The Department of Public Policy and Public Choice - POLIS, in co-operation with the Institute of Economic and Social Research IRES-Piemonte is organizing the 7th PEARL conference. It will be held in Italy, on May 6 and 7, 2010. The first day's sessions will be in Torino and the second day's sessions will be in Alessandria.

PEARL is a network of researchers and research institutions that operate in the field of applied public economics and public finance. Papers will mostly focus on the regional and local levels of government, which of course includes studying the relationships with local, state, federal (or supranational) institutions, and the role and scope of government at large.

The idea is to gather various kinds of expertise both from different countries (implying different objectives, economic and institutional constraints) and from different fields of economic analysis (public finance and public choice, local and regional economics, macroeconomics, law and economics, behavioural economics, experimental economics, econometrics).

Some subjects of interest that will be the object of the conference are listed below:

1. status of regions in fiscal federalism (the latter usually focusing on the local-state-national relations)
2. distributional impact of decentralization
3. sectoral questions (taxation, regulation, employment, health, education, location of public facilities, infrastructures)
4. endogenous formation of regions, migration, and institutional consequences
5. constitutional political economy of multilevel governments
6. constitutional provisions for fiscal autonomy
7. innovation, growth, convergence and equalization
8. inter-jurisdictional cost-sharing of public spending,
9. enlargement and harmonization of economic and institutional conditions
10. regional economic effects of regional and macroeconomic shocks

Program

**Wednesday, May 5**

Place: Torino

- 8:00 PM
  Dinner for the PEARL organizing group

**Thursday, May 6**

Place: Torino, IRES, Via Nizza 18

- 9:00 AM Session I :
  Chair: Giorgio Brosio, University of Torino
  - Opening Addresses
• Angelo Pichierri (University of Torino), Ires President
• Corrado Malandrino (University of Piemonte Orientale), Dean of Faculty of Political Sciences
• Adriano Giovannelli (University of Genova), General Secretary of the Italian-French University
  o Keynote lecture:
  • Stanley L. Winer (Carleton University, Canada) and Kathleen Day (University of Ottawa), "Internal Migration and Public Policy: An Empirical Study for Canada"

• 10:00 AM Session II:
  Chair: Carla Marchese, University of Piemonte Orientale
  o Giorgio Brosio (University of Torino) and Stefano Piperno (Ires Piemonte), "Why to Keep Taxes at the Centre During Decentralization? Some Analytical Guesses in the Framework of the Italian Present Reform"
  Discussant: Heikki A. Loikkanen (University of Helsinki)

• 10:30 AM. Coffee Break

• 10:45 Session III
  Chair: Yvon Rocaboy, University of Rennes 1
  o Teemu Lyytikäinen (Government Institute for Economic Research - VATT and London School of Economics), Antti Moisio (Government Institute for Economic Research - VATT), "Aiming to Offset Local Cost Disadvantages: The Case of Finland"
  Discussant: Mario Ferrero (University of Piemonte Orientale)
  o Bernard Dafflon (University of Fribourg), "Local Fiscal Equalisation: a New Proposal and Experiment"
  Discussant: Sonia Paty (CREM, CNRS and University of Caen)
  o Ghislain Dutheil de la Rochère, Jean-Michel Josselin and Yvon Rocaboy (University of Rennes 1), "The Role of Aggregation Technologies in the Provision of Supranational Public Goods: A Reconsideration of NATO's Strategies"
  Discussant: Emanuele Canegrati (Italian Parliament Staff)

• 1:00 PM : Lunch
• 2:30 PM Tour to La Venaria Reale (http://www.lavenaria.it/index_eng.shtml)
• 6:30 PM Transfer by bus to the Hotel "Alli Due Buoi Rossi", Via Cavour, 32 Alessandria
• 8:00 PM Dinner, "Alli Due Buoi Rossi", Via Cavour, 32 Alessandria

Friday, May 7

Place: Alessandria, Palazzo Borsalino, Via Cavour 84

• 9:00 AM Session IV
  Chair: Alberto Cassone, University of Piemonte Orientale
  o Welcome address : Paolo Garbarino, Rector, University of Piemonte Orientale
  o Jiri Špalek, Zuzana Berná (Masaryk University) "Effectiveness of Charitable Lottery Design: Experimental Evidence from Czech Republic, Ukraine and Russia"
  Discussant: Matteo Migheli (University of Piemonte Orientale)
Yvon Rocaboy and Benoît Le Maux (University of Rennes 1), "Competition in Concentration among Competitive Coalitions"
Discussant: Michele Giuranno (University of Piemonte Orientale)

David Bartolini (Polytechnical University of Marche), Michele G. Giuranno (University of Piemonte Orientale) and Alberto Zanardi (University of Bologna), "Vertical transfers to local governments and horizontal redistribution"
Discussant: Bernard Dafflon (University of Fribourg)

11:00 AM Coffee Break
11:30 AM Session V
Chair: Antti Moisio, Government Institute for Economic Research - VATT
- Hannu Laurila (University of Tampere) "Optimization of City Size"
  Discussant: Benoît Le Maux (University of Rennes 1)
- Quentin Frère (INRA-CESAER, Dijon), Hakim Hammadou (EQUIPPE, University of Lille), Sonia Paty (CREM, CNRS and University of Caen), "Is there any Zoo Effect in French Localities?"
  Discussant: Ferruccio Ponzano (University of Piemonte Orientale)

1:00 PM Lunch
2:30 PM Session VI
Chair: Bernard Dafflon, University of Fribourg
- Emma Galli (University of Rome La Sapienza) and Veronica Grembi (Catholic University of Milan), "Assessing Degrees of Fiscal Discipline: An Application to Italian Municipalities"
  Discussant: Angela Fraschini (University of Piemonte Orientale)
- Liming Fan and Shaobin Shi (Shandong University), "Influential Factors of the Evaluation on the Farmers Cooperatives"
  Discussant: Renato Cogno (Ires Piemonte)

4:30 PM Coffee Break
4:45 PM Session VII
Chair: Jean-Michel Josselin, University of Rennes 1
- Giovanna Garrone and Santino Piazza (Ires Piemonte) "The Distributional Impact of Decentralization in Health Care: the Case of Piedmont",
  Discussant: Cinzia Di Novi (University of Piemonte Orientale)
- Tuukka Saarimaa (Government Institute for Economic Research - VATT) and Janne Tukiainen (Government Institute for Economic Research - VATT and HECER), "Who Merges with Whom? An Econometric Analysis of Merger Decisions of Local Governments"
  Discussant: Stefania Ottone (University of Milano Bicocca)
- Fabio Padovano (University Roma Tre - CREM-CNRS, University of Rennes 1) "The Strategic Interactions between Central and Local Governments and their Impact on Local Public Finances"
  Discussant: Alberto Cassone (University of Piemonte Orientale)

6:30 PM End of the Conference

Scientific Committee
Giorgio Brosio, University of Torino, Italy
Alberto Cassone, University of Piemonte Orientale "A.Avogadro", Italy
Dong Chen, Shandong University, China
Jean-Michel Josselin, University of Rennes 1, France
Hannu Laurila, University of Tampere, Finland
Heiki Loikkanen, University of Helsinki, Finland
Thierry Madiès, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
Carla Marchese, University of Piemonte Orientale "A.Avogadro", Italy
Stefano Piperno, Ires Piemonte, Italy
Yvon Rocaboy, University of Rennes 1, France
Simon Schnyder, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
Shaobin Shi, Shandong University, China

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