

Benedek Lits

Researcher | PhD Candidate in World Economics

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Research fields Firm productivity, innovation, economics of AI adoption, political economy of industrial policy, applied micro-econometrics, macroeconomic modelling

CURRENT POSITION

2025 – present **Researcher** Budapest
Institute of Industrial Policy – Iparpolitikai Intézet
Research across academic, policy and think-tank projects under the supervision of my doctoral advisor; firm-level microdata analysis, macroeconomic modelling, and policy research.

EDUCATION

2023 – present **PhD in World Economics** Budapest
Corvinus University of Budapest
Dissertation topic: Financial and innovation patterns of EU companies; political economy.
Supervisor: László Trautmann, Norbert Szijártó

2021 – 2022 **MSc in Finance** Budapest and Vienna
Central European University
Exchange: ESSEC Business School, Singapore campus (2022).
Coursework: Asset Pricing, Financial Management, Portfolio Theory, Fixed Income, Derivatives, Corporate Finance.

2017 – 2021 **BA in International Business** Budapest
Corvinus University of Budapest
Exchange: University of Passau (2018).
Coursework: Financial Mathematics, Financial Markets, Financial Modelling, Statistics.

RESEARCH

UNDER REVIEW

An Exploratory Machine Learning Analysis of Online Presence and Productivity Among the Largest Hungarian Firms
B. Lits (sole author) | *Electronic Commerce Research* (Q1) - revised (2nd round)

ACCEPTED

The effects of AI on productivity in Europe
C. Knaak, I. Colajanni, **B. Lits**, J. Budai, L. Trautmann | *Eurochambres Chief Economists Working Paper* – accepted draft, forthcoming

Enterprise AI Adoption and Youth Employment: Evidence from Europe Around the ChatGPT Break
B. Lits, J. Budai | *Society and Economy* (Q2) – accepted draft, forthcoming

Data Centers, Tech-Sovereignty and Net Zero. An E3ME Estimation on the Effects of AI Investments in the EU and Beyond
M. Simó, **B. Lits**, E. Bánfai, M. Fleiner | *Society and Economy* (Q2) – accepted draft, forthcoming

PUBLISHED

Clustering of European SMEs According to Their Financial Behaviour
Á. Balog, **B. Lits** | *Köz-Gazdaság - Review of Economic Theory and Policy*, 19(4), 9-30, [2024]
— doi:10.14267/RETP2024.04.02

WORK IN PROGRESS

Between one and two: Estimating the position of spousal co-owned firms on the sole proprietorship-partnership productivity spectrum. Evidence from Hungary
B. Lits, (sole author) | Funded by EKÖP — project started [09/01/2026]

A Replicable Protocol for Evaluating Innovation Grants with Machine Learning
B. Lits, A. Kállay, D. Szabó | Unfunded — project started [06/01/2026]

The Microeconomics of a Workfare State – Firm Growth Strategies and Innovation Patterns in Hungary
N. Szijártó, **B. Lits** | PhD Research — project started [01/01/2026]

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2023 – 2025	Financial Journalist <i>Forbes Hungary</i> Reporting; interviewing economic actors and analysts; moderating panel discussions.	Budapest
2020 – 2021	Junior Auditor <i>KPMG Hungary</i> Financial audits of Hungarian companies; review of financial processes and internal controls.	Budapest

TEACHING

2025 – present	Thesis Evaluation (BA, MSc) <i>Corvinus University of Budapest</i>	Budapest
2024	Seminar Leader, <i>Entering Global Markets</i> (BA) <i>Corvinus University of Budapest</i>	Budapest

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Programming	R, MATLAB (DSGE, QPM), SQL, Excel / Power Query
Methods	Panel econometrics, DiD & event studies, TFP estimation, machine learning, macromodelling
Languages	Hungarian (native), English (C1; IELTS 7.0), German (C1; ÖSD C1)