>g</sub>	2.045**	-0.2169	0.1029	-0.3161	Ga	1	0.83	0.79	0.8
Tg	1.954*	0.0422	-0.02929	-0.6161	Pt	0.4	0.87	0.15	0.99
ADF <sub>g</sub>	1.788*	-0.05187	-1484	0.4376	Pa	0.91	0.92	0.69	0.98
# Countries	8	8	8	8	# Countries	8	8	8	8
# Obs	512	512	512	512	# Obs	512	512	512	512
No cointegration. Debt is weakly exogenous					No cointegration. Debt is weakly exogenous				
Dependent V.	DGG	DGG	GDP	DGG	Dependent V.	DGG	DGG	GDP	DGG
Independent V.	GDP	GDP	DGG	GDP	Independent V.	GDP	GDP	DGG	GDP
Trend	No	Yes	No	Yes	# Lags	2	2	2	2
Vp	-0.8343	-0.1151	-1.807*	-0.3119	Constant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RHO <sub>p</sub>	0.1001	0.5572	1.778*	0.1536	Trend	No	Yes	No	Yes
Tp	0.8528	0.1358	2**	-0.7274	Bootstrap	100	100	100	100
ADF <sub>p</sub>	0.02678	0.4438	2.448***	-0.4848	Gt	0.94	0.83	0.98	0.96
RHO <sub>g</sub>	0.1151	0.5616	2.363***	-0.06625	Ga	1	0.97	1	0.92
Tg	0.9527	0.1957	2.748***	-0.1092	Pt	0.85	0.55	0.73	0.99
ADF <sub>g</sub>	0.3938	0.3903	2.819***	-0.1076	Pa	0.93	0.7	0.86	1
# Countries	10	10	10	10	# Countries	10	10	10	10
# Obs	644	644	644	644	# Obs	644	644	644	644
No cointegration. No weakly exogenous variable					No cointegration. No weakly exogenous variable				
Dependent V.	DGG	DGG	GDP	DGG	Dependent V.	DGG	DGG	GDP	DGG
Independent V.	GDP	GDP	DGG	GDP	Independent V.	GDP	GDP	DGG	GDP
Trend	No	Yes	No	Yes	# Lags	2	2	2	2
Vp	0.1954	-0.2532	-0.1043	0.2485	Constant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RHO <sub>p</sub>	-0.2341	-0.05041	0.9742	0.03104	Trend	No	Yes	No	Yes
Tp	-0.2852	-0.2096	0.6781	-0.2581	Bootstrap	100	100	100	100
ADF <sub>p</sub>	-0.4442	-0.08292	0.1041	-0.05241	Gt	1	0.2	0.35	0.82
RHO <sub>g</sub>	0.5526	0.6071	0.1007	0.4268	Ga	1	0.17	0.95	0.39
Tg	0.1797	0.23	0.5752	-0.09526	Pt	0.96	0.32	0.5	0.69
ADF <sub>g</sub>	-0.3289	0.3884	0.1033	0.2215	Pa	0.97	0.21	0.79	0.08
# Countries	4	4	4	4	# Countries	4	4	4	4
# Obs	260	260	260	260	# Obs	260	260	260	260

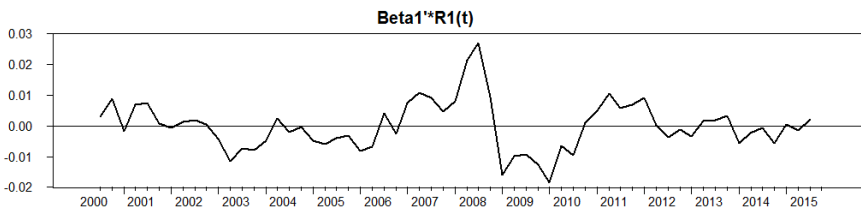
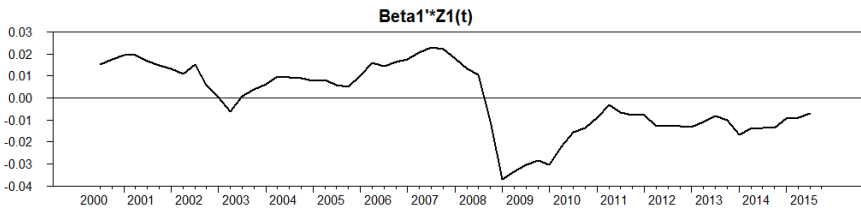
Notes: \*\*\*, \*\* and \* indicate statistical significance at 1%, 5% and 10%.



### Austria

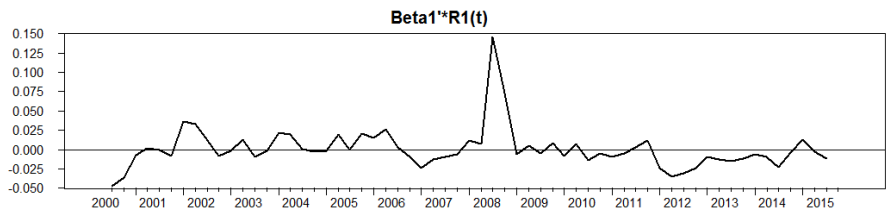
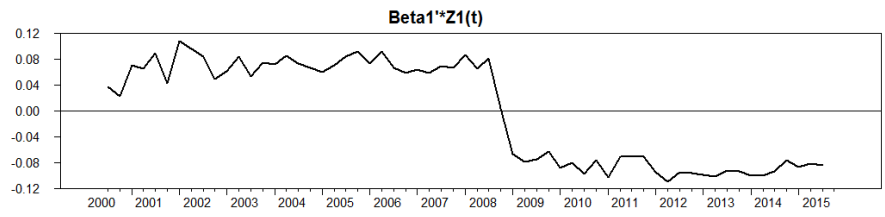


### Czech republic

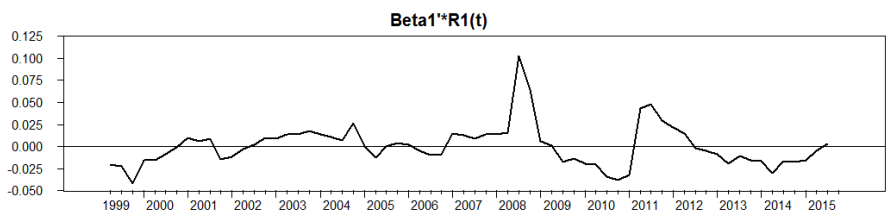
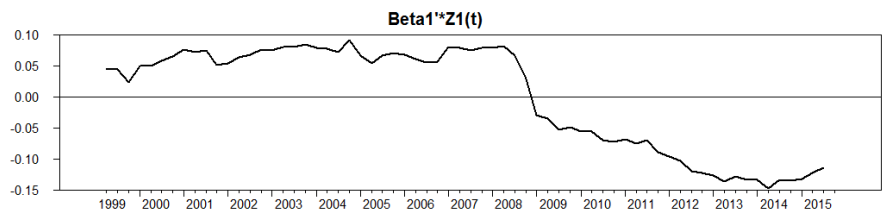


### France

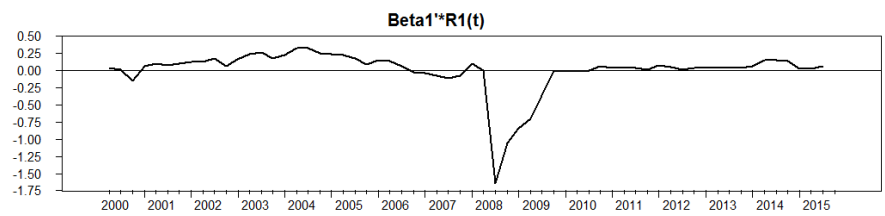
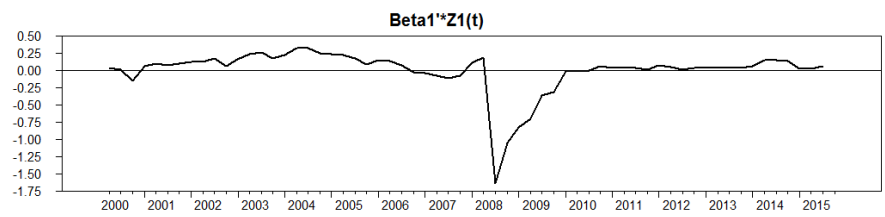
Figure 4: Restricted cointegration relationships (1)



### Hungary

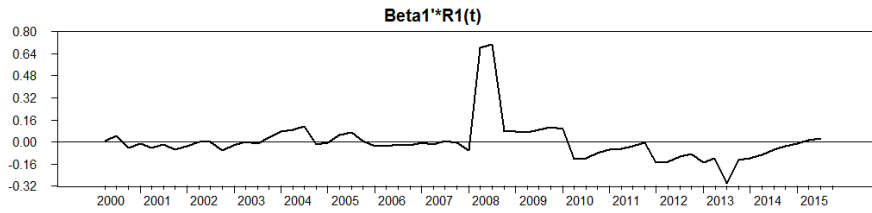
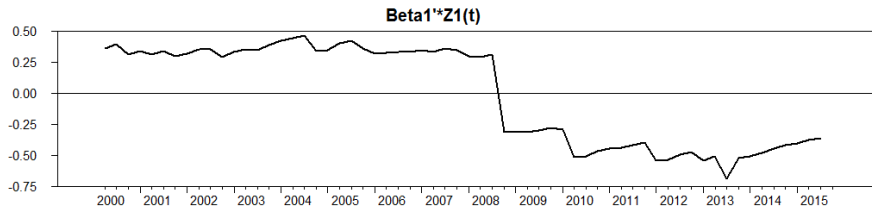


### Italy

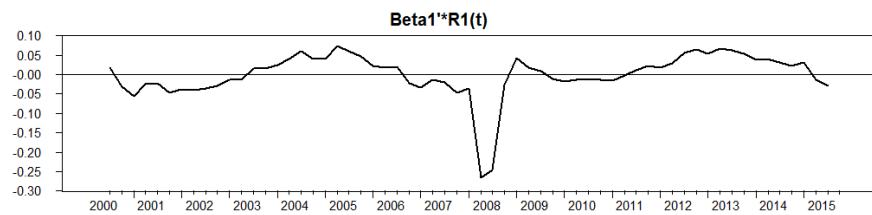
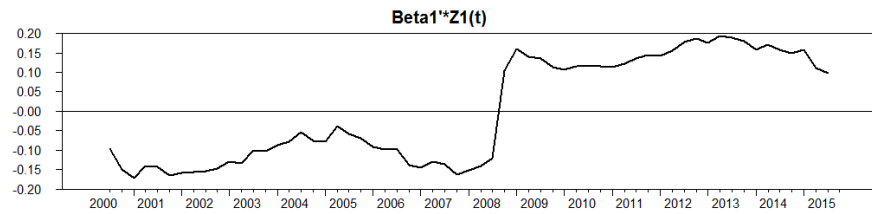


### Latvia

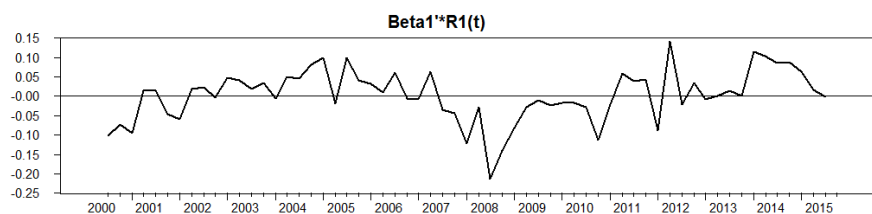
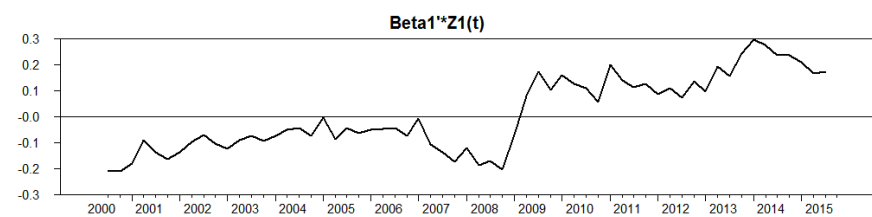
Figure 5: Restricted cointegration relationships (2)



### Luxembourg



### Netherlands



### Slovenia

Figure 6: Restricted cointegration relationships (3)

Notes: The first part of any graph,  $\text{Beta}^*Z(t)$ , is the equilibrium error as a function of deterministic components and short-run dynamics; the second part,  $\text{Beta}^*R(t)$ , depicts the clean equilibrium error corrected for the short-run dynamics. It is the second one that is tested for cointegration.



Table 7: Panel estimation: basic model

Group	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Dependent V.	gGDP	gGDP	gDGG	gGDP	gGDP	gDGG
gGDP(-1)	0.2863* (0.1611)	0.1048 (0.1003)	-1.1249*** (0.4014)	0.1397* (0.0796)	0.4040*** (0.0747)	-1.4881*** (0.1254)
gDGG(-1)	-0.0220*** (0.0039)	-0.0511*** (0.0193)	-0.0619* (0.0357)	-0.0467*** (0.0112)	-0.0095 (0.0210)	-0.0561 (0.0463)
CR(-1)	0.0035*** (0.0013)	-0.0452* (0.0232)	0.2666 (0.2935)	- -	- -	- -
Euro	-0.0090*** (0.0019)	-0.0048*** (0.0011)	-0.0333*** (0.0103)	-0.0049* (0.0028)	-0.0053*** (0.0004)	0.0113*** (0.0032)
Const.	0.0093*** (0.0015)	0.0074*** (0.0019)	0.0322*** (0.0100)	0.0081*** (0.0022)	0.0056*** (0.0011)	0.0232*** (0.0049)
# Countries	3	8	8	10	4	4
# Obs	187	486	486	614	248	248
Wald chi	734.47***	354.88***	71.92***	77.78***	64.73***	371.41***

Notes: \*\*\*, \*\* and \* indicate statistical significance at 1%, 5% and 10%.

Table 8: Panel estimation, alternative specifications

Group	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Dependent V.	gGDP	gGDP	gDGG	gGDP	gGDP	gGDP	gDGG
gGDP(-1)	0.2792 (0.1710)	0.1262 (0.0876)	-1.0353*** (0.3123)	0.0699 (0.1087)	0.1379 (0.0937)	0.3819*** (0.0882)	-1.3372*** (0.2332)
gDGG(-1)	-0.0233*** (0.0045)	-0.0457*** (0.0118)	-0.0462 (0.0379)	-0.0464*** (0.0151)	-0.0461*** (0.0118)	0.0016 (0.0284)	-0.0688 (0.0654)
CR(-1)	0.0035*** (0.0013)	-0.0377* (0.0205)	0.2735 (0.2789)	- -	- -	- -	- -
Infl(-1)	0.1106 (0.1177)	-0.2390** (0.1183)	0.2046 (1.4301)	-0.1079 (0.1211)	-0.0960 (0.0952)	0.2102 (0.1568)	-0.7866* (0.4345)
DRGG(-1)	-0.0092*** (0.0036)	0.0558** (0.0284)	-0.1485 (0.1116)	0.0239 (0.0207)	0.0089 (0.0196)	0.0713*** (0.0237)	-0.3865*** (0.0945)
DREER(-1)	-0.0553 (0.0574)	-0.0139 (0.0427)	-0.2409 (0.1819)	0.0629 (0.0476)	0.0508 (0.0440)	0.0742*** (0.0261)	-0.3311*** (0.0653)
Dr(-1)	0.0041** (0.0019)	-0.0107** (0.0049)	0.0258** (0.0125)	-0.0068 (0.0055)	- -	0.0006 (0.0040)	0.0023 (0.0182)
Euro	-0.0096*** (0.0020)	-0.0049*** (0.0011)	-0.0278*** (0.0067)	-0.0099*** (0.0029)	-0.0046 (0.0029)	-0.0059*** (0.0005)	0.0148*** (0.0032)
Const.	0.0098*** (0.0014)	0.0070*** (0.0016)	0.0297*** (0.0072)	0.0117*** (0.0025)	0.0078*** (0.0023)	0.0047*** (0.0011)	0.0245*** (0.0083)
# Countries	3	8	8	9	10	4	4
# Obs	183	455	455	528	598	218	218
Wald chi	24.85***	2007.42***	2813.2***	983.24***	383.93***	69.35***	62.43***

Notes: \*\*\*, \*\* and \* indicate statistical significance at 1%, 5% and 10%.

Table 9: Shapiro-Wilk statistics for residuals' normality

Group 1, gGDP (p-values)		
Country	Res.1	Res.2
France	0	0.1069
Italy	0	0.1156
Cyprus	0.0194	0.0352

Group 2, gGDP (p-values)			Group 2, gDGG (p-values)		
Country	Res.1	Res.2	Country	Res.1	Res.2
Germany	0	0.9016	Germany	0	0.5446
Austria	0.0028	0.2653	Austria	0	0
Sweden	0.5887	0.8237	Sweden	0.5422	0.3277
Luxembourg	0.8075	0.5388	Luxembourg	0	0
Denmark	0.1423	0.7894	Denmark	0	0.1449
Lithuania	0	0.0574	Lithuania	0.3755	0.2771
Hungary	0	0.0007	Hungary	0.8111	0.8761
Latvia	0.0006	0.1359	Latvia	0	0.2543

Group 3, gGDP (p-values)		
Country	Res.1	Res.2
Portugal	0.5312	0.8755
Greece	0.8021	0.7554
Netherlands	0.3140	0.6829
Belgium	0	0.4276
Ireland	0.1142	0.1474
Estonia	0	0.0008
Czech Republic	0.0024	0.8856
Slovakia	0	0.4444
Finland	0	0.0264
Bulgaria	0.4077	0.2735

Group 4, gGDP (p-values)			Group 4, gDGG (p-values)		
Country	Res.1	Res.2	Country	Res.1	Res.2
Spain	0.0008	0.3790	Spain	0.0265	0.0838
UK	0.3365	0.5944	UK	0.0173	0.0337
Slovenia	0.0006	0.0005	Slovenia	0.2101	0.1765
Romania	0.0054	0.5337	Romania	0.0185	0.1191

Notes: Res.1=Residuals of the basic models.

Res.2=Residuals of the basic models without the 2008 crisis observations.

Table 10: Arellano-Bond tests for residuals' serial correlation

Group 1, gGDP			
Order	P-value		
1	0.1053		
2	0.5132		

Group 2, gGDP		Group 2, gDGG	
Order	P-value	Order	P-value
1	0.0326	1	0.0233
2	0.0435	2	0.8854

Group 3, gGDP			
Order	P-value		
1	0.0132		
2	0.6195		

Group 4, gGDP		Group 4, gDGG	
Order	P-value	Order	P-value
1	0.0833	1	0.0964
2	0.932	2	0.2489

Table 11: Panel estimation, extended basic model: crisis and austerity

Group	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Dependent V.	gGDP	gGDP	gDGG	gGDP	gGDP	gDGG
gGDP(-1)	0.1365 (0.1626)	-0.0723 (0.0633)	-0.5836** (0.2327)	-0.0023 (0.0782)	0.2346*** (0.0457)	0.0829 (0.1214)
gDGG(-1)	0.0098*** (0.0023)	-0.0408 (0.0272)	-0.1301*** (0.0290)	-0.0021 (0.0170)	-0.0115 (0.0077)	-0.1870*** (0.0289)
CR(-1)	0.0058*** (0.0017)	-0.0350* (0.0186)	0.2472 (0.2723)	-	-	-
Euro	-0.0072*** (0.0016)	-0.0050*** (0.0010)	-0.0295*** (0.0080)	-0.0011 (0.0020)	-0.0006 (0.0015)	-0.0113 (0.0076)
Crisis	-0.0092*** (0.0018)	-0.0258*** (0.0060)	0.0365** (0.0166)	-0.0178*** (0.0034)	-0.0205*** (0.0043)	0.0688*** (0.0209)
Austerity	-0.0021*** (0.0007)	-0.0038*** (0.0014)	0.0043 (0.0077)	-0.0062*** (0.0015)	-0.0063*** (0.0200)	0.0339*** (0.0095)
gDGG(-1)*Crisis	-0.0076 (0.0158)	0.0182 (0.0273)	-	-0.0699 (0.0435)	0.0631*** (0.0242)	-
gGDP(-1)*Crisis	-	-	-0.8478 (0.5777)	-	-	-1.9640*** (0.4532)
gDGG(-1)*Austerity	-0.0021*** (0.0007)	0.0332 (0.0316)	-	-0.0301 (0.0208)	0.0401** (0.0176)	-
gGDP(-1)*Austerity	-	-	0.4027 (0.3265)	-	-	-0.4055 (0.8358)
Const.	0.0097*** (0.0017)	0.0121*** (0.0024)	0.0210*** (0.0094)	0.0104*** (0.0018)	0.0082*** (0.0014)	0.0050* (0.0026)
# Countries	3	8	8	10	4	4
# Obs	187	486	486	614	248	248
Wald chi	49.37***	2404.04***	1622.47***	1675.13***	752.22***	44.28***

Notes: \*\*\*, \*\* and \* indicate statistical significance at 1%, 5% and 10%.

Table 12: Household final consumptions

Country	Cointegration rank		Residual autocorrelation		Normality	Weak exogeneity	Parameters							
	r=0	r=1	r=0	r=1			Breaks	Sea. Dummies	Other Dummies					
Austria	0,046	0,3	0,04	0,296	0,773	0,563	0,951	0,064	0,002	0,049	1	2009Q3	No	-
Belgium	0	0,194	0	0,152	0,128	0,173	0,262	0,402	0	0,577	3	2008Q4	No	-
Bulgaria	0,004	0,008	0,003	0,008	0,565	0,171	0,689	0,651	0,027	0,971	1	2008Q1, 2014Q2	No	-
Cyprus	0,009	0,222	0,005	0,188	0,095	0,707	0,451	0,156	0,102	0	2	2008Q3, 2013Q2	No	-
Czech rep	0,015	0,134	0,008	0,087	0,019	0,357	0,178	0,078	0,001	0,425	3	2012Q2	No	-
Denmark	0,1	0,739	0,091	0,735	0,01	0,115	0,121	0,551	0,007	0,001	1	2008Q3	No	2008Q4, 2009Q1
Estonia	0,271	0,397	0,253	0,392	0,133	0,865	0,47	0	0,014	0,351	1	2007Q4, 2011Q4	No	-
Finland	0,057	0,749	0,039	0,712	0,1	0,874	0,201	0,118	0,001	0,002	2	2008Q4	No	-
France	0,177	0,463	0,163	0,468	0,022	0,416	0,574	0,11	0,003	0,13	1	2008Q2	No	-
Germany	0	0,419	0	0,371	0,213	0,044	0,156	0,12	0	0,264	2	2010Q4	No	-
Greece	0,001	0,007	0,001	0,006	0,391	0,368	0,127	0,589	0,71	0,003	1	2008Q4, 2011Q4	No	2012Q1
Hungary	0,058	0,378	0,041	0,363	0,57	0,965	0,934	0,887	0,016	0,113	2	2011Q1	No	-
Ireland	0	0,064	0	0,002	0,007	0,108	0,32	0,208	0,001	0,001	1	2008Q1, 2013Q1	No	2007Q3, 2013Q3
Italy	0,546	0,942	0,527	0,941	0,011	0,136	0,165	0,129	0,002	0,056	1	2008Q3	No	-
Latvia	0	0,921	0	0,919	0,14	0,955	0,59	0,026	0	0,096	1	2008Q4	Yes	-
Lithuania	0,004	0,093	0,002	0,06	0,155	0,11	0,036	0,639	0,98	0	2	2008Q2, 2012Q2	No	2009Q3
Luxembourg	0	0,234	0	0,231	0,368	0,169	0,975	0,159	0	0,648	1	2008Q4	No	-
Netherlands	0,137	0,789	0,125	0,786	0,156	0,924	0,648	0,045	0,001	0,002	1	2009Q1	No	2008Q4
Portugal	0,533	0,804	0,515	0,802	0,439	0,71	0,439	0,065	0,003	0,057	1	2008Q4, 2013Q2	No	-
Romania	0,035	0,515	0,03	0,511	0,004	0,253	0,348	0,226	0,001	0,258	1	2008Q3	No	-
Slovak rep	0,032	0,81	0,027	0,807	0,121	0,387	0,296	0,403	0	0	1	2008Q1	No	-
Slovenia	0,001	0,174	0,001	0,171	0,058	0,107	0,534	0,033	0	0,617	1	2009Q1	No	2011Q1
Spain	0	0,014	0	0,014	0,229	0,167	0,21	0,017	0,008	0	2	2008Q2, 2013Q1	No	-
Sweden	0,858	0,847	0,817	0,826	0,366	0,595	0,438	0,104	0,053	0,151	2	2008Q2	No	-
UK	0	0,47	0	0,322	0,064	0,494	0,008	0,169	0	0,201	3	2009Q1	No	-

Table 13: Export

Country	Cointegration rank			Residual autocorrelation			Normality			Weak exogeneity			Parameters			
	r=0	r=1	r=2	LB test	LM(1) test	LM(2) test	DGG	Exp	#Lags	Breaks	Type	Sea. Dummies	Other dummies			
Austria	0	0,005	0	0,133	0,263	0,083	0,308	0	2	2008Q2, 2009Q4	trend	No	2007Q4, 2009Q1 2011Q1			
Belgium	0	0,141	0	0,394	0,212	0,181	0,095	0	3	2008Q4	trend	No	-			
Bulgaria	0,036	0,525	0,019	0,607	0,234	0,594	0,104	0	2	2008Q3	trend	No	2006Q4, 2009Q2, 2009Q4			
Cyprus	0,021	0,43	0,018	0,811	0,179	0,676	0,017	0	1	2008Q4	trend	No	2004Q2, 2010Q3, 2012Q1			
Czech rep	0,001	0,231	0,001	0,058	0,36	0,599	0,154	0	1	2002Q3, 2008Q1	trend	No	2008Q4, 2009Q1			
Denmark	0,813	0,982	0,731	0,067	0,133	0,487	0,142	0,03	2	2008Q3	trend	No	-			
Estonia	0,893	0,871	0,849	0,012	0,784	0,915	0	0,037	2	2008Q3	trend	No	2009Q4			
Finland	0,025	0,735	0,017	0,554	0,513	0,163	0,051	0	2	2008Q4	trend	No	2009Q1, 2010Q3			
France	0	0,055	0	0,799	0,122	0,131	0,125	0	2	2008Q4	trend	No	2010Q4			
Germany	0,004	0,31	0,002	0,215	0,731	0,17	0,024	0,001	3	2008Q4, 2009Q2	trend	No	2012Q1			
Greece	0,033	0,585	0,029	0,046	0,337	0,302	0,066	0,002	1	2008Q4	trend	No	-			
Hungary	0,258	0,923	0,198	0,887	0,127	0,348	0,268	0,385	2	2008Q3	level	No	2007Q3			
Ireland	0	0,702	0	0,663	0,028	0,103	0,064	0	2	2008Q2	trend	No	2009Q1			
Italy	0,01	0,544	0,005	0,004	0,366	0,486	0,453	0,871	2	2008Q3	trend	No	2008Q4			
Latvia	0,001	0,109	0	0,019	0,241	0,231	0,146	0,031	3	2008Q3, 2010Q1	trend	No	-			
Lithuania	0	0,012	0	0,709	0,759	0,158	0,169	0	2	2008Q3, 2010Q1	trend	No	2010Q2, 2013Q3			
Luxembourg	0	0,621	0	0	0,001	0,319	0,225	0	1	2008Q4	trend	No	2008Q3			
Netherlands	0	0	0	0,042	0,363	0,298	0,103	0	3	2008Q2, 2009Q1	trend	No	2009Q1, 2011Q2			
Portugal	0,184	0,329	0,169	0,078	0,192	0,201	0,035	0,378	1	2008Q3	trend	No	-			
Romania	0,004	0,015	0,004	0,022	0,285	0,672	0,466	0,39	1	2008Q3, 2010Q1	trend	No	2009Q1			
Slovak rep	0,115	0,292	0,104	0,098	0,934	0,649	0,098	0,114	1	2008Q3	trend	No	2009Q1			
Slovenia	0,034	0,067	0,02	0,079	0,17	0,872	0,106	0,254	2	2008Q4	trend	No	2009Q1			
Spain	0	0,019	0	0,102	0,197	0,2	0,004	0	2	2008Q4	trend	No	2007Q4, 2008Q3			
Sweden	0,13	0,202	0,119	0,559	0,144	0,95	0,971	0,055	1	2008Q2	trend	No	-			
UK	0,001	0,018	0,001	0,148	0,001	0,349	0,021	0,955	2	2008Q4	trend	No	2006Q1, 2006Q3			

Table 14: Gross fixed capital formation

Country	Cointegration rank		Residual autocorrelation		Normality	Weak exogeneity		Parameters				
	r=0	r=1	r=0	r=1		DGG	GFCF	Breaks	Sea. Dummies	Other dummies		
Austria	0,419	0,578	0,398	0,574	0,603	0,901	0,108	0,071	0,028	2008Q3	No	2007Q4
Belgium	0,196	0,828	0,16	0,815	0,178	0,255	0,815	0	0,114	2008Q2, 2010Q3	No	-
Bulgaria	0,039	0,113	0,035	0,111	0,959	0,612	0,559	0,324	0,015	2008Q2	No	2010Q1
Cyprus	0,003	0,276	0,002	0,265	0,701	0,276	0,541	0,135	0	2009Q1, 2014Q1	No	2009Q2, 2009Q4
Czech rep	0	0,074	0	0,044	0	0,871	0,054	0,721	0	2008Q3	No	2013Q3, 2012Q1
Denmark	0,032	0,172	0,028	0,178	0	0,684	0,437	0,048	0,005	2008Q2, 2010Q2	No	2008Q3, 2008Q4
Estonia	0,469	0,56	0,374	0,487	0,144	0,205	0,002	0,716	0,011	2008Q2	No	-
Finland	0,042	0,365	0,027	0,282	0,618	0,243	0,124	0,002	0,06	2008Q2	No	2008Q3, 2008Q4
France	0,39	0,718	0,246	0,627	0,067	0,143	0,416	0,007	0,022	2008Q1	No	2008Q4
Germany	0,15	0,556	0,117	0,5	0,337	0,77	0,146	0	0,009	2013Q1	No	2009Q1, 2010Q4
Greece	0,348	0,804	0,291	0,691	0,154	0,28	0,078	0	0,961	2008Q4	No	2012Q1
Hungary	0,026	0,148	0,019	0,133	0,539	0,613	0,226	0,028	0,041	2008Q3, 2010Q3	No	-
Ireland	0	0,215	0	0,012	0,021	0,066	0,342	0	0,191	2008Q1	No	2007Q3, 2012Q2
Italy	0,055	0,316	0,049	0,311	0,385	0,647	0,788	0,038	0,006	2008Q3	No	-
Latvia	0,006	0,01	0,002	0,006	0,002	0,28	0,483	0,013	0,046	2008Q3, 2010Q1	No	-
Lithuania	0,001	0,004	0	0,003	0,9	0,11	0,501	0,286	0,002	2008Q4, 2010Q1	No	-
Luxembourg	0	0,05	0	0,049	0,203	0,147	0,079	0	0,035	2008Q4	No	-
Netherlands	0,124	0,435	0,114	0,43	0,272	0,213	0,043	0	0,177	2008Q3, 2013Q2	No	2008Q4, 2011Q1
Portugal	0,363	0,871	0,308	0,84	0,002	0,468	0,751	0,002	0,047	2008Q3, 2013Q2	No	-
Romania	0,001	0,981	0	0,974	0,845	0,001	0,797	0	0,001	2008Q3	No	2007Q1
Slovak rep	0,42	0,706	0,4	0,703	0,223	0,606	0	0,694	0,002	2008Q2	No	-
Slovenia	0,001	0,097	0	0,095	0,001	0,155	0,173	0,145	0	2008Q3	Yes	-
Spain	0	0,009	0	0,005	0,03	0,69	0,31	0,645	0	2008Q1, 2013Q2	No	2009Q2
Sweden	0,038	0,39	0,024	0,301	0,217	0,612	0,164	0,431	0	2008Q4	No	-
UK	0,023	0,252	0,015	0,204	0,028	0,105	0,293	0,004	0,039	2008Q1, 2012Q1	No	-

Table 15: General government final consumptions

Country	Cointegration rank		Cointegration rank		Residual autocorrelation		Normality		Weak exogeneity		Parameters				Sea. Dummies	Other Dummies
	r=0	r=1	r=0	r=1	LB test	LM(1) test	LM(2) test	DGG	CGG	#Lags	Breaks	Type	Dummies			
Austria	0,002	0,117	0,001	0,104	0,293	0,884	0,786	0	0,589	2	2009Q3	Level	No	-		
Belgium	0	0,256	0	0,252	0,118	0,23	0,196	0,313	0	1	2008Q4	Trend	No	-		
Bulgaria	0,044	0,509	0,038	0,505	0,002	0,955	0,151	0,256	0,613	1	2009Q2	Trend	No	2009Q4		
Cyprus	0,005	0,521	0,004	0,518	0,614	0,558	0,113	0	0,483	1	2011Q3	Trend	No	2009Q4		
Czech rep	0,004	0,054	0,002	0,006	0,118	0,189	0,381	0,551	0,014	2	2009Q1, 2013Q2	Trend	No	-		
Denmark	0	0,819	0,005	0,73	0,043	0,778	0,581	0,761	0,021	2	2008Q2	Trend	No	2008Q3, 2008Q4		
Estonia	0,005	0,034	0,004	0,033	0,055	0,199	0,757	0,654	0,008	1	2008Q4, 2011Q4	Trend	No	2002Q2, 2007Q2, 2012Q3		
Finland	0,029	0,55	0,1	0,509	0,071	0,55	0,018	0,582	0	4	2008Q3	Trend	No	-		
France	0,017	0,617	0,008	0,519	0,101	0,535	0,834	0,125	0	2	2008Q3	Trend	No	-		
Germany	0,519	0,784	0,5	0,782	0,003	0,273	0,134	0,806	0,002	1	2010Q3	Trend	No	2010Q4		
Greece	0	0,004	0	0,004	0,151	0,197	0,316	0,055	0	1	2009Q2, 2012Q1	Trend	No	-		
Hungary	0,071	0,201	0,046	0,169	0,108	0,184	0,018	0,955	0,004	3	2008Q3	Trend	No	2006Q1		
Ireland	0,004	0,317	0,001	0,251	0,001	0,25	0,373	0,204	0	3	2008Q1, 2013Q1	Trend	No	2007Q3, 2010Q1		
Italy	0,598	0,778	0,551	0,741	0,357	0,325	0,515	0,202	0,253	2	2008Q2	Trend	No	-		
Latvia	0	0,062	0	0,033	0,005	0,454	0,288	0,057	0,731	2	2008Q2, 2010Q1	Trend	No	2008Q4, 2012Q1		
Lithuania	0	0,004	0	0,004	0,227	0,058	0,663	0,07	0,802	1	2008Q4	Trend	No	-		
Luxembourg	0	0,109	0	0,106	0,016	0,654	0,637	0,082	0	1	2008Q4	Trend	No	-		
Netherlands	0	0,937	0	0,93	0,253	0	0,782	0,054	0	2	2008Q4	Trend	No	2006Q1		
Portugal	0	0,007	0	0,007	0,743	0,41	0,004	0,16	0,001	1	2009Q4, 2012Q2	Trend	No	-		
Romania	0	0,097	0	0,095	0,005	0,172	0,784	0,141	0,574	1	2008Q3, 2010Q3	Trend	No	2007Q3		
Slovak rep	0,047	0,422	0,042	0,418	0,02	0,954	0,865	0,177	0,413	1	2008Q3	Trend	No	2004Q1		
Slovenia	0,067	0,8	0,6	0,797	0,16	0,348	0,193	0,142	0	1	2009Q1	Trend	No	-		
Spain	0	0,011	0	0,005	0,133	0,084	0,734	0,955	0,011	2	2008Q2	Trend	No	2012Q4		
Sweden	0,232	0,498	0,188	0,45	0,593	0,104	0,955	0,548	0,879	2	2008Q4	Trend	No	-		
UK	0	0,015	0	0,005	0,052	0,155	0,21	0,102	0	3	2009Q1	Trend	No	-		



Table 16: Imports

Country	Cointegration rank		Cointegration rank		Residual autocorrelation		Normality	Weak exogeneity	IMP	#Lags	Parameters			
	r=0	r=1	r=0	r=1	LB test	LM(1) test					LM(2) test	Breaks	Type	Sea
Austria	0.007	0.772	0.006	0.769	0.942	0.156	0.767	0	0.002	0	2008Q4	Trend	No	/
Belgium	0	0.19	0	0.1451	0.079	0.258	0.081	0.744	0	0	2008Q4	Trend	No	/
Bulgaria	0.008	0.525	0.007	0.521	0.069	0.765	0.466	0.329	0.044	0	2008Q4	Trend	No	/
Cyprus	0.022	0.522	0.019	0.517	0.708	0.97	0.842	0.297	0	0.042	2008Q3	Trend	No	/
Czech rep	0.23	0.406	0.214	0.401	0.076	0.091	0.16	0	0.005	0.767	2008Q3	Trend	No	/
Denmark	0	0.146	0	0.068	0.008	0.004	0.011	0.398	0	0.065	2008Q4	Trend	No	/
Estonia	0.804	0.816	0.738	0.794	0.106	0.125	0.845	0	0.047	0.061	2008Q3	Trend	No	/
Finland	0.004	0.106	0.002	0.067	0.473	0.655	0.419	0.031	0	0.07	2008Q4	Trend	Yes	/
France	0.002	0.176	0.002	0.173	0.258	0.314	0.024	0.011	0.583	0	2008Q3	Trend	No	/
Germany	0	0	0	0	0.04	0.482	0.609	0.008	0	0.707	2008Q4, 2010Q4	Trend	No	/
Greece	0	0.016	0	0.016	0.001	0.01	0.258	0.066	0	0.071	2008Q3, 2012Q1	Trend	No	2015Q3
Hungary	0.008	0.141	0.004	0.115	0.574	0.018	0.007	0.119	0.079	0.006	2008Q4	Trend	No	/
Ireland	0	0	0	0	0.111	0.399	0.199	0	0.222	0.079	2008Q3, 2010Q1	Trend	No	2010Q2
Italy	0.019	0.436	0.008	0.407	0.111	0.132	0.539	0.095	0.681	0	2008Q3	Trend	No	/
Latvia	0.001	0.269	0	0.181	0.378	0.163	0.198	0.009	0.005	0	2008Q3	Trend	No	2002Q1, 2008Q4
Lithuania	0	0.121	0	0.068	0.093	0.015	0.756	0.652	0	0.001	2008Q3	Trend	No	2009Q1
Luxembourg	0.801	0.797	0.748	0.762	0.017	0.414	0.502	0	0.026	0.829	2009Q1	Trend	No	/
Netherlands	0.176	0.931	0.115	0.912	0.038	0	0.234	0.433	0.689	0	2008Q3	Trend	No	2000Q4, 2008Q4
Portugal	0	0.088	0	0.086	0.166	0.077	0.065	0.65	0	0.555	2008Q3, 2011Q2	Trend	No	2009Q1
Romania	0	0.013	0	0.013	0.712	0.003	0.941	0.775	0.01	0	2008Q4	Trend	No	/
Slovak rep	0.33	0.878	0.311	0.876	0.307	0.087	0.797	0.334	0.024	0.02	2008Q3	Trend	No	/
Slovenia	0.019	0.075	0.011	0.057	0.142	0.135	0.846	0.056	0.525	0.01	2008Q4	Trend	No	2009Q1
Spain	0	0.004	0	0.002	0.008	0.231	0.322	0.12	0.068	0.041	2008Q4	Trend	No	2009Q1, 2012Q4
Sweden	0.156	0.46	0.092	0.411	0.254	0.172	0.784	0.776	0.014	0.018	2008Q4	Trend	No	/
UK	0	0.053	0	0.021	0.074	0.153	0.103	0	0	0.788	2008Q3	Trend	No	2008Q4

Table 17: GDP components and public debt, synthesis of the cointegration analysis

	GDP	EXP	GFCF	CH	CGG	IMP
Austria	C	C	NC	C	C	C
Belgium	NC	C	NC	C	C	C
Bulgaria	NC	C	C	NC	C	C
Cyprus	C	C	C	C	C	C
Czech rep	NC	NC	C	C	C	NC
Denmark	C	NC	C	NC	C	C
Estonia	NC	C	NC	NC	NC	NC
Finland	NC	C	C	C	C	C
France	C	C	NC	NC	C	C
Germany	C	C	NC	C	NC	NC
Greece	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Hungary	C	C	C	C	C	C
Ireland	NC	C	C	C	C	NC
Italy	C	C	NC	NC	NC	C
Latvia	C	NC	NC	C	C	C
Lithuania	C	C	NC	C	NC	C
Luxembourg	C	NC	NC	C	C	NC
Netherlands	NC	NC	NC	C	C	NC
Portugal	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	C
Romania	NC	NC	NC	C	C	NC
Slovak rep	NC	C	NC	C	C	NC
Slovenia	NC	NC	C	C	NC	C
Spain	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Sweden	C	NC	C	NC	NC	NC
UK	NC	NC	C	C	NC	C
Tot.	11	13/25	10/25	16/25	15/25	14/25

Notes: C=Cointegration, NC=No cointegration.

EXP=Export, GFCF=Gross fixed capital formation, CH=Household final consumptions,  
CGG=General government final consumptions, IMP=Imports.

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