

**2010**

**Istituto per la Ricerca Valutativa  
sulle Politiche Pubbliche**

Fondazione Bruno Kessler

Via Santa Croce 77  
38122 Trento - Italy



**IRVAPP Seminar Series**

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**Do Incentives to Continuing Vocational Training Matter? Evidence from Italian Regions**

**Abstract**

In this paper, we ask whether the economic resources mobilized in favour of continuing vocational training by Laws 236 and 53 in Italy have had a significant impact, both in terms of additional training among workers employed in the private sector, and in terms of higher earnings. We exploit an important discontinuity in the role played by regions in the implementation of these policies, which has generated useful variability between regions and over time in the resources allocated to training. We estimate that one additional euro per head allocated to training increases the expected number of cumulated days of training by 7.09 percent, and that adding one day to the stock of training can raise average annual earnings by 0.2 to 0.9 percent, within the range of the estimates found in the empirical literature. A prudential cost – benefit analysis suggests that adding one additional day of training to the existing average number of days increases the wage bill by 476 million (real) euros and costs 430 million euros in terms of real resources allocated by regions to calls for tenders. These estimates point to the presence of a positive surplus.

Giorgio Brunello is currently Professor of Economics at the University of Padova. He studied Economics at the University of Venice and the LSE where he received his masters degree in 1981. He obtained his PhD from Osaka University, Japan, in 1987. He taught at Osaka University (1987-89), the University of Venice (1990-96) and the University of Udine (1996-98) and held visiting positions at LSE (1988-89), Kyoto (1992-2002-2007), Osaka (1997), University of California at Berkeley (1995), Deakin (1996), Oxford (1998), IZA (1999), Boston (2000), Essex (2000), Paris II (2003), Tokyo (2004), Collegio Carlo Alberto (2006) and CESifo (2007). He is research fellow at CESifo and member of the European Experts Network on the Economics of Education (EENEE). His current research interests are the economics education and training and personnel economics.

25 March

## David Rose and Eric Harrison

### Developing and Refining a Social Class Schema for the European Research Area: The European Socio-economic Classification Described, Explained and Illustrated

#### Abstract

Between 2004 and 2006 David Rose and Eric Harrison led an EU Sixth Framework project which produced a new version of the EGP social class schema for use by both academics and National Statistical Institutes across the European Union. This lecture will explain and describe the schema, known as the 'European Socio-economic Classification - ESeC'. As the lecture will demonstrate, the ESeC project produced a prototype schema that was both thoroughly validated and performed consistently well across a range of EU Member States. However, there remained a number of outstanding issues worthy of further research. These will also be discussed.

David Rose is Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex. He was academic convener of both the European Socio-economic Classification project and the ESRC Review of Government Social Classifications which led to the development of the UK National Statistics-Socio-economic Classification. He has published widely on the topic of social class in the UK. He is an Academician of the Social Sciences.

Eric Harrison is Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Comparative Social Surveys at City University London, working on the European Social Survey. He was the assistant convener of the ESeC project. His principal research interests lie in social stratification, social inequality and comparative research methodology.

19 April

## Fabrizio Barca

### A New Framework for Relaunching the European Development Policy

#### Abstract

No union of states with unified markets for labour, capitals, goods and services can maintain itself without a development policy. The EU is no exception and needs a long-term strategy with the aim of reducing both the under-utilisation of resources (inefficiency) of some of its regions and the social exclusion (inequality) of many EU citizens. Cohesion policy – which accounts for 36 per cent of the total EU budget in the years 2007-2013 – has been designed to achieve this task. Its general architecture still appears appropriate and modern. But results have definitely fallen short of objectives. 'An agenda for a reformed cohesion policy,' is an independent report prepared for a comprehensive reform of cohesion policy. Its punch-lines are as follows: 1) Concentration of two thirds of funding in three to four "core priorities" meeting the needs and expectations of European citizens. 2) A new contractual relationship between the commission and member states (regions) committing the latter to well-specified results and to those institutional changes needed in order to implement the grants effectively. 3) A greater commitment to mobilise local actors and to provide them with the means and skills to allow their knowledge and preferences to shape policy projects. 4) A significant investment in human resources and organizational changes in the commission in order to play the more demanding role envisaged by the other changes. 5) A new system of political checks and balances through the European parliament and a new formal council for cohesion policy. These changes are all required in order to truly implement a turn of EU policy towards people's needs.

Fabrizio Barca is a Director General at the Italian Ministry for Economics and Finance, where he previously served as Director of the Development Policies Department. He has been Research Director at the Bank of Italy Research Center 'Servizio Studi' and president of the OECD committee for regional policies. He has been teaching and currently teaches in several French and Italian universities. He is the author of various volumes and essays, such as *'Imprese in cerca di padrone'* (1994), *'Compromesso senza riforme nel capitalismo italiano'* (1999), *'Italia Frenata. Paradossi e lezioni della politica per lo sviluppo'* (2006). In 2008/09, he has been working on an independent report on reform prospects for the European cohesion policy.

20 May

**Steve Pudney**

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**Ask a Silly Question – and Get a Silly Answer? Response Behaviour in Surveys of Subjective Well-Being**

**Abstract**

Why do you say you are happy? Is it the way you are asked? We exploit two quasi-experiments in the British Household Panel Survey - a change in question design and parallel use of different interview modes - to analyze the effect of survey design on reported job satisfaction. We show that apparently minor differences in survey design lead to substantial biases in econometric results, particularly on gender differences. The common empirical finding that women care less about wages and prefer to work fewer hours than men appears largely an artifact of survey design rather than a true behavioral difference.

Steve Pudney is Professor of Economics and Director of the ESRC Research Centre on Micro-Social Change at the Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex. His research interests cover a variety of fields of microeconometrics with applications to tax-benefit policy, poverty, labour economics and the economics of crime and illicit drugs (<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/home/spudney/>).

10 June

## Marco Caliendo

### Locus of Control and Job Search Strategies

#### Abstract

Standard job search theory assumes that unemployed individuals have perfect information about the effect of their search effort on the job offer arrival rate. In this paper, we present an alternative model which assumes instead that each individual has a subjective belief about the impact of his or her search effort on the rate at which job offers arrive. These beliefs depend in part on an individual's locus of control, i.e., the

extent to which a person believes that future outcomes are determined by his or her own actions as opposed to external factors. We estimate the impact of locus of control on job search behavior using a novel panel data set of newly-unemployed individuals in Germany. Consistent with our theoretical predictions, we find evidence that individuals with an internal locus of control search more and that individuals who believe that their future outcomes are determined by external factors have lower reservation wages.

Marco Caliendo studied economics at the Goethe-University of Frankfurt and the University of Manchester and graduated in April 2000 (Diplom-Volkswirt, equiv. M.A. Economics). From May 2000 until December 2004 he was PhD student at Goethe-University and worked as a research associate at the Institute of Statistics and Econometrics. In spring 2003 he was visiting scholar at the University College London (UCL). He received his PhD (summa cum laude) for his thesis on "Microeconomic Evaluation of Labour Market Policies" from Goethe-University in April 2005. From January 2005 until July 2007 he worked for the DIW in Berlin as a Senior Research Associate in the Public Economics Department.

His current research interests include the evaluation of labor market programs, self-employment/entrepreneurship, the influence of personality traits on economic outcomes, and applied microeconometrics. His work has been published in journals such as Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Population Economics, Small Business Economics, Journal of Economic Surveys, Kyklos, Applied Economics and Advances in Econometrics.

He joined IZA as a Senior Research Associate in August 2007 and served as Deputy Program Director for the IZA research area "Evaluation of Labor Market Programs" until January 2009. In February 2009 he became Director of Research at IZA.

Per motivi organizzativi chiediamo la cortesia a quanti intendono partecipare ai seminari di segnalare il loro interesse contattando la dott.ssa Francesca Zantomio al seguente indirizzo di posta elettronica [zantomio@irvapp.it](mailto:zantomio@irvapp.it)

For logistic reasons, if you are interested in attending the seminars please email dr. Francesca Zantomio: [zantomio@irvapp.it](mailto:zantomio@irvapp.it)

<http://irvapp.fbk.eu/it/eventi/seminari>

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