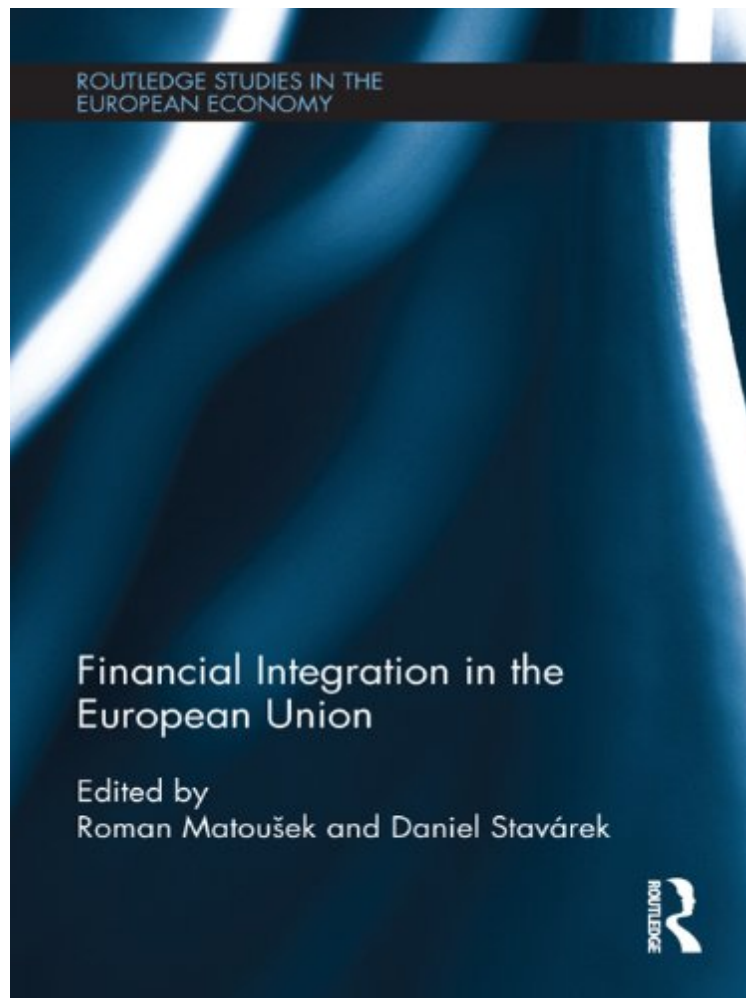


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This edited collection assesses the level of financial integration in the European Union (EU) and the differences across the countries and segments of the EU financial system. Progress in financial integration is key to the EU's economic growth and competitiveness and although it has advanced substantially, the process is still far from completion. This book focuses on the pace of financial integration in the EU with special emphasis on the new EU Member States and investigates their progress in comparison with 'old' EU countries. The book is the first

of its kind to include and evaluate the effects of the global financial crisis on the process of EU financial integration. In particular, the book's contributors address the issue of whether a high degree of financial integration contributed to the intensification of the financial crisis, or whether a low level of integration prevented countries and financial industries from some of the negative effects of the crisis. Although most of the chapters apply contemporary econometric tools, the technical part is always reduced to indispensable minimum and the emphasis is given to economic interpretation of the results. The book aims to offer an up to date and insightful examination of the process of financial integration in the EU today.

About the Author Roman Matoušek is Professor of Finance and Director of the Centre for EMEA Banking, Finance Economics at London Metropolitan Business School, UK. Daniel Stavaček is Associate Professor of International Finance and Head of the Department of Finance at Silesian University, School of Business Administration in Karvina, Czech Republic.