

You are cordially invited to attend the Science Tuesday on **16 February, 2021 at 13:00** when Professor Francesco Lissoni will present the paper

## **Free Movement of Inventors: Open-Border Policy and Innovation in Switzerland**

The paper is joint work with Gabriele Cristelli. Please join the workshop and ZOOM webinar using the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83468740710>  
Working language of the workshop and webinar is English.

### **Abstract:**

We study the innovation effects of the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons (AFMP), signed by Switzerland and the EU in 1999. Using geocoded patent data, complemented by matched inventor-immigrant-census records, we identify a large number of cross-border inventors (CBIs), commuters from neighboring countries working in Swiss R&D labs. We show that, during the AFMP implementation phase, the influx of CBIs increased differentially across regions at different driving distances from the border and caused a 24% increase in patents, mostly due to large and medium patent holders (as opposed to very large ones) and to inventor teams mixing CBIs and natives. The latter were not displaced and increased their productivity, thanks to complementarity between their knowledge assets and those of CBIs.

### **About the speaker:**

Francesco Lissoni is Professor of Economics at GREThA, the Groupe de Recherche en Économie Théorique et Appliquée of Bordeaux University (France) and a longstanding Fellow of ICRIOS, the Invernizzi Center for Research on Innovation, Organization, and Strategy of Bocconi University (Milan, Italy). A graduate of the University of Manchester, Prof. Lissoni has also spent time visiting the Sloan School of Management (MIT), the École Polytechnique de Lausanne (EPFL), the University of Melbourne and Swinburne University, also in Melbourne, as well as the Venice International University. His research activity covers the economics of science, innovation adoption, intellectual property, and university-industry technology transfer, as well as the geography of knowledge diffusion. More recently he has investigated the links between highly skilled migration and innovation. He sits in the Scientific Board of EPIP (European Policy for Intellectual Property) and has consulted for ANVUR, the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research, on Third Mission issues. He has published, among others, in the J. of Economic Behaviour and Organization, the J. of Economic Geography, the J. of International Business Studies, Industrial & Corporate Change, and Research Policy. He is co-editor for Regional Studies and advisory editor for Industrial & Corporate Change and Research Policy.