impact

ZES
opportunity Zones for
innovation EcosystemS
governance

#03
DISSEMINATION
COMMUNICATION

Cohesion
S3 Research
Innovation

Cities

Ecosystems

#02
TRAINING

#01
RESEARCH

ZES Brochure
ZES Dissemination and
Communication Plan Annex

DIPARTIMENTO
PATRIMONIO
ARCHITETTURA
URBANISTICA

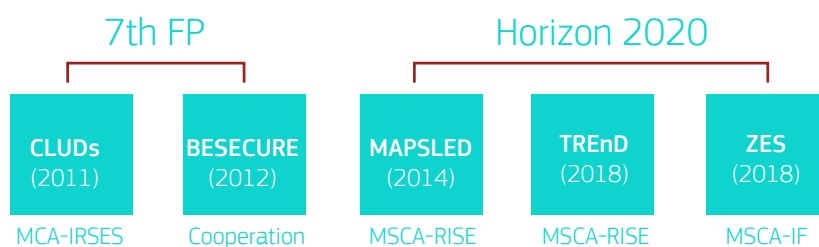**CLUD$LAB**
COMMUNITY LOCAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The CLUDsLab

The CLUDs Lab was founded in 2011 thanks to the the CLUDs Research Project (Commercial Local Urban District), funded within the 7th European Research Framework Programme, Marie Curie IRSES 2010.

The Lab integrates Research and Training activities in the field of Sustainable Urban Development. We explore new approaches to the development and implementation of urban regeneration policies and economic development strategies, based on a Public-Private Partnership (PPPs) and urban-rural interaction.

The CLUDs Lab is part of the PAU Department at the "Mediterranea" University of Reggio Calabria (IT). The combination of higher education and research profiles is ensured by the existing international network established from 2011 to 2014 within the Research Project CLUDs and strengthened by the International Doctorate Programme in "Urban Regeneration and Economic Development" activated in 2012 at the PAU Department.

The Research network was confirmed for the Research Project MAPS-LED (Horizon 2020 – MSCA-RISE 2014), from to 2015 to 2019. The MAPS-LED Project provided useful hints on the territorial dimension of the EU Cohesion Policy through the spatialization of the US clusters and the investigation of the urban dimension of innovation in a place-based perspective.

In 2019, the CLUDsLab succeeded in obtaining two granted Horizon 2020 research projects: TREnD (Transition with Resilience for Evolutionary Development, MSCA-RISE 2018), and ZES (Opportunity innovation Zones for innovation EcosystemS governance, MSCA-IF-Global 2018).

7th FP		Horizon 2020		
CLUDs (2011)	**BESECURE** (2012)	**MAPSLED** (2014)	**TREnD** (2018)	**ZES** (2018)
MCA-IRSES	Cooperation	MSCA-RISE	MSCA-RISE	MSCA-IF

CLUDsLAB
COMMUNITY LOCAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT

People

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From Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe

The European Horizon 2020 Programme[1]

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this fund will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market.

The Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA)[2]

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions support researchers at all stages of their careers, regardless of age and nationality. Researchers working across all disciplines are eligible for funding. The MSCA also support cooperation between industry and academia and innovative training to enhance employability and careevr development.

from ▶ ## The MSCA Research and Innovation Staff Exchange[3]

TREnD

ZES

Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) funds short-term exchanges of personnel between academic, industrial and commercial organisations throughout the world. It helps people develop their knowledge, skills and careers, while building links between organisations working in different sectors of the economy, including universities, research institutes and SMEs.

to ▶ ## Horizon Europe[4]

Horizon Europe is the proposal for the new European Research and Innovation programme that will succeed Horizon 2020. The Programme rests on three main pillars:

The **Open Science** pillar supports researchers through fellowships and exchanges as well as funding to projects defined and driven by researchers themselves, through the European Research Council and the Marie-Skłodowska-Curie actions.

open Science

The **Global challenges** pillar directly supports research relating to societal challenges, setting EU-wide missions with ambitious goals around issues that worry us daily such as such as the fight against cancer, clean mobility and plastic-free oceans. Industrial leadership will be prominent within this pillar and throughout the programme as a whole. .

global challenges

The **Open Innovation** pillar aims to make Europe a front runner in market-creating innovation. A European Innovation Council will offer a one-stop shop for high potential and breakthrough technologies and innovative companies with potential for scaling up.

open innovation

1 https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020 (accessed on 6 June 2019)
2 https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/ (accessed on 6 June 2019)
3 https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/staff-exchange_en (accessed on 6 June 2019)
4 https://ec.europa.eu/info/designing-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme/what-shapes-next-framework-programme_en (accessed on 6 June 2019)

The post-2020 EU perspective for Cities

The role of cities for the post-2020 Cohesion Policy programming period

"Cities have an important role to play in pushing forward societal change. Cities are increasingly embracing innovation and novel technologies and, thanks to the concentration of people, ideas and resources, they are leading the way towards solutions to global challenges beyond their own boundaries. City networks and associations play".

Space and the City. "As cities and urban populations continue to rapidly transform, there is a need to rethink how space is used"

Tech and the City. "The overall evidence suggests that we do not lack technologies, nor the data captured by technologies, but that the bigger challenge lies in governance, financing, and complex ownership structures that make it difficult to put the data to good use."

Cities as Innovation Hubs. "Cities are often places of great energy and optimism. They are where most of us choose to live, work and interact with others. As a result, cities are where innovation happens, where ideas are formed from which economic growth largely stems."

The citizen's City. "The meaningful integration of citizens in urban governance processes is now valued more than ever".

Urban Governance. "Good urban governance is crucial due to the complexity and interdependency of policies in urban areas".

EU cities need to assess their local social, economic and physical/networking assets addressing their strengths/weaknesses and targeting public investments and resources in stimulating new development trajectories more tailored to local contexts and needs.

The ZES project moves forward the MAPS-LED Project (Horizon 2020) findings by investigating governance and decision-making processes beyond the innovation-driven transformation phase characterized by local Innovation Ecosystems (IEs), focusing on the specific assets/values of the urban context. The Innovation Ecosystem concept synthetizes the complex dynamics, connections and relationships between actors involved in innovation-oriented processes within cities.

ZES Project

The aim of the ZES (opportunity Zones for innovation Ecosystems governance) project is to build a logical framework for prioritizing public choices at city level towards innovation ecosystem rationale. Technological innovation is driving our society towards the knowledge-based economy and affecting our daily life. Such a rapid and deep change is reshaping cities affecting the social, economic and physical dimensions and nurturing a continuous demand of transformation.

In Europe, innovation as cross-cutting priority in stimulating the local potential and reducing disparities for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth was introduced with the design and the implementation of Smart Specialization Strategies (S3 – EU Reg. no. 1303/2013). Moreover, supporting locally-led development strategies and empowers local authorities is one of the priorities of Cohesion Policy for the next programming period (EU Cohesion Policy Budget proposal 2021-2027).

In this perspective, the ZES Project intends to build and experiment an evaluation process framework able to support the decision-making process in urban context, inasmuch as to create/empower a local innovation ecosystem (IEs), closely connected with the specific assets/values of the urban context. The proposal, indeed, moves forward the results of the MAPSLED project (H2020-MSCA-RISE 2014), which pointed out how urban planning in particular advanced contexts spurs IEs towards physical transformation of urban settlements in order to make places more suitable for sharing knowledge and feeding innovation dynamics.
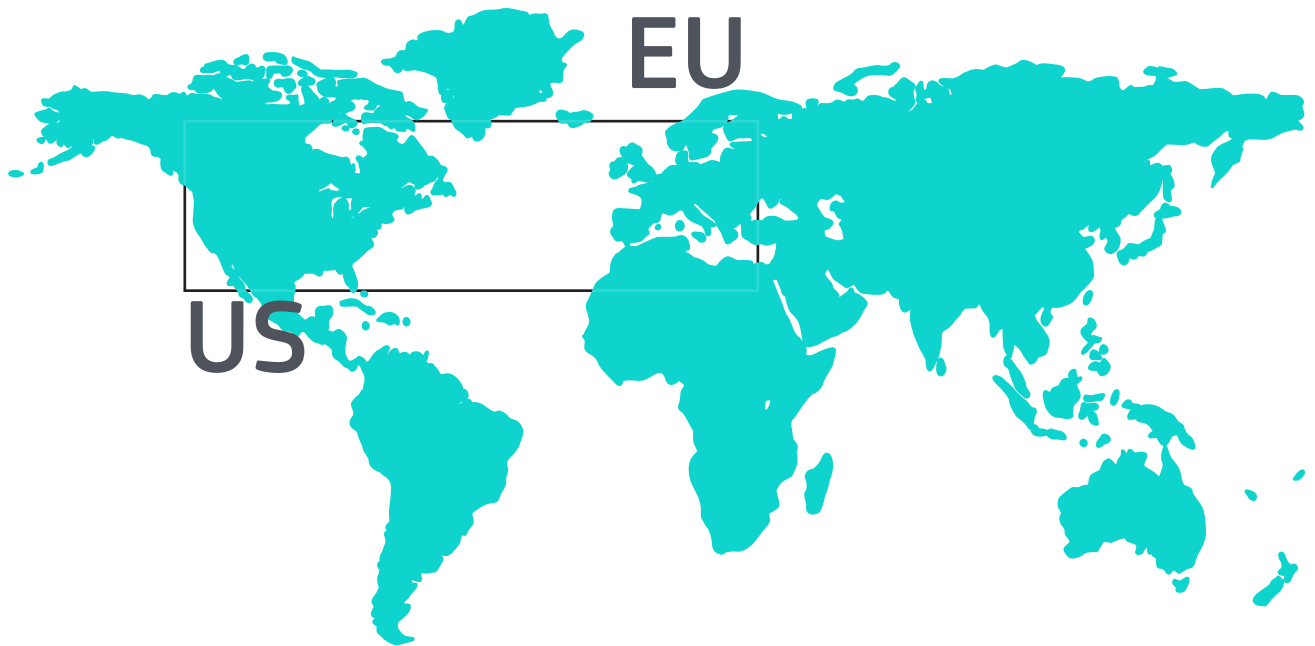
The ZES IEs analysis will focus on the Boston area (Boston, Cambridge) as exploratory case, moving forwards the MAPSLED project investigations, which provided insights on the innovation dynamics acting in urban areas and hints on the innovation-oriented policies in place. However, the analysis of governance models/structures and decision- making processes beyond these dynamics is missing.

The analysis of the Boston Area IE will provide a comprehensive picture of the phenomenon under investigation. The investigation will address innovation-oriented policies centered on IEs and their assessment frameworks; the dynamic mapping of IEs assets; the assessment of IEs assets with respect the urban context and the elaboration of an IEs evaluation framework to create/empower local IEs.
The results of the mapping and assessing activity will constitute the basic information to built up the IEs assessment/evaluation framework and the Smart and Open Dashboard able to support policy-makers and community-based organization in deepening the knowledge of the context and trigger its potentials for the implementation of S3 at local level through place-based and tailored urban comprehensive policies.

The Zes Project Partnership

Università degli Studi Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria
Department of Heritage, Architecture and Urban Planning (PAU)
Reggio Calabria, IT
UNIRC - Beneficiary

Northeastern University
Department of Economics
Boston, MA, USA
NEU - Partner Organization

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The ZES project presents a significant levels of interdisciplinary interaction, contamination and synergy activation among complementary fields of study working under an advanced strategy of training and research in the field of Economics, Urban Studies and Urban Informatics areas. The originality and innovative aspects lie on the analytical tools and techniques that the Researcher selected for the analysis of Innovation Ecosystems. The training activities on the Urban Informatics field provide insights on the research topics through GIS techniques and spatial data analysis.

The area of Urban Informatics focuses on the analysis of urban systems by leveraging novel sources of data with possible applications in four areas "(1) improved strategies for dynamic urban resource management, (2) theoretical insights and knowledge discovery of urban patterns and processes, (3) strategies for urban engagement and civic participation, and (4) innovations in urban management, and planning and policy analysis".

The adoption of urban informatics techniques and tools allow to better identify and investigate IEs assets and updated the traditional tools and techniques adopted for the analysis of urban phenomena providing the necessary knowledge and skills to the ER in developing the Smart Open Dashboard.

These methodologies are becoming increasgly relevant in the urban studies field allowing to set flexible tools to respond timely and accurately to the fast societal socio-economic transformations.
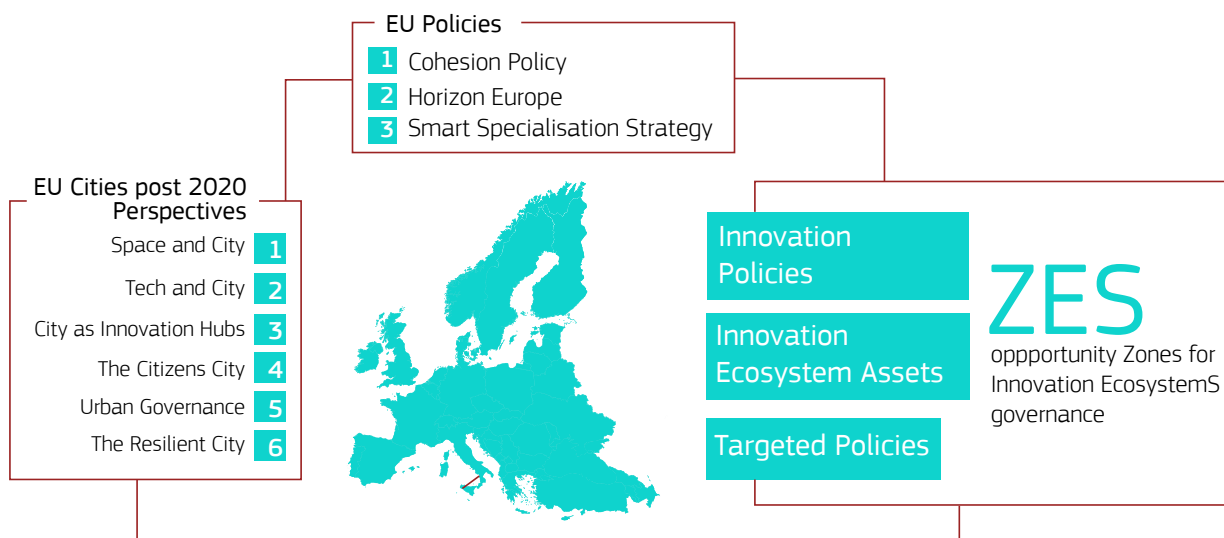
ZES MindMap

ZES Overview

The ZES project focuses on IEs governance and decision-making processes starting from the analysis of the local assets – and their potentials – with respect the urban context in order to reinforce the urban dimension of S3 and of Cohesion Policy for the next programming period. ZES moves forwards the results of the MAPSLED Project, providing further insights on how to generate a durable change following the Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) approach in supporting innovation-led urban development.

EU Policies
1 Cohesion Policy
2 Horizon Europe
3 Smart Specialisation Strategy

EU Cities post 2020 Perspectives
Space and City 1
Tech and City 2
City as Innovation Hubs 3
The Citizens City 4
Urban Governance 5
The Resilient City 6

Innovation Policies

Innovation Ecosystem Assets

Targeted Policies

ZES
oppportunity Zones for Innovation EcosystemS governance

ZES Research activities aim at analyze IEs assets, governance and decision-making processes providing an evaluation framework able to identify and prioritize public choices in creating/empowering local IEs with respect the urban context characteristics.

Drawing on researches on IEs policies framework and the assessment methodologies, the ZES project explores innovation ecosystems analyzing their assets (social, economic, organization, physical), and mapping them with respect the urban context. Such ambitious process is supported by advanced and interdisciplinary training-through-research activities aiming at increase and diversify the ER competences in terms of knowledge and transferable skills.

The ZES project is expected to produce the IEs evaluation framework for prioritizing public choices at city level towards innovation ecosystem rationale supporting decision-making processes through the Smart Open Dashboard, able to "scan" territories and cities highlighting their assets, their potentials and how to exploit them in line with the the Cohesion Policy and the S3 approach in support innovation-led urban/territorial development.

ZES Activities

With respect the main objective, the ZES project investigates three main aspects related to Innovation Ecosystems. Innovation-oriented policies centered on Innovation Ecosystems creation/empowerment are spreading out in EU and US (WP1, WP2, WP3).

The Project is articulated in six Work Packages

WP1 — Innovation Ecosystems, urban governance analysis and assessment methodologies.

The first WP concerns the analysis of this policies and IEs assessment framework, the governance models and the decision making processes results crucial for the understanding of the current innovation-oriented dynamics.

WP2 — Innovation Ecosystem assets analysis with respect the urban context

The second WP relates to the analysis of IEs' assets with respect the urban context characteristics. The selection of a set of indicators to investigate and map IEs assets is the key element to comprehend how innovation-oriented dynamics affect the social, economic and physical dimension.

WP3 — IEs assessment assets prioritization and targeted policy action formulation

The third WP focuses on the development of the IEs evaluation framework finalized the creation of a Smart Open Dashboard allowing local policy makers the prioritization of public choices at city level towards innovation ecosystem rationale.

WP4 — Training

Training activities aims at providing the gaining of new knowledge and and transferable skills to the Researcher. The training agenda will strenghten the Researcher background, empower his abilities and increase his international exposure.

WP5 — Dissemination and Communication

Dissemination and Communication activities are key elements in the ZES project. The objective is twofold: describe to the audience the results of the performed research and engage the public audience in the ZES project activities. The message to dissemination and communicate concern the definition of a more inclusive and sustainable development based on the local assets' valorization and exploitation according the Innovation Ecosystem rationale.

WP6 — Management

The Researcher adopt an on-going evaluation process, in monitoring and assessing the activities in place with the aim to minimize the potential risks that may arise, with the aim to evaluate the coherence, the effectiveness and the quality of the results with respect the objective of the fellowship
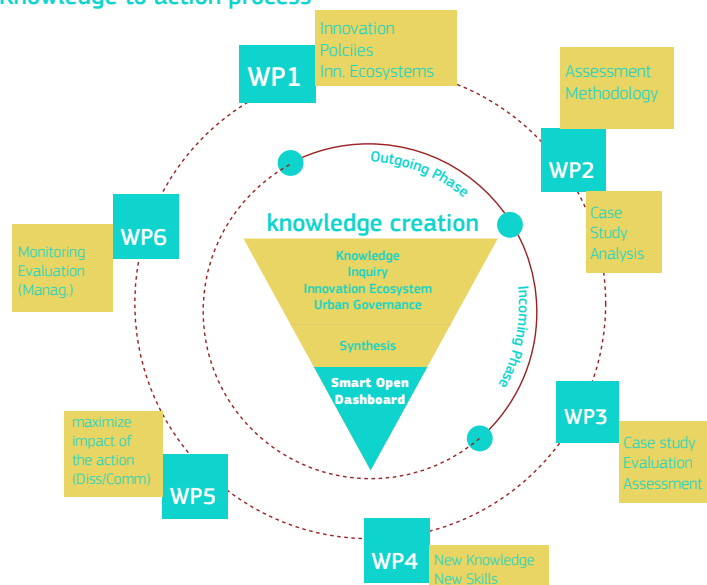
Knowledge-Transfer

The approach that will be followed in order to set up the knowledge sharing methodology aims at achieving the best result in terms of:

1. Widening the Researcher's Knowledge and Skills;
2. Enhancing career opportunities for the researcher;
3. Maximizing the research impact in terms of the influence on policy-makers and the wider resilience and transition management community;
4. Reinforce the international partnership for new research-based collaborations

The ZES Project Knowledge Transfer process takes place both during the outgoin phase at the Northeastern University (Partner Organization) and during the return phase at the Beneficiary. During the **outgoing phase** the the ER is supported by the Economics Department both in the research and training activities benefiting of the cross-department activities with the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs and the Dukakis center for Regional and Urban Policy, increasing its international exposure, the international network opportunities and integrating the researcher in the different areas of expertise (economics, public policy, urban informatics). During the **incoming phase** the Researcher will transfer the acquired knowledge through the following activties: mentoring of PhD and undergraduate students; seminars on research and technical aspects of the project, the development of an internal section of the CLUDsLab focused on the issues tackled by the proposal and seminars on Marie Curie Actions.
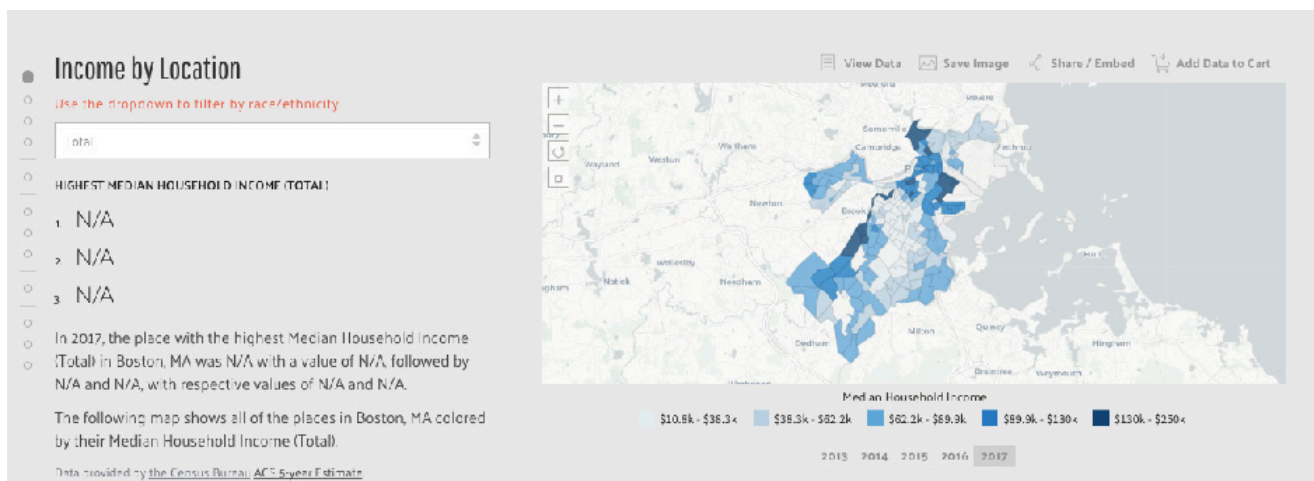
Knowledge to action process

The expected research outputs have a direct impact for the future career of the Researcher after the fellowship both from the academic and non-academic sectors perspective. The project activities are expected to increase both the research related and the transferable skills of the Researcher and enhance the already existing strong international research network established by the Beneficiary with Marie Curie Projects (7FP-H2020).

THE SMART OPEN DASHBOARD

The ZES project is expected to produce the IEs evaluation framework for prioritizing public choices at city level towards innovation ecosystem rationale. The aim is to support decision-making processes through a Smart Open Dashboard, able to "scan" territories and cities highlighting their assets, their potentials and how to exploit them in line with the the Cohesion Policy and the S3 approach promoting a more inclusive innovation-led urban/territorial development tailored to the local context and needs.

The selection of a set of indicators to investigate and map IEs assets is the key element to comprehend how innovation-oriented dynamics affect the social, economic and physical dimension.

The use of urban informatics techniques and tools allows to better identify and explore IEs assets and update the traditional tools and techniques adopted for the analysis of urban phenomena providing the necessary knowledge and skills to the ER in developing the Smart Open Dashboard. The adoption of these methodologies impact the urban studies field allowing to set flexible tools to respond timely to the fast transformation of the socioeconomic demand.

The Smart Open Dashboard will be shared with the local community, entrepreneurs, public authorities and administrations and other research institutions for the evaluation of local context capabilities in the S3 implementation perspective.

example of dashboard from Data USA. Picture Data USA (2019) https://datausa.io/profile/geo/boston-ma accessed and downloaded 28 September 2019

Horizon 2020
Marie Sklodowska Curie Actions
Individual Fellowship 2018 - Global Fellowship

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Beneficiary

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Department of Economics
Boston, MA, USA
Partner Organization

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