

The Impact of Institutional Quality in Attracting Foreign Direct Investment in Algeria

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Abstract

This study examines the impact of institutional quality in attracting FDI in Algeria over the period 1995-2011 using the Heritage Foundation's economic freedom index which reflects economic institutional quality (EIQ) and two governance indicators, namely: government effectiveness (GE) and voice and accountability (VA) that represent political institutional quality.

The Johansen cointegration test has been employed in order to investigate the existence of long-run relationships among the tested variables. Additionally, the vector error correction model (VECM) has been applied to analyze the long-run and short-run dynamic relationships among the various time series, besides using both impulse response functions and variance decomposition.

The main results indicate that there is a long run relationship among the tested variables and the VECM confirms the existence of this relationship. It is also revealed that both EIQ and VA have long-term positive effects on FDI inflows in Algeria. In the light of the results obtained from this study, it could be concluded that the improvement of economic freedom and voice and accountability in Algeria can be considered a fruitful plan for providing good investment climate and attracting more FDI inflows in the long term.

Keywords: Institutional Quality, FDI, Algeria, Johansen Cointegration Test, VECM.

JEL Classification Numbers: F21, O16, O17, P26, O55, C22.

• **Freedom from Corruption** helps foreign investors to avoid the undesirable costs resulting from widespread corruption, because they could be unaware of some unwritten rules (Serin and Caliskan, 2012).

• **Labour Freedom** eliminates restrictive labour policies that obstruct MNCs' activities, such as wage controls, hiring and firing restrictions. Moreover, freedom in the labor market is required just like freedom in the goods and services market (Heritage Foundation, 2013).

The quantitative impact of institutional quality on inward FDI has occupied the attention of researchers in last decades, and the table below summarizes the empirical studies that have investigated the effect of institutional quality on FDI inflows.

Table 1: Empirical Evidence on the Impact of Institutional Quality in Attracting FDI Inflows

<i>Authors</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Empirical approach</i>	<i>Results</i>
<i>Amal, M., Tomio, B.T., and R. Raboch, H. (2010)</i>	Latin American countries 1996- 2008	Panel Data Analysis	Government effectiveness has a negative and significant impact on FDI inflows. In contrast, political stability has a positive and significant effect on inward FDI, while the other governance indicators appear with insignificant values.
<i>Koen Berden, Jeffrey H. Bergstrand and Eva van Etten (2012)</i>	28 OECD countries as source countries, 124 target countries 1997-2004	State-of-the-Art Gravity Specifications Motivated by the General Equilibrium Knowledge-and-Physical-Capital model, Traditional Gravity Equation, OLS Method	The inward FDI is significantly negatively affected by government effectiveness; also a higher level of 'voice and accountability' reduces the inward FDI.
<i>Turan Subasat and Sotirios Bellos (2013)</i>	18 Latin American countries 1985-2004	Panel Data Gravity Model	There is a negative and statistically significant relationship between all governance indicators and FDI inflows in selected Latin American countries.
<i>Steven Globerman and Daniel Shapiro (2002)</i>	144 countries 1995–1997	OLS Method, Heteroskedastic-Consistent Standard Errors	Both 'Voice and accountability' and 'Government effectiveness' contribute positively in rising FDI inflows.

<i>Marta Bengoa, Blanca Sanchez-Robles (2003)</i>	18 Latin-American countries 1970-1999	Cross Country and Panel Data Analysis	The host country's economic freedom is found to be a positive and statistically significant determinant of FDI inflows.
<i>Steven Globerman, Daniel Shapiro and Yao Tang (2006)</i>	138 countries 1995-2001	GLS Random Effects Estimation	Good governance increases FDI inflows.
<i>Méon, P.G. and K. Sekkat (2007)</i>	96 countries 1990-2000	Two-Stage Least Squares Regressions	'Voice and accountability' has a positive and statistically significant impact on the FDI to GDP ratio.
<i>Kirk C. Heriot, John Theis and Noel D. Campbell (2008)</i>	121 countries 1970- 2005	Pooled OLS	Higher levels of economic freedom attract more FDI inflows.
<i>Murat M. Kenisarin and Philip Andrews-Speed (2008)</i>	153 countries 1998-2004	Regression Correlations	Both governance indicator and economic freedom index positively influence the inward FDI.
<i>José Martins Caetano and António Bento Caleiro (2009)</i>	MENA countries+ EU countries 1999/2001- 2005/07	Fuzzy Logic Clustering	The inward FDI is positively associated with greater levels of economic freedom.
<i>W.N.W. Azman-Saini, Ahmad Zubaidi Baharumshah and Siong Hook Law (2010)</i>	85 countries 1976-2004	The Generalized Method-of-Moments (GMMs) Panel Estimator	Countries that promote economic freedom absorb more FDI's benefits.
<i>Saeed Rasekhi and Zeinab Seyedi (2010)</i>	10 developing countries 1995-2004	Panel Data Analysis, Fixed Effect Method	Economic liberalization positively affects the inward FDI.
<i>Turan Subasat and Sotiris Bellos (2011)</i>	24 target countries from Latin America 1985-2008	Panel Gravity Model	Economic freedom is considered as an essential determinant of FDI in the selected countries, but its effect cannot be generalised.
<i>Nassima Debab, Ali Al Mansoor (2011)</i>	Bahrain 1990-2009	OLS Estimation	The efficient environment characterized by higher levels of economic Freedom is likely to attract foreign investors.

Zafar Mueen Nasir and Arshad Hassan (2011)	South Asian countries 1995-2008	Panel Data Analysis, Fixed Effects Model	There is a significant positive relationship between economic freedom score and FDI inflows.
Farshid Pourshahabi, Davoud Mahmoudinia and Ehsan Salimi Soderjani (2011)	OECD countries 1997-2007	Panel Data Method, Random Effect Estimation	Economic Freedom in OECD countries has an insignificant positive impact on inward FDI.
Kahai, Simran K. (2011)	55 developing countries 1998- 2000	Pooled OLS	The inward FDI is significantly positively related to the level of economic freedom.
Aviral Kumar Tiwari (2011)	28 Asian countries 1998-2007	Dynamic Panel Data Techniques	Positive correlation between FDI inflows and 4 freedoms, namely (Business freedom, Fiscal freedom, Investment freedom, Trade freedom).
Dennis Pearson, Dong Nyonna and Kil-Joong Kim (2012)	50 US states 1984-2007	Random Effects Regression Model	FDI inflows move towards states that enjoy higher levels of economic freedom.
Ourvashi Bissoon (2012)	45 developing countries in the African, Latin American and Asian regions 1996-2005	OLS Estimation	The level of FDI inflows is significantly positively influenced by all governance indicators.
Yassaman Saadatmand, Jeremy Choquette (2012)	51 African countries 1998-2009	Panel Data Regression	Economic freedom discourages FDI inflows to the selected African countries.
Sedik, W. M. (2012)	MENA countries 1999-2010	Multiple Linear Regressions, Panel data Analysis, OLS Method	Government effectiveness has a positive and significant impact on FDI inflows. 'Voice & accountability' is significantly negatively related to the inward FDI.

Source : Constructed By Authors

6. Conclusion

In this paper we have analysed the impact of institutional quality in attracting FDI in Algeria over the period 1995-2011 using the following tests: Phillips Perron unit root test, Johansen cointegration test, vector error correction model, some diagnostic tests, impulse response functions and variance decomposition. The initial findings reveal that there is a long run relationship among the following variables: FDI inflows, economic institutional quality, (government effectiveness and voice and accountability that reflect the political institutional quality), according to the cointegrating equation, EIQ and VA have the expected positive impact on FDI inflows in Algeria. In contrast, government effectiveness negatively affects the inward FDI.

Furthermore, the vector error correction model (VECM) confirmed the existence of a long-run relationship between FDI inflows, EIQ, GE and VA. Moreover it suggested that government effectiveness has a positive and significant short run impact on FDI inflows at the 10% level of significance. On the other hand both EIQ and VA appear to have unexpected negative effects.

In the light of the results obtained from this study, it can be concluded that economic institutional quality and voice and accountability are essential factors in attracting FDI inflows to Algeria in the long term. Additionally, it is important to point out that the control of government actions in Algeria can reduce the violation of foreign investors' rights, and the improvement of Algerian economic freedom plays a vital role in reducing legislation that could hamper business productivity and profitability, increasing the freedom of dealing with the outside world, decreasing the tax burden and crowding out effects, and encouraging innovation and competition. Thus it is a priority to provide a good investment climate for FDI inflows.

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