



National and Global Affairs



Dr Giulio Buciuni

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FUNDERS:

European Commission ☯ The High Point Market Authority

SUBJECT AREAS

Global Value Chains ☯ Regional Development ☯ Entrepreneurial Ecosystems ☯ Innovation Policy ☯ Remote Working ☯ Plug-In Enterprises

Beyond the Superstar Cities

Some cities and regions become economic superstars, drawing companies, investment, talent and trade to them. But what prevents other cities and regions from doing the same, leading to an unfair balance of economic development?

Dr Giulio Buciuni's research focuses on how less 'successful' regions can connect successfully to international networks while developing enough local capability to retain a meaningful share of the economic benefits.

Dr Buciuni combines academic research, fieldwork and policy advice. One strand of his work compares Galway with Costa Rica's Central Valley to understand how regions with relatively limited historical knowledge assets can develop high-tech entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Another strand, through the EU-funded REMAKING project, examines the effect of remote and hybrid work on regional development.

He has been an advisor to the European Economic and Social Committee on value chains and industrial policymaking.

This work showcases how Trinity is changing public attitudes to a societal issue through multiple approaches, such as evidence-informed programmes, deliberative processes and media engagement.

Prepared by Trinity Civic Engagement for Societal Impact, September 2026



Ireland as international Case Study

Ireland provides Dr Buciuni with a revealing comparator and case study. The country has attracted major multinational companies and built competitive clusters, but what does that mean for local talent and entrepreneurs?

His work on Galway's medical-technology ecosystem examined how an area without the traditional advantages of a major global city could develop into an internationally significant industrial cluster.

More recent work has compared Galway with Costa Rica's Central Valley. He asks how places that might once have been described as 'knowledge deserts' can develop sophisticated entrepreneurial ecosystems.

This research speaks to Irish regional policy. It shows that global connectivity matters. It also shows, however, that so does public institutional support. While foreign direct investment can bring knowledge, markets and expertise into a region, the local institutions need to create the conditions through which firms, entrepreneurs and other local actors can convert those external resources into indigenous capabilities, companies and innovation.

Dr Buciuni has also examined Dublin's development of a technology ecosystem. He explores how small and medium-sized enterprises innovate within global value chains and how that innovation affects Dublin's economic development.

His work highlights Ireland's success in attracting foreign direct investment while

also posing the harder question of how to turn that success into a durable, locally rooted innovation economy during a time of global uncertainty.

European Economic and Social Committee

In 2025, Dr Buciuni became an adviser to the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). With 329 members, the EESC is a consultative body that gives representatives of Europe's socio-occupational interest groups and others a formal platform to express their points of view on EU issues.

His work for the EESC explored 'how to consider value chains in policy-making'. The resulting opinion, requested by the Danish presidency of the Council of the EU, addressed the resilience and competitiveness of European value chains at a time of geopolitical fragmentation. The formal EU record identifies Dr Buciuni in an advisory role to the rapporteur.

In a political and social context where EU-based manufacturing occurs within multiple countries, the components, IP, raw materials and services may cross several borders before a finished product reaches the consumer. Increasing risks to significant disruption of the value chain, particularly for open economies like Ireland, becomes an existential threat. Dr Buciuni's contribution is, therefore, about understanding the geography behind economic resilience. His research asks where valuable activities locate, what makes them stay and how governments can create the conditions for innovation to take root.

Outputs



How to consider value chains in policy-making - C/2025/5145 (2025)

Dr Buciuni was the advisor to the rapporteurs for this Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), which was instigated during the Danish presidency of the EU.

Innovatori Outsider (2024)

Dr Buciuni's book explores Italy's changing entrepreneurial needs and the need for a move from industrial district models to entrepreneurial ecosystems and the potential of 'plug-in companies' to support Italy's economy.

[Text in Italian]



TEDx Beyond 'superstar cities' (2023)

Dr Buciuni discusses the growing divide between 'superstar cities' and secondary cities and offers insights for a more equal and inclusive innovation model.

“Galway, on the remote coast of Atlantic Ireland, one of the poorest regions in Europe in the 80s, is today home to a vibrant tech ecosystem, attracting talent, ideas and capital from all over the world.”

Dr Giulio Buciuni
TEDx Padova
July 2023



Dr. Giulio Buciuni is an Associate Professor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Trinity College Dublin and is the Associate Director of the MSc in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Prior to joining Trinity Business School, he worked as a research fellow at the University of Toronto and at Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

His research focuses on entrepreneurial ecosystems, global value chains, regional development and innovation policy. His recent work examines how cities and regions outside major global hubs can build and retain productive capabilities, attract and develop innovative firms, and connect more effectively to international networks. Alongside his academic research, he advises European and regional institutions on industrial development and innovation policy.

For More Information

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