

The European enterprise as a key player in the European economic model. A Historical Perspective

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The DNA of the European enterprise: a research question

- A) contractual cooperation, cartels and concerted practices
- B) personal or family business, determining the diffusion and relevance of small and medium enterprises
- C) active presence of substitution factors: first, the State, and also the great universal bank
- D) strong influence of the workers and their organizations

The European Big Business

In the Golden Age:

- SOEs (IRI, BP)

Today:

- National champions (EDF, ENEL)
- European Champions (Airbus)
- Private, public and PPP European enterprises in energy sector (Vattenfall, RWE)

Towards a “Societas Europaeae” ?

- The European Company Statute ("SE Regulation") was adopted on 8 October 2001 after more than 30 years of negotiations in the Council.
- It offers the possibility to create a new legal form called a European Company, also referred to as an SE after its Latin name *Societas Europaea*.
- The main idea behind the SE Regulation was to make it easier for companies and groups with a "European" dimension to combine, plan and carry out the reorganisation of their business on an EU scale.

SMEs

German Mittelstand

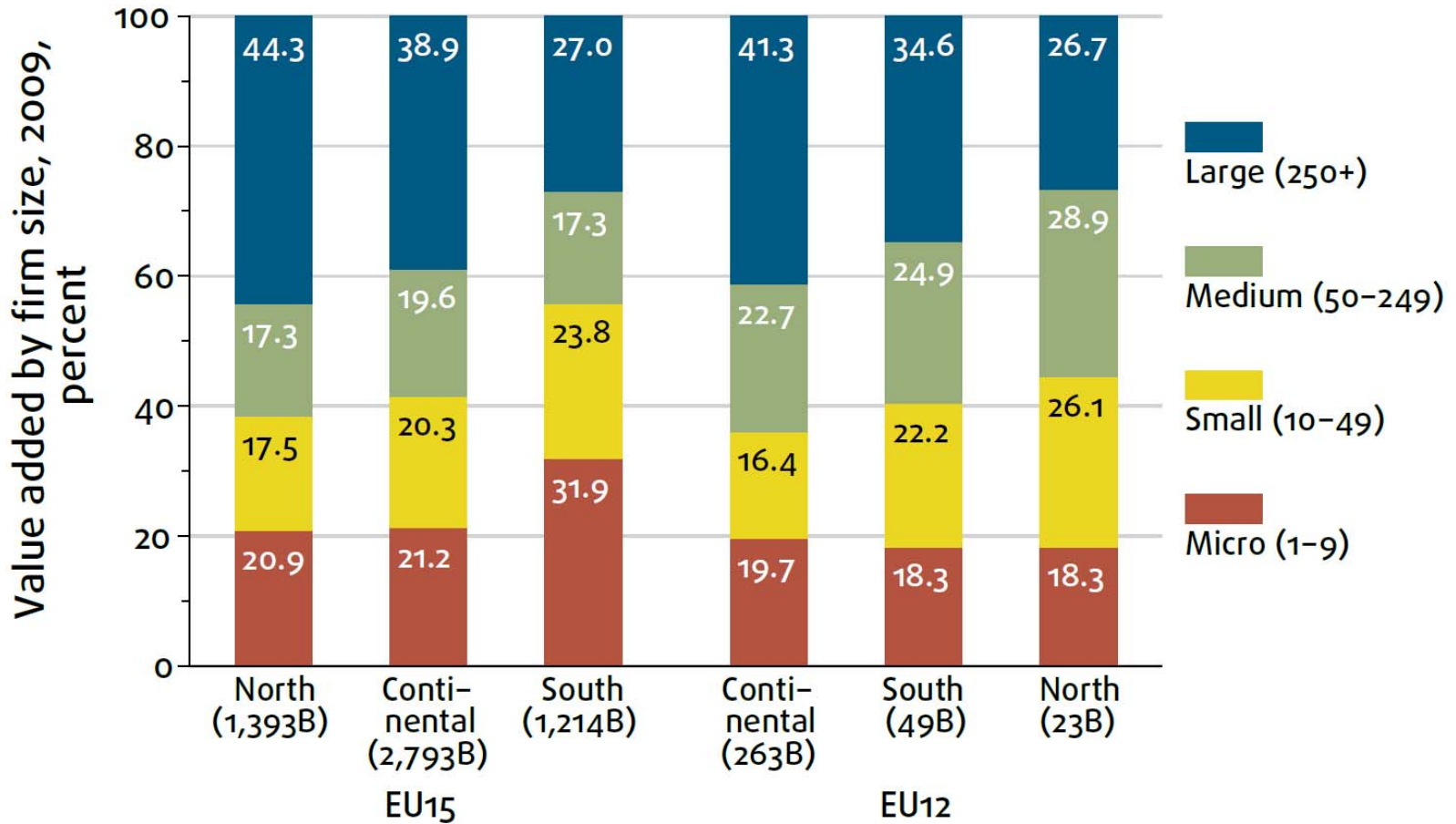


Italian
Fourth
Capitalism

Spanish Empresas Medianas



The backbone of the European economy



European enterprises: a reliable component of the European economic model

**Figure 5: European enterprises
have delivered jobs,
productivity, and exports**

(performance of European subregions
and benchmark countries, 1995-2009)



Note: Growth rates in employment and productivity are compound annual growth rates. Average values by group are shown. China and Japan are also included in the calculation of East Asia's regional average.