Aspects of spatial interdependencies in the European Union

Cătălin Angelo IOAN¹, Gina IOAN²

Abstract: The article deals with neighborhood ties to European Union countries in terms of graph theory. It is determined the minimum distance between states and the consequences, in terms of minimum distance, of leaving the European Union by one country or another.

Keywords: graph, European Union, Bellman

1 Introduction

Let consider a graph whose set of nodes is $A=\{x_1,...,x_n\}$, $n\geq 2$ and the set of arches - U a subset of Cartesian product $A\times A$. If we assign to each pair $(x_i, x_j)\in A\times A$ the value 1 if $(x_i, x_j)\in U$ and 0 if $(x_i, x_j)\notin A$ we obtain the matrix associated to the graph.

The determination of minimum distances in the terms of minimal number of arcs between two nodes can be made with the Bellman-Kalaba algorithm.Let therefore $D_1=(d_{ij})\in M_n(\mathbf{R})$ the matrix where $d_{ij}=1$ when between x_i and x_j there exists an arc, $d_{ij}=\infty$ if there isn't an arc between x_i and x_j and $d_{ii}=0$ $\forall i=\overline{1,n}$.

Bellman-Kalaba algorithm consists of several steps:

Step 1: We note, for the beginning, $v^{(i)} \in \mathbf{R}^n$ the vector containing the minimum lengths of roads from the nodes $\{x_1,...,x_n\}$ to x_k with most "i" arcs. How D_1 column matrix "k" contains lengths of roads formed with a single arc from x_i , $i=\overline{1,n}$ to x_k , follows that $v^{(1)}$ will have the components of column "k" of the matrix D_1 .

Step 2: Assume that were determined $v^{(i)}$, $i=\overline{1,s}$ with $s\ge 1$ and the matrix $D_s=\left(\widetilde{d}_{ij}\right)\in M_n(\mathbf{R})$ where $c=d_{ij}+v_j^{(s)}$, $i,j=\overline{1,n}$ is constructed. In fact, we add the distance from the node x_i to any node x_j with at most "s" arcs with those from x_j to the reference node x_k . The amount \widetilde{d}_{ij} is the minimum length of the road with most (s+1) arches from the x_i to x_k , necessarily passing through x_j . It is then determined, $v_i^{(s+1)}=\min_{j=1,n}\widetilde{d}_{ij}$, $i=\overline{1,n}$ which represents the minimum length of the roads with most than "s+1" arcs from x_i the node reference x_k , thus generating the vector $v^{(s+1)}$.

Step 3: The algorithm is repeated until for $t \ge 1$: $v^{(t+1)} = v^{(t)}$ that is the minimum length of not more than "t" arcs may not decrease at the addition of an additional arc.

¹ Danubius University of Galati, Department of Economics, catalin_angelo_ioan@univ-danubius.ro

² Danubius University of Galati, Department of Economics, ginaioan@univ-danubius.ro

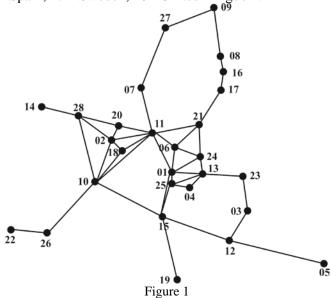
Considering now the matrix of distances between any two nodes, let say D, the sum of elements of any row, denoted d_i , is the sum of minimal distances from x_i to the other nodes. If we take $\delta = \min_{i=1,n} d_i$ any node with the property that $d_i = \delta$ will be called a center of graph (not necessary unique).

Also, we shall call a connected graph if there exists a chain (in an undirected graph) between any two nodes. For a node "x" it will be called the connected component of it the set of nodes which can be joined by chains with "x"...

2 The analysis of minimum length of roads between EU countries

In this section we will determine the minimum lengths of the roads between EU countries for the purposes of considering only the existence arcs (actually the edges, since this is an undirected graph) between them, and not the actual distance (which would involve determining the "center" of a country - otherwise a complicated endeavor even if mathematically it is possible).

So either graph links between countries, where: 01 – Austria, 02 – Belgium, 03 – Bulgaria, 04 – Croatia, 05 – Cyprus, 06 - Czech Republic, 07 – Denmark, 08 – Estonia, 09 – Finland, 10 – France, 11 – Germany, 12 – Greece, 13 – Hungary, 14 – Ireland, 15 – Italy, 16 – Latvia, 17 – Lithuania, 18 – Luxembourg, 19 – Malta, 20 – Netherlands, 21 – Poland, 22 – Portugal, 23 – Romania, 24 – Slovakia, 25 – Slovenia, 26 – Spain, 27 – Sweden, 28 - United Kingdom.



Source: Ioan C.A., Ioan G. (2016),

The determination of spatial interdependencies in the European Union,
Acta Universitatis Danubius. Oeconomica, to appear

Edges between nodes (figure 1) indicates the existence of common borders between countries (usually on land, the only exceptions being made for linkages United Kingdom, Malta, Cyprus with other neighboring countries - because of their insularity and pairs Denmark- Sweden, Finland-Estonia, Greece-Italy to nearby

maritime each other). The length of each edge is unitary. The matrix of the graph in figure 1 (symmetrical because it is non-oriented) where in the rows and columns there are countries with relevant coding above is, after [1]:

there are countries with relevant country above is, after [1].												Table		1														
Country	01	02	03	94	90	90	0.2	80	60	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	79	27	28
01	0	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	1	8	1	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	1	8	8	8
02	8	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1
03	8	8	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	~	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8
04	8	8	8	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8
05	8	8	8	8	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
90	1	8	8	8	8	0	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	1	8	8	8	8
07	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8
80	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
60	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8
10	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	1	8	8	8	1	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	1
11	1	1	8	8	8	1	1	8	8	1	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	1	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
12	8	8	1	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
13	1	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	1	1	8	8	8
14	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1
15	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	1	8	8	0	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8
16	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
17	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	0	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
18	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
19	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
20	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1
21	8	×	∞	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	×	8	8	1	∞	8	8	0	8	8	1	8	8	8	∞
22	8	×	∞	8	8	×	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	×	8	8	8	∞	8	8	8	0	8	8	8	1	8	∞
23	8	×	1	8	8	×	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	×	8	8	8	∞	8	8	8	8	0	8	8	8	8	∞
24	1	×	~	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	×	8	8	8	~	8	8	1	8	8	0	8	8	8	8

25	1	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	8	8	8
76	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	0	8	8
27	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	8
28	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	0

Applying the Bellman-Kalaba algorithm, finally gives the matrix of minimum distances between countries ([1]):

To	able	e 2																											
Country	01	02	03	94	9	90	0.2	80	60	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	56	27	28	d.
01	0	2	3	2	3	1	2	5	4	2	1	2	1	4	1	4	3	2	2	2	2	4	2	1	1	3	3	3	65
02	2	0	4	4	4	2	2	5	4	1	1	3	3	2	2	4	3	1	3	1	2	3	4	3	3	2	3	1	72
03	3	4	0	3	2	4	5	7	7	3	4	1	2	5	2	6	5	4	3	5	4	5	1	3	3	4	6	4	105
94	2	4	3	0	4	3	4	6	6	3	3	3	1	5	2	5	4	4	3	4	3	5	2	2	1	4	5	4	95
05	3	4	2	4	0	4	5	8	7	3	4	1	4	5	2	7	6	4	3	5	5	5	3	4	3	4	6	4	115
90	1	2	4	3	4	0	2	4	4	2	1	3	2	4	2	3	2	2	3	2	1	4	3	1	2	3	3	3	70
07	2	2	5	4	5	2	0	3	2	2	1	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	4	2	2	4	4	3	3	3	1	3	80
08	5	5	7	6	8	4	3	0	1	5	4	7	5	7	6	1	2	5	7	5	3	7	6	4	6	6	2	6	133
60	4	4	7	6	7	4	2	1	0	4	3	6	5	6	5	2	3	4	6	4	4	6	6	5	5	5	1	5	120
10	2	1	3	3	3	2	2	5	4	0	1	2	3	2	1	4	3	1	2	2	2	2	4	3	2	1	3	1	64
11	1	1	4	3	4	1	1	4	3	1	0	3	2	3	2	3	2	1	3	1	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	09
12	2	3	1	3	1	3	4	7	6	2	3	0	3	4	1	6	5	3	2	4	4	4	2	3	2	3	5	3	89
13	1	3	2	1	4	2	3	5	5	3	2	3	0	5	2	4	3	3	3	3	2	5	1	1	1	4	4	4	79
14	4	2	5	5	5	4	4	7	6	2	3	4	5	0	3	6	5	3	4	2	4	4	6	5	4	3	5	1	111
15	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	6	5	1	2	1	2	3	0	5	4	2	1	3	3	3	3	2	1	2	4	2	69
16	4	4	6	5	7	3	4	1	2	4	3	6	4	6	5	0	1	4	6	4	2	6	5	3	5	5	3	5	113

17	3	3	5	4	6	2	3	2	3	3	2	5	3	5	4	1	0	3	5	3	1	5	4	2	4	4	4	4	93
18	2	1	4	4	4	2	2	5	4	1	1	3	3	3	2	4	3	0	3	2	2	3	4	3	3	2	3	2	75
19	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	7	6	2	3	2	3	4	1	6	5	3	0	4	4	4	4	3	2	3	5	3	95
20	2	1	5	4	5	2	2	5	4	2	1	4	3	2	3	4	3	2	4	0	2	4	4	3	3	3	3	1	81
21	2	2	4	3	5	1	2	3	4	2	1	4	2	4	3	2	1	2	4	2	0	4	3	1	3	3	3	3	73
22	4	3	5	5	5	4	4	7	6	2	3	4	5	4	3	6	5	3	4	4	4	0	6	5	4	1	5	3	114
23	2	4	1	2	3	3	4	6	6	4	3	2	1	6	3	5	4	4	4	4	3	6	0	2	2	5	5	5	66
24	1	3	3	2	4	1	3	4	5	3	2	3	1	5	2	3	2	3	3	3	1	5	2	0	2	4	4	4	78
25	1	3	3	1	3	2	3	6	5	2	2	2	1	4	1	5	4	3	2	3	3	4	2	2	0	3	4	3	77
26	3	2	4	4	4	3	3	6	5	1	2	3	4	3	2	5	4	2	3	3	3	1	5	4	3	0	4	2	88
27	3	3	6	5	6	3	1	2	1	3	2	5	4	5	4	3	4	3	5	3	3	5	5	4	4	4	0	4	100
28	3	1	4	4	4	3	3	6	5	1	2	3	4	1	2	5	4	2	3	1	3	3	5	4	3	2	4	0	85

The data in Table 2 shows the minimum number of arcs necessary for the transition from one country to another. The last column is the sum of all distances in the appropriate row, that is the d_i – indicator. We can easily see that δ =60 corresponds to Germany that is this country is the center of the European Union from the point of view of distances in a graph.

In what follows we shall exclude, successively, one country (in order) and we shall inquire which country will be the center and how much the distance will be modify.

Table 3

Excluded country	Center of the new graph	Minimal distance δ
-	Germany	60
Austria	France	62
Belgium	Germany	59
Bulgaria	Germany	56
Croatia	Germany	57
Cyprus	Germany	56
Czech Republic	Germany	59
Denmark	Germany	65
Estonia	Germany	56
Finland	Germany	57
France	Germany	54

Germany	Italy	79
Greece	Germany	53
Hungary	Germany	60
Ireland	Germany	57
Italy	Germany	59
Latvia	Germany	57
Lithuania	Germany	60
Luxembourg	Germany	59
Malta	Germany	57
Netherlands	Germany	59
Poland	Germany	65
Portugal	Germany	57
Romania	Germany	57
Slovakia	Germany	58
Slovenia	Germany	58
Spain	Germany	55
Sweden	Germany	60
United Kingdom	Germany	55

We see from this analysis that beyond the economic implications of the withdrawal of one country or another, may outline new poles (in terms of graph theory), namely in the case of Austria-exit the new pole being France and in the case of Germania-exit the new pole being Italy. In the other cases, the center of the graph will remain Germany but with an increasing of the distances in the case of Denmark or Poland and with a big decrease in the case of France, Greece, Spain or United Kingdom.

Also we can remark that in the case of France-exit the graph will have two connected components, one containing the pair (Portugal, Spain) and the other the rest of the countries.

In the case of Greece-exit, Cyprus becomes isolated, the other countries remaining with links and if Italy will exit EU, Malta becomes isolated, the other countries remaining with links.

In the case of Spain-exit, Portugal becomes isolated, the other countries remaining with links and also if United Kingdom exit EU, Ireland becomes isolated, the other countries remaining with links.

3 Conclusions

The above analysis shows that, in terms of distances, European Union countries are highly interconnected, having a stable center (Germany).

Any departure from the European Union by one country preserves as the current center the actual pole or moves it to the most advanced countries on the continent.

The decrease of the minimum distance from the center to other countries can not be done unless the output of major EU countries (except Greece) which obviously is unacceptable.

We should note also the special places of France or Spain, whose output would cause a break of European Union in two connected components would cause a malfunction particularly high.

4 References

Ioan C.A., Ioan G. (2016), The determination of spatial interdependencies in the European Union, Acta Universitatis Danubius. Oeconomica, to appear

Ioan C.A., Ioan G. (2012), Methods of mathematical modeling in economics, Zigotto Publishers, Galati

Ioan C.A. (2001), Determining the minimum effective way with Bellman-Kalaba algorithm, The Annals of "Danubius" University, Fascicle I, Economics