

The first international conference: “Challenges in Evaluating Regional and Urban Policy”, CERUP 2018
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8-9 March 2018, Rome, Italy



Conference Overview¹

The Department of Social Sciences and Economics of Sapienza University of Rome (DISSE) and the Department of Political Science of University Roma Tre (DISCIPOL) and the Regional Science Association of Italy (AISRE) organized the first international conference: “Challenges in Evaluating Regional and Urban Policy”, CERUP 2018.

The conference was hosted by the Sapienza Conference Centre, on 8-9 March 2018.

Slow growth or decline in less developed areas, and natural or economic shocks that challenge the wellbeing of individuals and communities, have a strong social impact. Inequality increases and some territories are left behind. Geography of discontent emerges, with social and political consequences. Questions of how cities and regions can develop in more continuous, equal and resilient ways and how “place-based” policies can support this pattern constitute an important research agenda for regional scientists. However, evaluating regional policies after severe shocks is not an easy task. Causality, endogeneity and spatial spillovers bias the estimate of the critical parameters, and make more difficult our understanding of the policy effects. Researchers are exploring a new methodological approach, pointing to robust and clear empirical answers to the policy questions related to the economic and social development of region and cities. The Department of Social Sciences and Economics of Sapienza, University of Rome and the Department of Political Science of University Roma Tre organized an international conference on the evaluation of public policies focused on regional growth and resilience. The main focus of interest were the methodological challenges imposed by economic and social regional policies in the framework of counterfactual evaluation approach. The conference debated the following main topics: counterfactual evaluation methods, policies for competitive cities and regions, spatial econometrics methods for impact evaluation, policies for urban economic growth and development, policies for territorial economic and social resilience. Both theoretical and empirical papers were welcome. The program included keynote presentations from invited speakers and policy makers.

Keynote speakers included: Giuseppe Arbia, Professor of Economic Statistics, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, and Martin Huber, Professor of Applied Econometrics, University of Fribourg.

The Organizing committee consisted of: Guido Pellegrini, Sapienza, University of Rome Marusca De Castris, University Roma Tre.

¹ Conference overview by Eleni Stamatidou-Lacroix, RSI Journal