

Economic convergence as part of the EU

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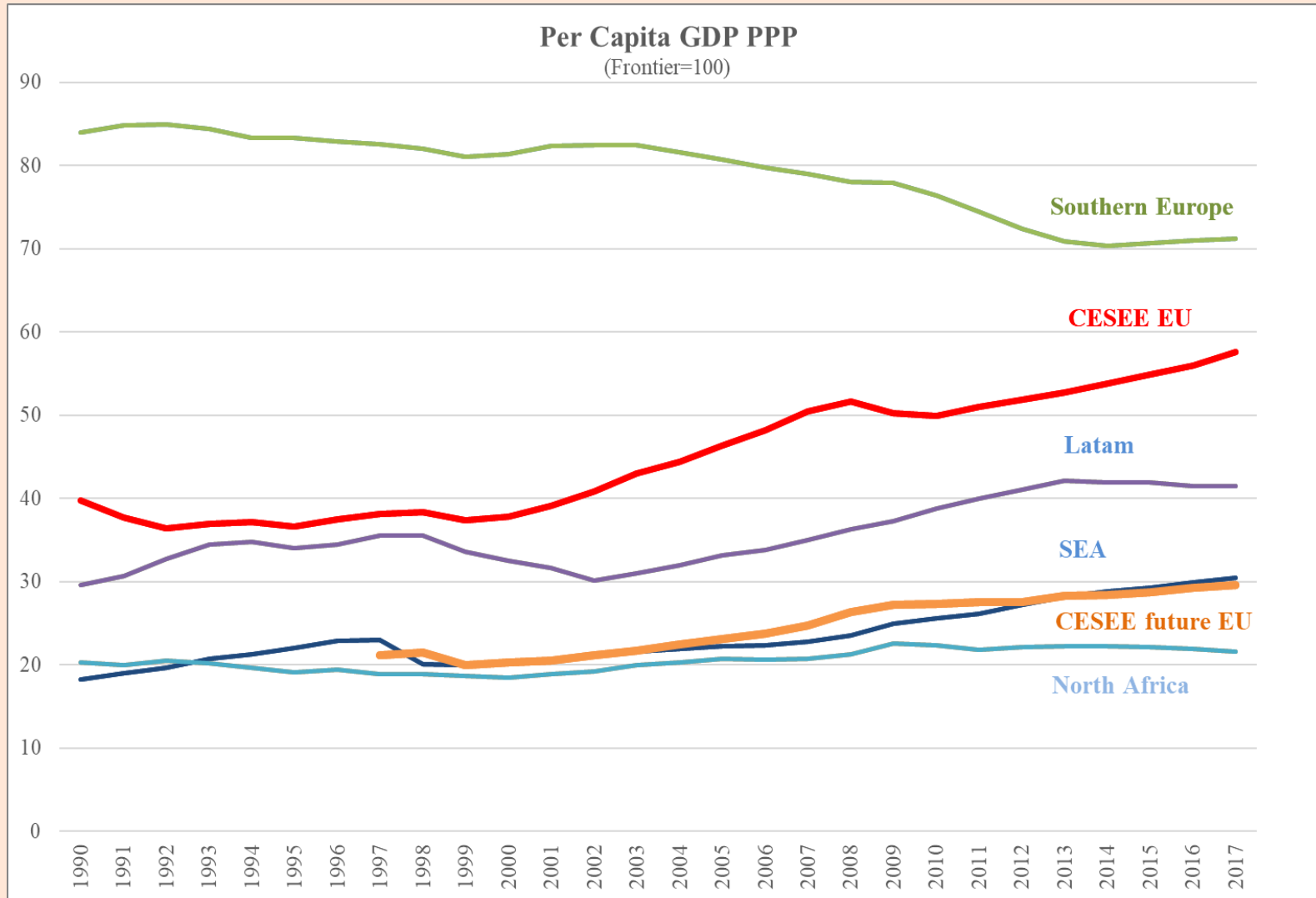
European Commission, DG ECFIN
and Corvinus University of Budapest



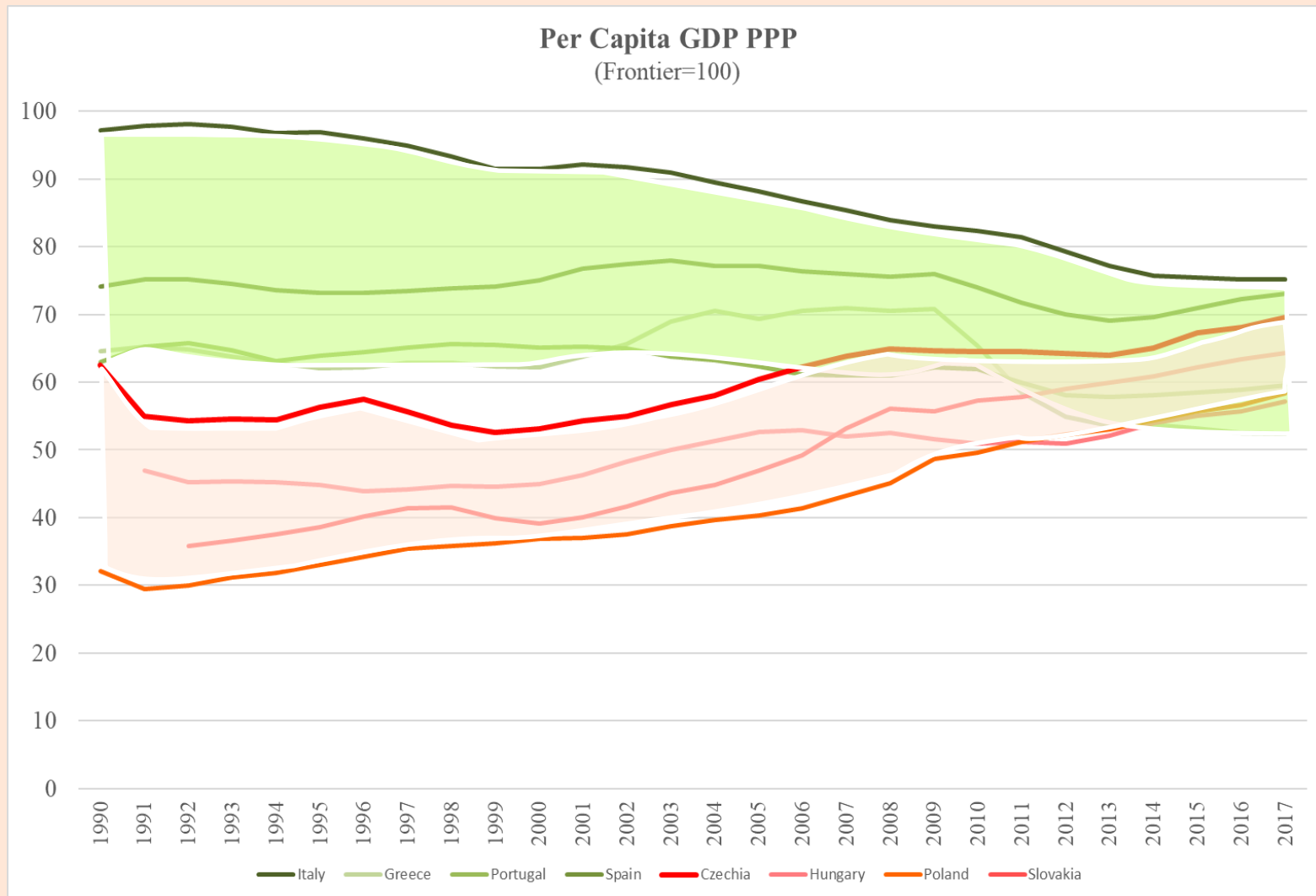
15 Years in the EU: Story of the Czech Economy

Prague, April 29, 2019

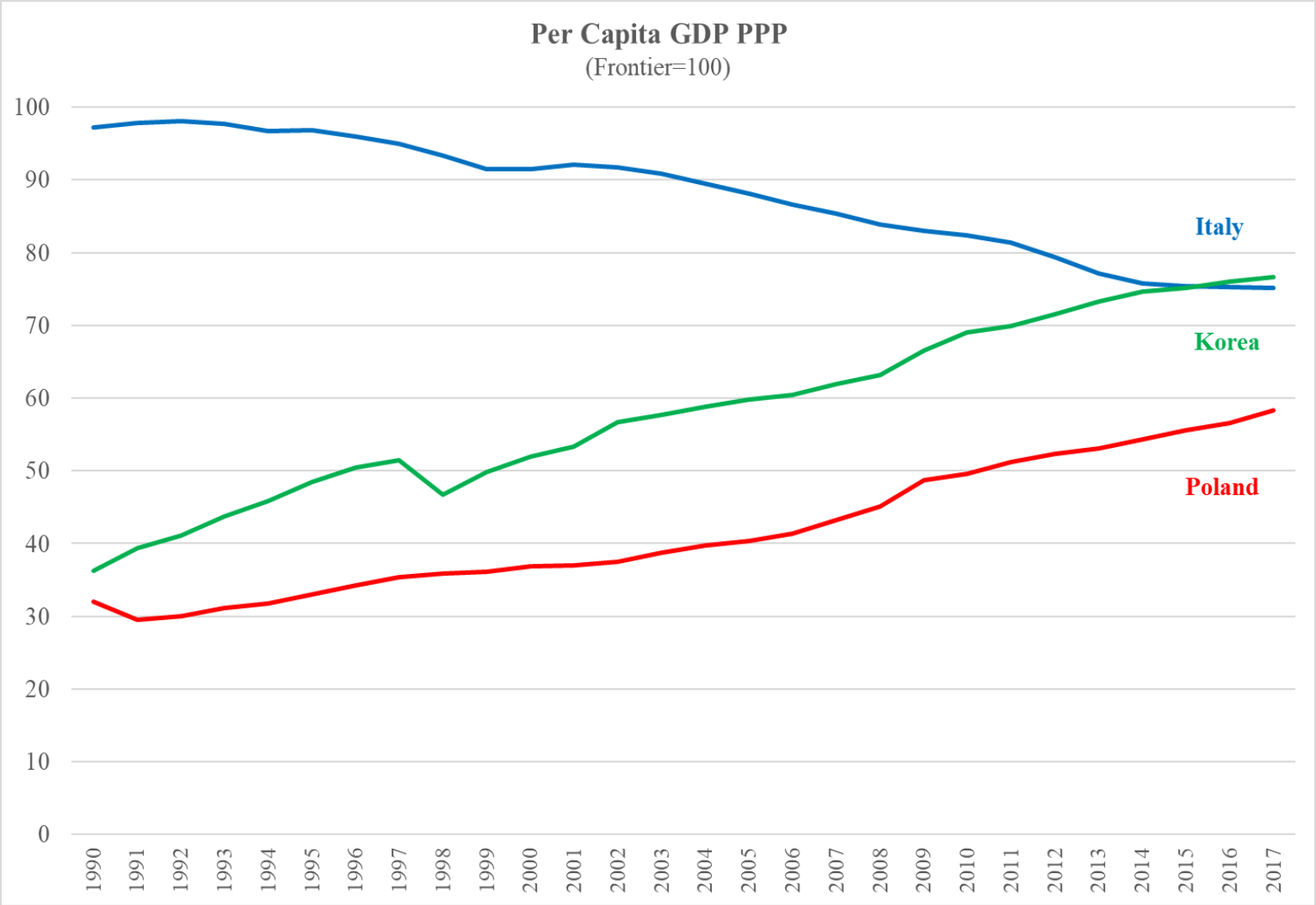
Convergence is a global process



Changing relative positions within the EU



What does it take to move up further?





Czech *Faces of Convergence*



"I have absolutely no doubt that the **benefits** of European Union Membership are **essential** to the Czech Republic. ... Despite these massive benefits, the relationship of the Czechs with the Union has been somewhat ambivalent."

"The bottom line is that the idea of a unified Europe is captivating. The four economic freedoms form a foundation that is right and viable. It's up to us to **communicate** these freedoms."

"Our membership in the EU has played a **vital role** in this process. It contributed both to institutional and economic changes in the Czech Republic as well as in other CEE countries."

"... we need to switch to a type of economic growth that would be based more on **innovations**. But it is much easier to speak about "research and development" rather than to implement appropriate policies."

