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National Institute Economic Review

### National Institute of Economic and Social Research

## Integration, Accession and Expansion

A new NIESR publication analyses key issues related to EU enlargement by Ray Barrell, Dawn Holland and Olga Pomerantz
ISBN: 0-9545410-1-4



Much of the recent policy debate in incumbent EU members focuses on migration issues, as fears of large scale westward migration have induced most current EU members to impose restrictions on immigration from the acceding members for several years. Evidence presented in this book suggests that these fears are likely to be exaggerated.

The imminent enlargement of the European Union has raised a number of important policy issues in both the incumbent and acceding members of the EU. This volume draws together research findings on the key issues related to the occasion – macroeconomic policy, migration, agricultural policy, the removal of barriers to capital flows – providing a context in which to analyse the impact that the enlargement is likely to have.

- Fears of large-scale westward migration upon enlargement have been exaggerated, with just 350,000 a year expected to migrate from the acceding countries to all incumbent EU members over the next decade. Only a small proportion of these are likely to migrate to the UK.
- The acceding countries should postpone joining ERM-II until internal and external imbalances are brought under control and financial markets are more fully developed.
- The ECB must reform its voting system when 10 new members join EMU.
- The final removal of barriers to trade and investment between the regions should have a significant positive impact on economic growth and living standards in the newcomers, but the impact on current EU member states is likely to be negligible.
- Extending the CAP to acceding countries may impede necessary restructuring in the agricultural sector.

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Phil Brown (Cardiff University) and Anthony Hesketh
(Lancaster University):

"Knowledge Economy? What Knowledge Economy?"

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In 2004 National Institute Economic Review [ISSN: 0027–9501] is published in January, April, July and October by SAGE Publications (London, Thousand Oaks, CA and New Delhi).

Annual subscription: full rate (including electronic version): £229/US\$378; individual rate: £97/US\$158; secondary school/teacher/student: £26/US\$43. Single issue rates: full: £58/US\$96; individual: £25/US\$41; teacher/ student: £8/US\$11. Apply to the Marketing Department at SAGE Publications' London address. Full rate subscriptions include the right for members of the subscribing institution to access the electronic content of the journal (except the Statistical Appendix) at no extra charge from SAGE. The content can be accessed online through a number of electronic journal intermediaries, who may charge for access. Full details are available on our website: http://www.sagepublications.com. Student discounts, single issue rates and advertising details are available from SAGE Publications Ltd, 1 Oliver's Yard, 55 City Road, London EC1Y 1SP, UK. Tel + 44 (0)20 7324 8500; Fax + 44 (0)20 7324 8600 e-mail: subscriptions@sagepub.co.uk website www.sagepublications.com and in North America from SAGE Publications Ltd, PO Box 5096, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359, USA.

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Printed by Direct Image, London. ISSN: 0027-9501