



Call for papers

Monitoring Italy 2009: *Measuring the Progress of Italian Society*

Rome, June 3-4, 2009

Institute for Studies and Economic Analyses, Piazza Indipendenza, 4 – Rome, Italy

The Institute for Studies and Economic Analyses (ISAE) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will host a Conference on “Measuring the Progress of Italian Society” on June 3rd and 4th, 2009 at the ISAE premises in Rome.

Conference background

Until recently, there was widespread agreement among economists and policy-makers that economic growth was a good approximation for, if not synonymous to, societal progress; the world now recognizes that it isn't as simple as that. Some argue that high economic growth does not necessarily imply a higher quality of life: growth can go hand in hand with increasing income inequalities, stagnating – or even declining - levels of personal satisfaction, increased insecurity, environmental disruption and lower levels of trust in one another and towards the government. Concern about these issues is growing worldwide. Not surprisingly, therefore, interest in producing reliable measures of societal progress is growing as well.

Organizers

The Conference will be jointly organized by the ISAE and the OECD. This will be the third ISAE “Monitoring Italy” conference. The previous two conferences focused on the economic progress of Italian society. The OECD ran the first and second World Forum on “Statistics Knowledge and Policy” in Italy and in Turkey in June 2004 and June 2007

respectively. The latter Conference led to the *Istanbul Declaration* signed by the European Commission, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the OECD, the United Nations, UNICEF, UNESCO, the World Bank and several other organizations (see www.oecd.org/progress), calling for action to identify what “progress” means in the 21st century and to stimulate an international debate. The ISAE-OECD Conference is one of the several events the OECD is co-ordinating as part of the Global Project “Measuring the Progress of Societies”, in preparation of the third OECD World Forum on “Statistics, Knowledge and Policy”, to be held in Busan (South Korea) on 27-30 October 2009.

Topics

We kindly invite authors to submit papers in the following areas of research:

- **Towards a theoretically-founded definition of “progress”.** What to measure when we talk about “progress”? The concept of “progress” has a long history in western culture; there is now a growing need to better tailor the old definitions to modern societies characterized by growing integration and complexity.
- **Methodological issues in the measurement of progress.** How to measure progress in a reliable way? From a methodological standpoint, it is possible to go “beyond GDP” in various ways, including measures of sustainable development, the use of a wide range of indicators referring to economic, social and environmental dimensions and the use of “subjective” measures of well being, life-satisfaction and happiness.
- **Aspects of progress of Italian society.** What are the most relevant changes in the economic, social and environmental conditions of Italy over the last decade and what changes are likely to emerge over the coming years? Are they properly measured? Are they recognized as relevant by policy makers and citizens?
- **How to properly use progress indicators.** Is the concept of progress correctly understood by the general public? Can measures of progress help shape policy decisions? What do new progress definitions and measures imply for policy making?

Invited lecturers to the Conference will include Sir Anthony Atkinson, Nuffield College, Oxford.

ISAE and the OECD invite the submission of unpublished papers on the main topics of the Conference. A selection of contributing papers will be published in a special issue of the

journal "Rivista di Politica Economica" and in the Palgrave Macmillan "Central Issues in Contemporary Economic Theory and Policy" Series. Papers will be evaluated by a Scientific Committee, chaired by the OECD Chief Statistician Enrico Giovannini, and composed by Andrea Brandolini (Bank of Italy), Marco Malgarini (ISAE) and Gustavo Piga (University of Rome "Tor Vergata").

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Abstracts Deadline: January 31, 2009

The abstract (up to 500 words) should include: Name(s) of author(s), affiliation, address, phone number, e-mail address, title of abstract, keywords and JEL Classification.

Please send your abstract in MS-Word or Adobe-PDF Format at the following e-mail address: monitoring09@isae.it

Invitation to submit the full paper will be sent to the corresponding author by the end of February 2009.

Papers deadline: April 30, 2009

Please send your paper in MS-Word or Adobe-PDF Format at the following e-mail address: monitoring09@isae.it

Letter of acceptance will be sent to the corresponding author by mid May 2009.

CONTACTS

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