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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	The Economics of Monetary Union: the Theory of Optimum Currency Areas (OCAs) -- The Economic Rationale of Fiscal Rules in OCAs: The SGP and the EDP -- To Cope with Asymmetric Shocks in EMU: The Role of Labour Market Flexibility -- The Concept of Labour Market Flexicurity in the Eurozone -- The Spanish Case: The Housing Market Bubble and External Disequilibria -- The Global Crisis and Alternative Scenarios to Save the Euro: A Spanish Perspective -- Appendix: Ideology and Economics in the Failure of Lehman Brothers.
Sommario/riassunto	A regulatory idea conducted this work: the need to connect the economic rationale of the theory of currency areas with the current EU institutional frame of the European monetary unification process. The latter includes the recent revamping of fiscal rules of the Stability and Growth Pact, and calls for enhancing 'flexicurity' in EU labour markets.

The lack of EU political leadership is a dead-weight loss to build a genuine economic and monetary union, and risks to blow-up the whole project. Further, it undermines the internal macroeconomic logic of a single currency like the euro, and gives a prominent non-democratic role to financial markets. As it happened in the past with the gold-standard, the euro condemns today the peripheral countries to a deflationary process which might last for a decade. A more pro-European approach is needed with both sides of the system (core and periphery) making the required adjustment efforts, though in the opposite way, to save the eurozone and Europe.
