

WARSAW SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS  
COLLEGIUM OF WORLD ECONOMY

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Doctoral dissertation outline - preliminary version

[English summary]

„Brazilian inter-regional trade and the Strategic Partnership of Brazil  
and the European Union”

Field: Economic Sciences  
Discipline: Economics

Scientific supervisor:  
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**Research problem:** The role of the Strategic Partnership between Brazil and the European Union in enhancing Brazilian regional and inter-regional trade exchange.

**Research question:** Did the Strategic Partnership of Brazil and the European Union intensify the Brazilian regional and interregional trade exchange?

**Research thesis:** After the Strategic Partnership between Brazil and the European Union came into effect, the value of exports in interregional trade between Brazil and the EU countries has increased.

**Research hypotheses:**

1. Brazilian exports to Mercosur countries, achieved a higher value than to particular countries of the EU, before signing the Strategic Partnership between the EU and Brazil.
2. Brazilian exports to Mercosur countries, achieved a lower value than to particular countries of the EU, after signing the Strategic Partnership between the EU and Brazil.
3. Growth rate of the Brazilian exports with Mercosur countries was correlated with the GDP growth rate of Brazil.
4. Growth rate of the Brazilian exports with the EU countries was correlated with the GDP growth rate of Brazil.

The main aim of the doctoral dissertation is to examine the role of the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) between Brazil and the European Union (EU), signed in 2007, in the context of strengthening trade relations, measured with export values between both partners.

Intermediate objectives are the following:

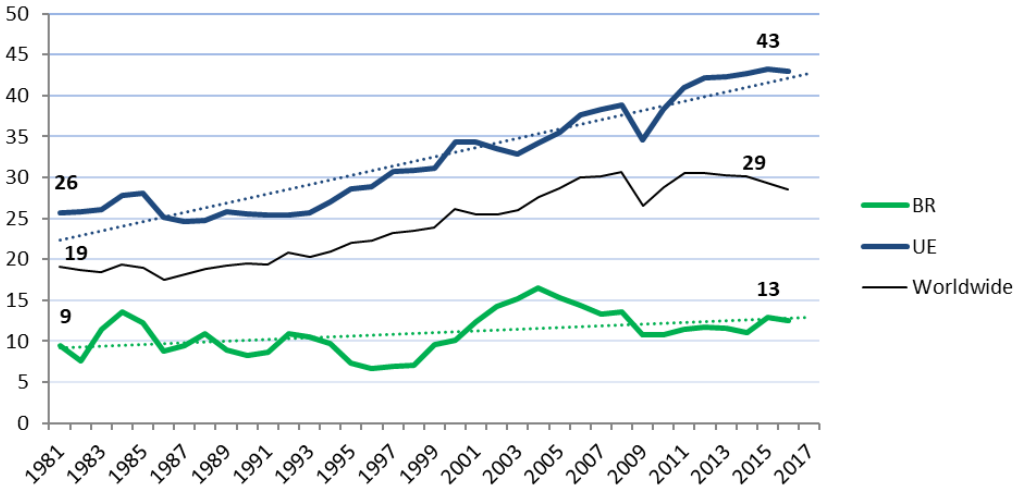
- comparison of the Brazilian export values to particular countries of the EU, with respect to the Brazilian export values to particular countries of Mercosur (objective I);
- to examine the cause-effect between the growth of the Brazilian export values and the GDP growth of Brazil (objective II);

Research will consist of theoretical and empirical part. Theoretical one will include analytical outlook of the theories and history of regional integration, with the special focus on Latin America and the EU. The effect of such an analysis will be to discuss integration determinants for both the EU and Mercosur and its impact on the Brazilian export intensification with the member-states of abovementioned regional organizations. Moreover, analysis will include the study of SPAs signed by the EU with external partners, with the special attention given to the SPA between the EU and Brazil.

Enhancing economic and trade relations was outlined as one of the key milestones of the SPA signed between the EU and Brazil. That milestone – seen from the Brazilian perspective – will be the area of empirical research, as the export values exchange between both partners (Brazil and the EU) will be an illustration of the trade relations intensification.

The reason of focus on export is the “closedness of economy”, outlined by the experts of World Economic Forum. Share of Brazilian exports in GDP creation is one of the lowest observed worldwide, and the lowest one among the economies with the comparable size. As illustrated in Chart 1, the share of exports in GDP creation for Brazil is much lower than the EU average (13% for Brazil in 2015 vs. 43% for the EU). The assumption is that Brazilian priority while signing the SPA with the EU was, among others, to increase the importance of its exports in the GDP structure creation.

**Chart 1. Export share in GDP creation (in %) in Brazil, the EU and worldwide in the time period 1981–2017**



Source: Own elaboration based on World Bank’s database.