

# Newsletter (2018/19)

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## EDITORIAL

This is the thirteenth bulletin of the Network of Reference in Economy Applied (XREAP). Similarly to the previous bulletins, our objective is to share with you all those activities of research and transfer of technology of the groups that form XREAP and that is regularly updated in our website where you can access to information on the seminars, conferences and congresses that we organise as well as to the full text of our working papers.

This newsletter shows the different training and dissemination activities carried out during the last two years by the research groups that are part of XREAP. These groups count with more than one hundred and seventy researchers, affiliated mostly to three Catalan universities: University of Barcelona, Autonomous University of Barcelona and University Rovira and Virgili, but with the presence of researchers from other Catalan universities (University Pompeu Fabra) and from the rest of the state and from other countries of the European Union.

We would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that XREAP, the R+D+I Network in Applied Economics, and XREPP, the R+D+I Reference Network in Economics and Public Policies, have joined forces to apply for the call for grants from the Secretary of Universities and Research of the Generalitat de Catalunya for R+D+I networks to carry out programs for the transfer of research results during the next 5 years. The new Network for Economics for a Sustainable Society Network (ESSNET) will bring together for the first time the top 20 research groups in applied economics in Catalonia, with a high potential for transfer to society. ESSNET wants to contribute to the Catalan innovation system by reinforcing the role of the quadruple helix players in the research and innovation processes, particularly SMEs, and orienting public policies towards the promotion of innovation, internationalization and entrepreneurship. The ultimate goal is to increase the capacity to generate value and impact for the society and all the economic agents.

Martí Parellada (Director XREAP)  
Raül Ramos (Technical Secretary XREAP)



# Newsletter (2018/19)

## Activities - Workshops (2017/4)

### VIII WORKSHOP ON ECONOMICS OF EDUCATION

07-08/09/2017

Sala de Recepcions; Faculty of Economics and Business; University of Barcelona  
John M Keynes, 1-11 - Barcelona

The evaluation of teachers' performance, the effects of national education for immigrant workers and the organizational models of academic institutions were some of the topics that were discussed at the VIII Workshop on Economics of Education from September 7th and 8th at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Barcelona. The program included the presentation of 10 papers and two keynote speeches: S. McNally (University of Surrey) opened the workshop on the first day with her speech "Evaluating teaching practices: experimental and non-experimental estimates", while T. Falch (Norwegian University of Science & Technology), started the second day with the speech "Decentralized school ownership, mergers, and school quality". The intended aim of this workshop was double: on the one hand, to establish and share the theoretical and methodological knowledge frontier of economics of education. On the other hand, to have access to a diversity of applied studies in which different methodologies are used.

#### Programme

07/09/2017

9:30-9:45

#### Welcome

O. Escardíbul. Vice-rector for Finance. Universitat de Barcelona

R. Alemany. Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business. Universitat de Barcelona

M. Parellada (President of the Barcelona Institute of Economics (IEB) and Director of XREAP)

9:45-11:15

#### Key note speech

S. McNally (University of Surrey, CEP, CVER, LSE)

*Evaluating teaching practices: experimental and non-experimental estimates*

11:45-13:30

#### Session I

Chair: O. Escardíbul (Universitat de Barcelona & IEB)

H. Le-Quang (Institute for Employment Research)

*School quality in home countries and post-migration labor market performance:*

*Experience of immigrants in Germany*

Discussant: D. Montolio

D. Montolio & Z. Brutti (Universitat de Barcelona & IEB)

*The impact of a nationwide preschool reform on local crime rates*

Discussant: V. Dimitrova

V. Dimitrova (Royal Holloway, University of London)

*The afternoon effect: differential impacts on student performance in maths and history*

Discussant: H. Le-Quang

13:30-14:00

#### Working Lunch



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14:30-16:50

## Session II

Chair: J. Calero (Universitat de Barcelona & IEB)

M. Bratti (European Commission JRC) & D. Biancardi (University of Milan)  
*An assessment of the impact of first Italian Research Evaluation Exercise on student enrollment choices*

Discussant: M. Kortelainen

M. Kortelainen (VATT Institute for Economic Research & University of Manchester), I. Kuosmanen (University of Helsinki & University of Fribourg), L. T. Laine (Jyväskylä University School of Business and Economics & Columbia University), and M. Rokkanen (Columbia University)

*Short- and long-term effects of public school choice*

Discussant: U. Ahmad

U. Ahmad (University of Sheffield)

*Teacher characteristics and pupil performance in Pakistan: a teacher fixed effects approach*

Discussant: V. Minaya

V. Minaya (Columbia University)

*Do differential grading norms fields matter for major choice? Evidence from policy change in Florida*

Discussant: M. Bratti

**08/09/2017**

9:30-11:00

## Key note Speech

T. Falch (Norwegian University of Science & Technology)

*Decentralized school ownership, mergers, and school quality*

11:00-11:30

Coffee Break

11:45-13:30

## Session III:

Chair: O. Escardíbul (Universitat de Barcelona & IEB)

O. D. Marcenaro-Gutierrez (Universidad de Málaga), J. Jerrim (UCL Institute of Education, University College London), L. A. Lopez-Agudo (Universidad de Málaga), N. Shure (UCL Institute of Education, University College London).

*What happens when the econometrics and psychometrics collide? An example using PISA data*

Discussant: A. Leme

A. Câmara Leme (NOVA School of Business & Economics), A. Balcão Reis (NOVA), L. Catela Nunes (NOVA), J.-O. Escardíbul (Universitat de Barcelona & IEB), C. Seabra (NOVA)

*The effect of a specialized versus general upper-secondary school curriculum on students' performance and inequality. A differences-in-differences cross country analysis*

Discussant: J. Montalbán

J. Montalbán (Paris School of Economics).

*The role of need-based grants on higher education achievement*

Discussant: O. Marcenaro-Gutierrez

13:15-13:30

## Closing Address



# Newsletter (2018/19)

## Activities - Workshop (2017/5)

### 2017 BARCELONA WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL AND URBAN ECONOMICS

#### Causal Inference in Regional & Urban Economics. Methods and Applications 23-24/11/2017

Faculty of Economics and Business; University of Barcelona  
John M Keynes, 1-11 - Barcelona

The 2017 Barcelona Workshop on Regional and Urban Economics organised by the AQR research group in collaboration with the ERSA, brought together researchers interested in spatial economics, as well as in other interrelated disciplines such as development and conflict, housing economics, labour markets, or innovation. The Workshop focused on the discussion of empirical methods and strategies that allow estimating in a consistent and robust way causal effects of interest in the field of Regional and Urban Economics. Around 45 scholars and researchers attended the three thematic sessions and the keynote speech. They contributed to the lively discussions during the presentation of the papers and even during the coffee breaks and the Workshop lunch.

On November the 23rd, Dr. P. Egger gave his keynote speech on the importance of accounting for spatial effects, through the standard mechanisms of spillovers and diffusion, in dynamic models of endogenous selection and treatment. He discussed the specifications that include these spatial effects and derived the corresponding estimators to measure their key parameters in a consistent manner.

The first session was focused on “Instrumental Variables” and included two presentations by F. Curci (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid) and K. Gehring (University of Zürich). The first paper used the temporal variation in lead poisoning and geographical differences in soil quality in different USA cities, and its link with mental disorders, to identify the causal effect of violent crime on suburbanization. The second examines the causal relationship between opium and the geography of conflict in Afghanistan, combining temporal variation in international drug prices with spatial variation in opium suitability.

On the 24th, in the second session Regression Discontinuity Design two papers were presented. The first one, presented by M. Guia (Roma Tre University), exploits the spatial discontinuity between highly funded and less funded wards in some UK regions to analyse the role played by the EU Structural Funds on the UK’s decision to leave the European Union (i.e. the so-called Brexit). In turn, F. Carozzi (London School of Economics and Political Science) estimates in his paper the price elasticity of land re-development for residential purposes. It does so by using a spatial regression discontinuity design based on school quality information and school admission boundaries that correlates with demand but are orthogonal to redevelopment.

In the third session “Difference-in-Difference” methods in a spatial context was discussed. The first paper presented by A. Stepanov (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) compared the current socio-economic outcomes of “Science Cities” created in former Soviet Russia to those of matched localities that were similar at the time of establishment. The second, presented by S. Rambier (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven), evaluates the effectiveness of place-based policies in Flanders using details of the process of selection of eligible areas for regional aid and differences with respect to the aid map in the previous period as key information for the diff-in-diff exercise. This session ended with the presentation by D. Bondonio (Università del Piemonte Orientale), which uses a novel dynamic propensity score matching approach for multiple cohorts of US counties to examine the resilience of local economies to natural disasters under the existing relief assistance provisions. The effect of interest is estimated using a difference-in-difference estimator that compares trends in county-level post-disaster outcomes with counterfactual trends of non-disaster comparison counties.



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## Programme

**23/11/2017**

15:30-15:45

### **Welcome and opening act**

R. Alemany. Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business. Universitat de Barcelona

Chair: E. López-Bazo (AQR-IREA, University of Barcelona)

15:45-16:45

### **Key note lecture**

P. Egger (KOF Swiss Economic Institute, ETH Zürich)

*A Panel Data Approach for Spatial Selection Models*

16:45-17:00

### **Coffee Break**

17:00-20:30

### **Session 1: Instrumental Variables**

Chair: J. Jofre (IEB, University of Barcelona)

F. Curci (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid), F. Masera (University of New South Wales)

[\*Flight from urban blight: Crime and suburbanization in the U.S\*](#)

K. Gehring (University of Zürich), S. Langlotz (Heidelberg University), S. Kienberger (Salzburg University)

[\*The \(illegal\) resource curse? Opium and conflict in Afghanistan\*](#)

**24/11/2017**

9:30-11:00

### **Session 2: Regression Discontinuity Design**

Chair: A. Di Paolo (AQR-IREA, University of Barcelona)

R. Crescenzi (London School of Economics and Political Science), M. Di Cataldo (London School of Economics and Political Science), M. Giua (Roma Tre University);

[\*Have EU funds helped against Brexit? A spatial RDD analysis\*](#)

F. Carozzi (London School of Economics and Political Science)

[\*Estimating the House Price Elasticity of Brownfield Re-Development in English Cities\*](#)

11:00-11:15'

### **Coffee Break**

11:45-13:30

### **Session 3: Difference-in-Difference.**

Chair: E. López-Bazo (AQR-IREA, University of Barcelona)

H. Schweiger (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development), A. Stepanov (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development), P. Zacchia (IMT Lucca Institute for Advanced Studies);

[\*The Long Run Effects of R&D Place-based Policies: Evidence from Russian Science Cities\*](#)

S. Ramboer (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

[\*Effectiveness of Regional State Aid: Evaluating Expansion Support in Flander.\*](#)

D. Bondonio (Università del Piemonte Orientale), R.T. Greenbaum (Ohio State University)

[\*Natural Disasters and Relief Assistance: Empirical Evidence on the Resilience of U.S. Counties using Dynamic Propensity Score Matching\*](#)

13:15-13:30

### **Closing Act**



# Newsletter (2018/19)

## Activities - Workshop (2017/6)

### VIII WORKSHOP ON ON CHALLENGES OF INNOVATION POLICY

24/11/2017

Faculty of Business and Economics; Universitat Rovira i Virgili; Av. Universitat, 1; 43204 – Reus

The number of contributions which cope with the innovation issues has increased significantly during the last years. The availability to the access of International databases and their detailed information have facilitated this larger interest. However, the socioeconomic dynamics imply that this phenomenon must widen its focus in order to facilitate the decision of key agents (in particular firms, policy-makers, universities and public agencies).

The workshop has a double aim. On the one hand, morning sessions will cope with new issues about the European innovation policy. On the other hand, in the afternoon we aim to establish technical challenges that researchers face up to when adopting an empirical approach.

With that purpose, the workshop will be driven by two researchers of international prestige:

- P. Mohnen, Professor of UNU-MERIT (Holland) with a wide experience in the fields of innovation and European policies.
- H. Oberhofer, Professor of Vienna University (Austria) with a wide experience in the fields of innovation and industrial organization.

The workshop is a collaborative initiative between members from URV and UB under the support from XREAP.

#### Programme

24/11/2017

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 9:15-09:30  | <b>Welcome reception</b>   |
| 9:30-10:30  | <b>Key note lecture</b><br>P. Mohnen (UNU Merit)<br><i>The role of innovation and management practices in determining firm productivity growth: in developing economies</i>  |
| 10:30-11:50 | <b>Session 1: Eco and Energy Innovation: the challenge of double externalities</b><br>Chair: J. García Quevedo (Universitat de Barcelona)<br><br>E. Jové (Universitat Rovira i Virgili joint with A. Segarra-Blasco)<br><i>Eco-strategies and firm growth in European SMEs</i><br><br>R. Moreno (Universitat de Barcelona joint with L.M. D'Agostino)<br><i>The effects of green regions on local firms' innovation</i><br><br>K. Tchorzewska (Universitat de Barcelona joint with J. García-Quevedo and E. Martínez-Ros)<br><i>Incentives to eco-innovate. The effects of policy mix on firms' behaviour"</i> |
| 11:50-12:05 | <b>Coffee Break</b>  |



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- 12:05-13:45 **Session 2: New dimension of innovation policies: the effect of diversity**  
Chair: A. Segarra (Universitat Rovira i Virgili)
- S. Amoroso (IPTS, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission)  
*Intellectual Property Protection Mechanisms in Small Entrepreneurial Firms*
- F. Pieri (University of Trento(joint with G. Barba Navaretti and D. Castellani)  
*Performing Youth: Young Managers Withstand the Great Recession?*
- M.Teruel (Universitat Rovira i Virgili (joint with A. Segarra-Blasco)  
Gender diversity, R&D teams and patents: An application to Spanish firms"
- 13:45-14:45 **Lunch**
- 14:45-16:25 **Session 3: Conceptual and empirical improvements to design new policies**  
Chair: M. Teruel (Universitat Rovira i Virgili)
- E. Martínez-Ros (Universidad Carlos III joint with J.M. Labeaga, A. Sanchís and J. Sanchís)  
*Persistence in R&D Tax Credits and Innovation*
- P. Arqué (Northwestern University joint with D. F. Spulber)  
*The Market for Technology: Harnessing Creative Destruction*
- A. Barajas (CDTI (joint with E. Huergo and L. Moreno)  
*Public Support to Business R&D and the Economic Crisis*
- A. Segarra-Blasco (Universitat Rovira i Virgili)  
*John Rae: The Missing Link*
- 16:25-17:15 **Key note lecture**  
H. Oberhofer (Vienna University)  
*The Econometrics of Innovation Policy Evaluation*
- 17:15-17:30 **Coffee Break**
- 17:30-18:30 **Young Workshop**  
*Guidelines for young researchers*  
by H. Oberhofer and P. Mohnen
- 17:15-17:30 **Closure**



# Newsletter (2018/19)

## Activities - Workshop (2017/7)

### Workshop on Big Data in Applied Economics

20/10 2017

Sala de Graus - Faculty of Economics and Business; University of Barcelona

John M Keynes, 1-11 - Barcelona

C. Nicodemo (Oxford) organized the Workshop on Big Data in Applied Economics of XREAP. During the workshop, professors from several Catalan and European universities presented their research. In the first session, N. Buus Lassen (Copenhagen Business School) presented a paper on "Statistical tools for Big Data". Then Professor M. Guillen (University of Barcelona), presented results of his work on "Data Science and the Natural Evolution of Automobile Insurance".

At 11:30 am the workshop continued by Professor F. Moscone, Brunel London University, which spoke on "Sparse Estimation of Huge Networks with a Block-Wise Structure". Finally, Professor A. Satorra, from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, closed the event with "Exploratory (Big Data) Analysis: An example with Social Security Data" that he elaborated with C. Nicodemo".

### Programme

20/10/2017

09:00-09:30 **Welcome and Registration**

09:30-10:15 N. Buus Lassen (Copenhagen Business School)  
*Statistical tools for Big Data*

10:15-11:00 G. Montserrat (UB)  
*Data Science and the Natural Evolution of Automobile Insurance*

11:00-11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30-12:15 F. Moscone (Brunel London University)  
*Sparse Estimation of Huge Networks with a Block-Wise Structure*

12:15-13:00 SA. Satorra (UPF) with C. Nicodemo  
*Exploratory (Big Data) Analysis: An example with Social Security Data*





# Newsletter (2018/19)

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## Activities - Workshop (2018/1)

### **RISK 2018 – 7th Workshop on Risk Management and Insurance**

**(April 25th – April 27th 2018)**

**25-27/04 2018**

Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y Empresariales, University of Cantabria; Campus de las Llamas (Avda. de los Castros s/n)

The Department of Economics of the University of Cantabria, in collaboration with the Research Group on Risk in Insurance and Finance of the University of Barcelona, has organised the 7th Workshop on Risk Management and Insurance Research (RISK, 2018), which were held in Santander (Spain) from April 25 to April 27, 2018. In line with previous conferences, RISK 2018 provided a platform to share new ideas, research results and development experiences in actuarial science and finance. In this edition, Prof. Dr. E. Hashorva (Université de Lausanne) has been the keynote speaker of the inaugural session.

The RISK 2018 topics include, but were not limited to, the following ones:

- Theory, Models and Computational Methods for Risk Analysis
- Quantitative Risk Management
- Financial Modelling
- Uncertainty Modelling
- Environmental Risks
- Life Insurance, Non-Life Insurance, Reinsurance
- Actuarial Mathematics
- Actuarial and Financial Data Analysis
- Big Data technologies in the Insurance Industry.

The programme can be consulted at <https://www.risk2018.unican.es/>



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## Activities - Workshop (2018/2)

### Seminar on Social Welfare, Youth and Aging

#### Behavioural economics for Pensions

28-29/05 2018

Facultad de Economía y Empresa Aula 112 Avda. Diagonal 690

The Seminar on Social Welfare, Youth and Aging organized by the UbZurich Chair was celebrated on May 28 and 29 at the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Barcelona. The seminar showed the implications for young people of early saving for retirement. On the first day, Prof. D. Valero (London School of Economics) gave the lecture entitled “Behavioural economics for pensions” and he explained that individuals usually underestimate their life expectancy after retirement age and need “nudges” to take decisions about long-term savings.

On the second day, a round table about how early savings can complement future public pensions was celebrated. The round table was conducted by S. Torra (UB). Experts participating on the table were D. Valero (London School of Economics), J.r Rodriguez (Life insurance Technical Director, Zurich Spain), J. L. Almeda (Business development Director, Deutsche Zurich Pensions EGFP), and M. Ayuso (UBZurich Chair, UB).

The importance of financial education on long-term saving decisions was highlighted by all the experts. The seminar was attended by a remarkable number of students that claimed that low salaries and high housing rental prices are not a favourable financial context for long term savings.

#### Programme

28/05/2018

19:30-21:00 D Valero, London School of Economics.  
Economía del Comportamiento en el ámbito de las pensiones.

28/05/2018

19:30-21:00 **Round Table**

¿Como motivar el ahorro a largo plazo entre los jóvenes?

Moderator: S. Torra, Universidad de Barcelona

- 1) D. Valero, London School of Economics
- 2) R. Perán, Director General de Deutsche Zurich Pensiones
- 3) J. Rodríguez, Director Técnico Vida, Zurich España
- 4) M. Ayuso, Riskcenter y Cátedra UBZurich



# Newsletter (2018/19)

## Activities - Workshops (2018/3)

### IX WORKSHOP ON ECONOMICS OF EDUCATION

13-14/09/2017

Sala de Recepcions; Faculty of Economics and Business; University of Barcelona  
John M Keynes, 1-11 - Barcelona

The IEB hosted and organised, from September 13th to 14th, the IX Workshop on Economics of Education, which brought together more than 30 participants. During the two days a total of 10 papers were presented, which dealt with research around education in subjects such as equal opportunities, gender, selection and remuneration of professionals, and financing systems.

In addition to the papers presented, the Workshop featured the presentations of two keynote speeches: S. Machin (London School of Economics) analysed the effects that Brexit can have both on trade and wages in the United Kingdom and on the evolution of the education system. The keynote of the last day was from P. Dolton (University of Sussex), who analysed the effect that social networks are having on the education system.

#### Programme

13/09/2017

9:30-9:45

#### Opening address

O. Escardíbul. General Manager. Universitat de Barcelona

R. Ramón. Delegat del Rector per a les Relacions Internacionals i Qualitat.  
Universitat de Barcelona

J. M. Durán. Director of the Barcelona Institute of Economics (IEB)

9:45-11:15

#### Conference

S. Machin (London School of Economics & CEP)

*Protectionism and Deskillling: Evidence From the Brexit Vote*

11:15-11:45

#### Coffee Break

11:45-13:30

#### Session I

Chair: Á. Choi (Universitat de Barcelona & IEB)

J. Firmino (Nova School of Business and Economics)

[\*Class Composition Effects and School Welfare. Evidence from Portugal using Panel Data\*](#)

Discussant: S. Sarpça

S. Sarpça (Koç University)

[\*Does School Matter? School Value-Added and Peer Quality Effect Estimates from a National High-School Assignment System\*](#)

Discussant: C. Lastra-Anadon

C. Lastra-Anadon (Harvard University)

[\*The Relation between Local Financing and Education Outcomes: Evidence From US School Districts\*](#)

Discussant: J. Firmino

13:30-14:30

#### Working Lunch



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14:30-16:50

## Session II

Chair: J. Calero (Universitat de Barcelona & IEB)

N. Nollenberger (IE Business School - IE University)

[\*The Unequal Opportunity of Skill Acquisition over the Great Recession in Europe\*](#)

Discussant: A. Lindskog

A. Lindskog (University of Gothenburg)

[\*Education and HIV: Evidence from Botswana\*](#)

Discussant: Jorge García-Hombrados

J. García-Hombrados (London School of Economics)

[\*Female Genital Cutting and Education: Theory and Causal Evidence from Senegal\*](#)

Discussant: G. Andrade

G. Andrade (UCL - Institute of Education)

[\*The Role of Time-Inputs on Skills Acquisition in Peru: A Longitudinal Analysis\*](#)

Discussant: N. Nollenberger

14/09/2017

9:30-11:00

## Conference

P. Dolton (University of Sussex & NIESR)

[\*Identifying Social Network Effects\*](#)

11:00-11:30

## Coffee Break

11:45-13:30

## Session III:

Chair: Á. Choi (Universitat de Barcelona & IEB)

M. Braga (Universita' Bocconi)

[\*Selecting or Rewarding Teachers?\*](#)

Discussant: E. Duchini

E. Duchini (University of Warwick)

[\*Can School Autonomy Lead to a Reduction of Youth Crime? Evidence from London Secondary School Academies\*](#)

Discussant: P. Freitas

P. Freitas (Nova School of Business and Economics)

[\*Value-Added Measurement under High Teacher Turnover\*](#)

Discussant: M. Braga

13:15-13:30

## Closing Address



# Newsletter (2018/19)

## Activities - Workshop (2018/4)

### 2018 BARCELONA WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL AND URBAN ECONOMICS

#### Territorial resilience: mitigation and adaptation

04-05/11/2018

Faculty of Economics and Business; University of Barcelona  
John M Keynes, 1-11 - Barcelona

This year the Workshop focused on the topic of Territorial resilience around two complementary and interrelated axes: Processes of mitigation (Resistance-Recovery), and Adaptive resilience (Re-orientation-Renewal).

In her key note speech, A. Faggian showed the identification of different dimensions of resilience in Italian territories, including both travel to work areas and municipalities, in an exhaustive and impressive dissection of the spatial impact of the Great Recession.

In the first session “Economic Resilience to Natural Disasters”, R. Scuderi, G. Tesoriere and V. Fasone (Kore University of Enna) presented the work titled “Adaptation of micro-enterprises to floods: evidence from Ugandan cities”. They analyse the impact of floods on the development of micro-enterprises in Uganda. They offer empirical evidence on the association between both phenomena based on the analysis of micro-data from a survey conducted in 13 cities and towns where floods occur regularly. Their results show that the negative impact on companies is lower in those areas with the greatest impact of floods precisely because they adopt adaptation strategies where collaborative networks between companies are a key factor. Then, P. Samuels (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) presented a work, co-authored with A. Yair Grinberger, titled “Labour Mobility, Trade and Urban Resilience to Natural Disasters”. They focus on the effects of natural disasters on the labour market from simulation models, finding that worker mobility is one of the main mechanisms through which the negative effects of shocks are absorbed.

On 5<sup>th</sup> of October, Péter Benczúr presented in the second keynote speech of the Workshop the work that the Joint Research Center is developing on the topic of Resilience. He showed a methodological introduction reporting what is the main idea behind the concept of Resilience, and showing not only the past based definition of the concept (the situation of the region before a shock takes place) but also the forward idea behind it: if the region reaches a sustainable path of development. The inputs and the mechanisms of the social and economic engines of the regions are the basis for a multidimensional concept of resilience. He also showed the measurement strategy, and its implementation both at the national and at the regional level in Europe.

In the second session “Resilience and Public Policies”, N. Pontarollo (Joint Research Center, European Commission) presented the work titled “Towards regional renewal: A multilevel perspective for EU”, coauthored by C. Serpieri (Sapienza Università di Rome). They analyse the renewal capacity of the regions after the 2008 crisis by identifying the variables that determine this capacity. One result is that there is a need for coordination between the different levels of government so that regional renewal strategies have the desired success. S. Salotti talked on “Regional economic resilience in the European Union: a CGE analysis”, a work signed together with P. Lecca and F. Di Pietro (all three Joint Research Centre, European Commission). They broaden the focus of the analysis using a general equilibrium computational model to analyse the vulnerability, resistance, robustness and recoverability of European regions in terms of GDP and employment in the face of three types of shock. Finally, V. Ríos Ezcurra (Public University of Navarra) presented the paper “Quality of government and regional resilience in the European Union. Evidence from the Great Recession” co-authored with R. Ezcurra (Public University of Navarra). They analyse an additional aspect in the possible determinants of regional resilience: the quality of government. Their analysis confirms the relevance of this aspect not only on the analysed region but also on the neighbouring ones.



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These works offered a broad view on the subject that should help to identify more clearly the determinants of regional resilience and allow, therefore, to discuss what would be the necessary reforms to improve the capacity of the regions to deal with disturbances negative in the near future.

## Programme

**04/10/2018**

15:30-15:45

### **Welcome**

R. Ramos (Vicedegà de recerca i doctorat, Facultat d'Economia i Empresa, Universitat de Barcelona)

Chair: V. Royuela (AQR-IREA, Universitat de Barcelona)

15:45-16:45

### **Key note speech**

A. Faggian (Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila)

*Regional resilience and the peripheries: some reflections*

16:45-17:00

### **Coffee break**

17:00-20:30

### **Session I: Economic Resilience to Natural Disasters**

Chair D. Castells-Quintana (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona & AQR-IREA)

R. Scuderi (Kore University of Enna), G. Tesoriere (Kore University of Enna),  
V. Fasone (Kore University of Enna)

[\*Adaptation of micro firms to floods: evidence from Ugandan cities\*](#)

P. Samuels (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), A. Yair Grinberger (Heidelberg University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem),

[\*Labor Mobility, Trade and Urban Resilience to Natural Disasters\*](#)

**05/10/2018**

9:30-10:30

### **Key note speech**

P. Benczúr (Joint Research Centre, European Commission)

*JRC work on Resilience – A conceptual framework, a measurement strategy, and its implementation*

10:30-11:00

### **Coffee break**

11:00-13:00

### **Session II: Resilience and Public Policies**

Chair: M. Mayor (Universidad de Oviedo)

N. Pontarollo (Joint Research Centre, European Commission), C. Serpieri (Sapienza Università di Roma)

[\*Regional economic resilience in the European Union: a CGE analysis\*](#)

S. Salotti; P. Lecca; F. Di Pietro (Joint Research Centre, European)

*“Regional economic resilience in the European Union: a CGE analysis”*

V. Rios (Universidad Publica de Navarra), R. Ezcurra (Universidad Publica de Navarra),

[\*Quality of government and regional resilience in the European Union. Evidence from the Great Recession.\*](#)

13:00

### **Closure**



# Newsletter (2018/19)

## Activities - Seminars (2017-2018)

[Heuristic perceptions of the income tax: evidence and implications for debiasing](#)

A. Rees-Jones (University of Pennsylvania)  
4/10/2017

[The German Labor Market: 2000-2017: New disparities in the face of institutional and technological change](#)

W. Eichhorst (IZA)  
20/10/2017

[Experimental evidence on the long-term impacts of youth training program](#)

J. Kluge (Humboldt University Berlin)  
17/11/2017

[Puentes entre la probabilidad de ruina y las medidas de riesgo en finanzas](#)

J. Garrido (Universidad Concordia Canada y UC3M)  
1/12/2017

[Higher Education Supply, Local Competition and Economic Performance: Evidence from Italy](#)

S. Moriconi (IESEG)  
01/12/2017

[The medieval frontier origins of a country's economic geography: the case of Spain](#)

D. Oto Peralias (University of St. Andrews)  
5/12/2017

[Housing bubbles, offshore assets and wealth inequality in Spain, 1984-2014](#)

C. Martinez-Toledano (Paris School of Economics)  
12/12/2017

[Some Analytical Solutions for the Problem of Aggregation of Dependent Risks](#)

J. M. Sarabia (Universidad de Cantabria)  
11/12/17

[Exporting and productivity as part of the growth process: Results from a Structural VAR](#)

A. Moneta (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies)  
13/02/2018

[Credit Supply Shocks, Network Effects, and the Real Economy](#)

E. Morales-Benito (Banco de España)  
23-02-2018

[Firm growth and firm age: a survey](#)

A. Coad (Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru)  
1/03/2018

[Intertemporal Labor Supply Substitution? Evidence from the Swiss Income Tax Holidays](#)

I. Martinez (University of St Gallen)  
10/04/2018



# Newsletter (2018/19)

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[Innovation Policies in the Digital Age](#)

C. Paunov (OCDE)

20/04/2018

[How Many Want to Drive the Bus? Analyzing the Number of Bids for Public Transport Bus Contracts](#)

A. Vigren (Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI))

22/05/2018

[The Impact of Dual Vocational Education on the Labor Market Insertion of Youth: Evidence from Madrid](#)

A. Cabrales (UCL)

29/11/2018





## XREAP - Joint Publications Working Papers (2017/6)

XREAP2017-10

*How Costly Are Labor Gender Gaps? Estimates by Age Group for the Balkans and Turkey*

Cuberes, D., Teignier, M. (CREB, XREAP)

<http://www.xreap.cat/RePEc/xrp/pdf/XREAP2017-10.pdf>

**Resume:** In this paper, survey data are used to document the presence of gender gaps in self-employment, employership, and labour force participation in seven Balkan countries and Turkey. The paper examines the quantitative effects of the gender gaps on aggregate productivity and income per capita in these countries. In the model used to carry out this calculation, agents choose between being workers, self-employed, or employers, and women face several restrictions in the labour market. The data display very large gaps in labour force participation and in the percentage of employers and self-employed in the labour force. In almost all cases, these gaps reveal a clear underrepresentation of women. The calculations show that, on average, the loss associated with these gaps is about 17 percent of income per capita. One-third of this loss is due to distortions in the choice of occupations between men and women. The remaining two-thirds corresponds to the costs associated with gaps in labour force participation. The dimensions of these gender gaps and their associated costs vary considerably across ages groups, with the age bracket 36–50 years being responsible for most of the losses.

**Key words:** gender inequality, entrepreneurship talent, factor allocation, aggregate productivity, span of control, Balkans, Turkey

XREAP2017-11

*Efficiency in the transformation of schooling into competences: A cross-country analysis using PIAAC data*

Huertas, I. P.; Raymond, J. L. (GEAP, XREAP); Calero, J. (IEB, XREAP)

<http://www.xreap.cat/RePEc/xrp/pdf/XREAP2017-11.pdf>

**Resume:** This study (i) compares the competence levels of the adult population in a set of OECD countries; (ii) assesses the comparative efficiency with which the education system in each country transforms schooling into competences, distinguishing by educational level, and (iii) tracks the evolution of this efficiency by birth cohorts. Using PIAAC data, the paper applies standard parametric frontier techniques under two alternative specifications. The results obtained under both specifications are similar and identify Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Japan as being the most efficient and Spain, the United Kingdom, Italy, Ireland and Poland as the least efficient. The evolution of the efficiency levels by age cohorts shows that higher education is more efficient for younger cohorts, while lower and upper secondary education present a stable trend over cohorts.

**Key words:** adult population competences; efficiency; PIAAC; parametric frontier techniques.



## XREAP - Joint Publications Working Papers (2017/7)

XREAP2017-12

*Immigration and the Reallocation of Work Health Risks*

Giuntella, O., Mazzonnay, F., Nicodemo, C. (GEAP, XREAP), Vargas Silva, C.

<http://www.xreap.cat/RePEc/xrp/pdf/XREAP2017-12.pdf>

**Resume:** This paper studies the effects of immigration on the allocation of occupational physical burden and work injury risks. Using data for England and Wales from the Labour Force Survey (2003-2013), we find that, on average, immigration leads to a reallocation of UK-born workers towards jobs characterized by lower physical burden and injury risk. The results also show important differences across skill groups. Immigration reduces the average physical burden of UK-born workers with medium levels of education, but has no significant effect on those with low levels. These findings, together with the evidence that immigrants report lower injury rates than natives, suggest that the reallocation of tasks could reduce overall health care costs and the human and financial costs typically associated with workplace injuries.

**Key words:** Immigration, labour-market, physical burden, work-related injuries, health

XREAP2017-13

*The Effects of Immigration on NHS Waiting Times*

Giuntella, O., Mazzonnay, F., Nicodemo, C. (GEAP, XREAP), Vargas Silva, C.

<http://www.xreap.cat/RePEc/xrp/pdf/XREAP2017-13.pdf>

**Resume:** This paper analyzes the effects of immigration on waiting times for the National Health Service (NHS) in England. Linking administrative records from Hospital Episode Statistics (2003-2012) with immigration data drawn from the UK Labour Force Survey, we find that immigration reduced waiting times for outpatient referrals and did not have significant effects on waiting times in accident and emergency departments (A&E) and elective care. The reduction in outpatient waiting times can be explained by the fact that immigration increases natives' internal mobility and that immigrants tend to be healthier than natives who move to different areas. Conversely, we observe higher outpatient waiting times in places to which native internal migrants have moved. Finally, we find evidence that immigration increased waiting times for outpatient referrals in more deprived areas outside of London. The increase in average waiting times in more deprived areas is concentrated in the years immediately following the 2004 EU enlargement and disappears in the medium term (e.g., 3 to 4 years).

**Key words:** Immigration, waiting times, NHS, access to health care, welfare



## XREAP - Joint Publications Working Papers (2017/8 – 2018/1)

XREAP2017-15

*Eco-strategies and firm growth in European SMEs*

Jové-Llopis, E. (GRIT, XREAP); Segarra-Blasco, A. (GRIT, XREAP)

<http://www.xreap.cat/RePEc/xrp/pdf/XREAP2017-15.pdf>

**Resume:** This study investigates the effects of eco-strategies on firm performance in terms of sales growth in an extensive sample of 11,336 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) located in 28 European countries. Our empirical results suggest that not all eco-strategies are positively related to better performance, at least not in the short term. We find that European companies using renewable energies, recycling or designing products that are easier to maintain, repair or reuse perform better. Those that aim to reduce water or energy pollution, however, seem to show a negative correlation to firm growth. Our results, also, indicate that high investment in eco-strategies improves firm growth, particularly in new members that joined the EU from 2004 onwards. Finally, we observe a U-shaped relationship between eco-strategies and firm growth, which indicates that a greater breadth of eco-strategies is associated with better firm performance. However, few European SMEs are able to either invest heavily or undertake multiple eco-strategies, thus leaving room for policy interventions.

**Key words:** eco-strategy, firm growth, Europe, SMEs

XREAP2018-01

*GENDER DIVERSITY, R&D TEAMS AND PATENTS: AN APPLICATION TO SPANISH FIRMS*

Teruel, M. (GRIT, XREAP); Segarra-Blasco, A. (GRIT, XREAP)

<http://www.xreap.cat/RePEc/xrp/pdf/XREAP2018-01.pdf>

**Resume:** Previous results show that gender diversity increases the probability that firms invest in R&D and engage in innovation. This paper explores the relationship between gender diversity of R&D departments and their capacity to patent. Based on the Spanish Community Innovation Survey between 2004 and 2014, we apply a two-step procedure in order to control for endogeneity. Although gender diversity affects OEPM patents negatively, its impact is non-significant for patents with international coverage (EPO, USPTO, or PCT). A relevant result is the fact that the generation of patents is positively affected by the diversity of categories in the R&D labs. Our results highlight that, gender diversity of R&D teams does not play a relevant impact on the capacity of the firm to register patents. However, the diversity according to the professional role in R&D teams exerts a positive influence. In sum, the key question is not the gender diversity per se but the gender diversity jointly with the professional status.

**Key words:** gender diversity, patent generation



## XREAP - Joint Publications Working Papers (2018/2)

XREAP2018-02

*Detecting Outliers with Semi-Supervised Machine Learning: A Fraud Prediction Application*

Palacio, S. M. (GiM, XREAP)

<http://www.xreap.cat/RePEc/xrp/pdf/XREAP2018-02.pdf>

**Resume:** Abnormal pattern prediction has received a great deal of attention from both academia and industry, with applications that range from fraud, terrorism and intrusion detection to sensor events, medical diagnoses, weather patterns, etc. In practice, most abnormal pattern prediction problems are characterized by the presence of a small number of labeled data and a huge number of unlabeled data. While this points most obviously to the adoption of a semi-supervised approach, most empirical studies have opted for a simplification and treated it as a supervised problem, resulting in a severe bias of false negatives. In this paper, we propose an innovative methodology based on semi-supervised techniques and introduce a new metric the Cluster-Score for abnormal homogeneity measurement. Specifically, the methodology involves transmuting unsupervised models to supervised models using the Cluster-Score metric, which defines the objective boundaries between clusters and evaluates the homogeneity of the abnormalities in the cluster construction. We apply this methodology to a problem of fraud detection among property insurance claims. The objectives are to increase the number of fraudulent claims detected and to reduce the proportion of claims investigated that are, in fact, non-fraudulent. The results from applying our methodology considerably improved these objectives.

**Key words:** Outlier Detection, Semi-Supervised Models, Fraud, Cluster, Insurance

XREAP2018-03

*Machine Learning Forecasts of Public Transport Demand: A comparative analysis of supervised algorithms using smart card data*

Palacio, S. M. (GiM, XREAP)

<http://www.xreap.cat/RePEc/xrp/pdf/XREAP2018-03.pdf>

**Resume:** Public transport smart cards are widely used around the world. However, while they provide information about various aspects of passenger behavior, they have not been properly exploited to predict demand. Indeed, traditional methods in economics employ linear unbiased estimators that pay little attention to accuracy, which is the main problem faced by the sector's regulators. This paper reports the application of various supervised machine learning (SML) techniques to smart card data in order to forecast demand, and it compares these outcomes with traditional linear model estimates. We conclude that the forecasts obtained from these algorithms are much more accurate.



## XREAP - Joint Publications Working Papers (2018/3)

XREAP2018-04

*Tracking economic growth by evolving expectations via genetic programming: A two-step approach*

Claveria, O. (AQR-IREA, XREAP); Monte, E.; Torra, S. (RISKCENTER, XREAP)

<http://www.xreap.cat/RePEc/xrp/pdf/XREAP2018-04.pdf>

**Resume:** The main objective of this study is to present a two-step approach to generate estimates of economic growth based on agents' expectations from tendency surveys. First, we design a genetic programming experiment to derive mathematical functional forms that approximate the target variable by combining survey data on expectations about different economic variables. We use evolutionary algorithms to estimate a symbolic regression that links survey-based expectations to a quantitative variable used as a yardstick (economic growth). In a second step, this set of empirically-generated proxies of economic growth are linearly combined to track the evolution of GDP. To evaluate the forecasting performance of the generated estimates of GDP, we use them to assess the impact of the 2008 financial crisis on the accuracy of agents' expectations about the evolution of the economic activity in 28 countries of the OECD. While in most economies we find an improvement in the capacity of agents' to anticipate the evolution of GDP after the crisis, predictive accuracy worsens in relation to the period prior to the crisis. The most accurate GDP forecasts are obtained for Sweden, Austria and Finland.

XREAP2018-05

*Alternative methods of estimating the longevity risk*

Bolance, C. (RISKCENTER-IREA, XREAP); Guillén, M. (RISKCENTER-IREA, XREAP);

Ornelas, A. (RISKCENTER-IREA, XREAP)

<http://www.xreap.cat/RePEc/xrp/pdf/XREAP2018-05.pdf>

**Resume:** The aim of this paper is to estimate the longevity risk and its trend according to the age of the individual. We focus on individuals over 65. We use the value-at-risk to measure the longevity risk. We have proposed the use of an alternative methodology based on the estimation of the truncated cumulative distribution function and the quantiles. We apply a robust estimation method for fitting parametric distributions. Finally, we compare parametric and nonparametric estimations of longevity risk

**Key words:** longevity, value-at-risk, nonparametric inference



## XREAP - Joint Publications Working Papers (2018/4)

XREAP2018-06

*Detecting Outliers with Semi-Supervised Machine Learning: A Fraud Prediction Application*

Colantone, I.; Matano, A. (AQR-IREA, XREAP); Naticchioni, P.

<http://www.xreap.cat/RePEc/xrp/pdf/XREAP2018-06.pdf>

**Resume:** We provide a comprehensive assessment of the effects of new imported inputs on wage dynamics, on the skill-composition of the labor force, on worker mobility, and on the efficiency of matching between firms and workers. We employ matched employer-employee data for Italy, over 1995-2007. We complement these data with information on the arrival of new imported inputs at the industry level. We find new imported inputs to have a positive effect on average wage growth at the firm level. This effect is driven by two factors: (1) an increase in the white-collar/blue-collar ratio; and (2) an increase in the average wage growth of blue-collar workers, while the wage growth of white collars is not significantly affected. The individual-level analysis reveals that the increase in the average wage of blue collars is driven by the displacement of the lowest paid workers, while continuously employed individuals are not affected. We estimate the unobserved skills of workers following Abowd et al. (1999). We find evidence that new imported inputs lead to a positive selection of higher-skilled workers, and to an improvement in positive assortative matching between firms and workers.

XREAP2018-07

*Economic Crisis and Social Trust: Reviewing the effects of economic hardship on interpersonal and institutional confidence*

Torrente, D.; Caïs, J.; Bolancé, C. (RISKCENTER, XREAP).

<http://www.xreap.cat/RePEc/xrp/pdf/XREAP2018-07.pdf>

**Resume:** The economic crisis of 2008 led to a significant erosion of trust in those countries that were hit hardest. However, whether this fall in trust can best be explained by external economic factors or by the lack of response on the part of the institutions to civic needs and demands is unclear. This study seeks to address this question by examining the specific case of Spain. Its aim is to analyse in comparison with other factors, the effect of increasing socioeconomic precariousness upon levels of interpersonal and institutional trust. The study examines the respective impact of these factors upon different social groups according to their degree of exposure to the effects of the crisis. Our results show that the deterioration suffered by household economies has important consequences in terms of interpersonal trust. Those most severely affected by the recession lose a great deal of trust in others. We also find that a deterioration in socioeconomic conditions has different effects in relation to institutional trust. The perception of the overall state of the economy is important for all types of institutional trust. Without calling into question the importance of institutional performance on levels of institutional trust, our research sheds new light on the importance of different economic factors for social cohesion.

**Key words:** Institutional trust, interpersonal trust, inequality, poverty, social capital, Spain



## XREAP - Joint Publications Working Papers (2018/5)

XREAP2018-08

*Long-Lasting Social Capital and its Impact on Economic Development: The Legacy of the Commons*

Montolio, D. (IEB, XREAP); Tur-Prats, A.

<http://www.xreap.cat/RePEc/xrp/pdf/XREAP2018-08.pdf>

**Resume:** This paper analyzes the historical determinants and long-term persistence of social capital, as well as its effect on economic development, by looking at the legacy of the commons in a Spanish region. In medieval times, common goods were granted to townships and were managed collectively by local citizens. This enabled the establishment of institutions for collective action and self-government. Common goods persisted until the second half of the nineteenth century. We argue that the experience of cooperation among villagers, repeated over the centuries, increased the social capital in each local community. In 1845, a law forced small villages to merge with others, a fact which generated exogenous variation in the number of mergers (i.e., cooperative networks) that each modern municipality was required to have. We exploit this change in an IV and RD setting and find that current municipalities formed by a greater number of old townships have a denser network of associations. We also find that higher social capital is associated with more economic development.

**Key words:** collective action, self-government, long-term persistence, common goods.

XREAP2018-09

*Relocation of the Rich: Migration in Response to Top Tax Rate Changes from Spanish Reforms*

Agrawal, D.R., Foremny, D. (IEB, XREAP)

<http://www.xreap.cat/RePEc/xrp/pdf/XREAP2018-09.pdf>

**Resume:** Recent Spanish tax reform granted regions the authority to set income tax rates, resulting in substantial tax differentials. We use individual-level information from Social Security records over a period of one decade. Conditional on moving, taxes have a significant effect on location choice. A one percent increase in the net of tax rate for a region relative to others increases the probability of moving to that region by 1.7 percentage points. Focusing on the stock of top-taxpayers, we estimate an elasticity of the number of top taxpayers with respect to net-of-tax rates of 0.85. Using this elasticity, a theoretical model implies that the mechanical increase in tax revenue due to higher tax rates is larger than the loss in tax revenue from the outflow of migration.

**Key words:** Migration, Taxes, Mobility, Rich, Fiscal Decentralization



# Newsletter (2018/19)

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[\[http://ideas.repec.org/s/xrp/wpaper.html\]](http://ideas.repec.org/s/xrp/wpaper.html)





# Newsletter (2018/19)

## XREAP - News (2019/1)

### News from XREAP

#### Projects

#### Participation in a Erasmus+ project

##### ApprEnt: Refining Higher Education Apprenticeships with Enterprises in Europe

Since May 2018, XREAP via Foundation Bosch i Gimpera participates in the Erasmus+ project ApprEnt - Refining Higher Education Apprenticeships with Enterprises in Europe [<https://apprent.eucen.eu/>]. The project intends to bridge the gap between the worlds of education and business, enhancing partnerships that involve companies, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as VET providers, and other relevant stakeholders such as public bodies, representatives of learners and VET providers. The ultimate aim is promoting work-based learning, especially higher dual studies.

The project is based on the cooperation between universities and entrepreneur associations and chambers of commerce. It is coordinated by eucen (European university continuing education network). The project consortium is formed by Université de Bretagne Occidentale (FR), Danube University of Krems (AT); Tallinn University (EE); University of Aveiro (PT), University of Turku (FI); University of Catania (IT); Universidad Complutense de Madrid (ES), Chambre Commerce Industrie Brest (FR); SENAT der Wirtschaft Österreich (AT); Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (EE); Associação Industrial de Aveiro (PT); Federation of Finnish Enterprises, Southwest region (FI); Asociación de empresarios del Henares (ES); Fundació Bosch i Gimpera (ES)

Expected Results are

- Generic prototype of training model
- Template model agreement
- Advocacy pack including lines of action addressed to 4 different target groups: HEIs, enterprises, public authorities, learners
- Policy paper with recommendations

It started in 2017 and will end October 2019



## XREAP - News (2019/2)

### Presentation of project proposals

#### FEDER

#### Economics for a Sustainable Society Network (ESSNET)

For the call for the cofounding of R+D+I networks for the valorisation and transfer of research results of the Catalan Agency for Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR), XREAP has presented jointly with XREEP a proposal for a network of applied economics.

The Economics for a Sustainable Society Network (ESSNET) brings together for the first time the principal 20 groups of research at economics applied of Catalonia, recognised for their quality, with a high potential of transfer of knowledge to society. ESSNET is the result of the merging of the networks XREAP and XREPP. ESSNET will promote no technological innovations to affront the big challenges of our society from the perspective economic science.

The expertise of the members of ESSNET and the activities developed at the previous period permits to advance interaction with the different public and private entities aimed to foster the innovative capacity and the entrepreneurship in the society.

The objective of the ESSNET is to contribute at improving the Catalan innovation environment through the intensification of the ties among groups integrated in the network and at the society (public administration, companies, NGOs, etc.) and of the economic knowledge transfer fostering the social and technological innovations for a sustainable and intelligent economy.

The knowledge transfer is an interactive process among a variety of actors, which ESSNET is conceiving not only as a transfer of economic research results, but as a dialogue with the other actors inserted in the research processes from their beginning on. already at the onset of the research processes in the sense of knowledge co-creation.

The central point of our proposal is the “public engagement” for the improvement of the competitiveness of the economic sectors, which have priority for the Catalan economy, and for the improvement of the no technological innovation environment (public policies). The purpose is to increase the capacity to generate added value, its impact in the society and economy. Therefore, the project proposes the following aims:

1. Increase the cooperation with the actors of the quadruple helix to generate new opportunities of human, social and cultural capital development and give response to the big societal challenges.
2. Create and reinforce spaces of the co-creation of economic knowledge with the actors of the Catalan society.
3. Give a new impulse to the valorisation of economic research in cooperation with the actors of the quadruple helix and its transfer to society and economy.
4. Reinforce the cooperation with other regions at the area of economic research and social innovation
5. Insert the transfer the other basic principles of the RRI (gender, ethic, science with the society, open access) in the structure and processes of economic research and innovation



# Newsletter (2018/19)

## XREAP - News (2019/3)

### Erasmus+ projects

#### Dual Studies in Higher Education: Tutoring and Mentoring

XREAP has participated in the elaboration of a proposal for a Knowledge Alliance project in the 2019 call of the Erasmus+ programme. The proposal, with a budget of 912.791€, has been presented by a partnership of 14 organisations of four EU-countries: Belgium France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom (Scotland). In France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom a partnership of universities, enterprises and entrepreneur association or trade unions has been set up. A 15<sup>th</sup> partner is the European University Continuing Education Network eucen, with its headquarter in Belgium

The proposal starts from the observation that the trend towards practical learning in Higher education institutions (HEIs) has increased demand for Work-based learning, often in the form of Higher Education Apprenticeships (HEAs). HEAs offer enterprises the opportunity to attract, retain and provide relevant skills for highly valued human capital. For individuals, enhanced skills, improves remuneration and enhances labour market opportunities. Among HEIs, there are very different levels of experience of HEAs so that while some HEIs have considerable experience, others have little or none. The project is designed to draw upon the experience of the former to assist the latter, as well as enterprises and other stakeholders. The project addresses three main questions:

- Identify appropriate pedagogical practices and transfer them to academic tutors more used to traditional, classroom based modes of delivery
- Identify appropriate strategies of mentoring in enterprises and transfer them to mentors aimed to improve supporting learners at workplace.
- Identify appropriate strategies for effective programme design for HEAs.

The purpose is not to identify single courses of action but enable those HEIs newly engaging upon the creation of HEA programmes to draw upon internationally recognised, identifiable best practice for application in their particular context.

The project will promote and improve HEI-Business cooperation in setting of HEA with the aim to co-create

- Models and guideline regard to challenges of HEAs as curriculum design, pedagogical issues, assessment strategies and quality assurance
- Models and guidelines to enhance engagement of HEIs and non-higher education organisations (delivering at Level 4 and above) in HEA
- Learning modules for tutors and mentors in HEI and mentors in enterprises.
- Through the co-design, the project will create permanent online resource to enable these actors to expand high quality Work-based higher education in the participating countries and to transfer experience within and between other countries



## XREAP - News (2019/4)

### Erasmus+ projects

#### Social effectiveness of adult education

XREAP forms part of a partnership, which presented a proposal for project about social effectiveness of adult education. It has been presented to the Spanish Agency SEPIE for the 2019 call KA2 of the Erasmus+ programme.

The proposal, with a budget of 421.457€. has been presented by a partnership of 12 organisations of four EU-countries: Germany, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom (Scotland). In each country a partnership of universities and entrepreneur association or trade unions has been set up. A 13<sup>th</sup> partner is the European University Continuing Education Network eucen.

The proposal addresses the social effectiveness of adult education in general and especially university adult education, which is still an unknown terrain due to the lack of data. It will develop tools to measure social effectiveness of adult education and test them in a concrete environment – higher education – with the aim to transpose the results to tools to measure social effectiveness of labour market oriented adult education in general.

Following the indication of social participatory approach as High Impact Readiness Level, Responsible Research and Innovation and User innovation, the project will develop the tools in close cooperation of different actors as universities, entrepreneur organisations, trade unions and adult education providers.

The project includes four activity strands:

- a) Mapping the institutional landscape of adult education, which is considered a relevant step for the development and implementation of evaluation tools in complex organisation as universities or complex political fields as adult education. Mapping allows to engage decision makers internal and external to the institution to the project and prepare the terrain for the co-creation of knowledge and solutions (tools).
- b) The development and test of tools to measure the social effectiveness of tertiary adult education programmes based on ex-alumni and enterprise survey. The test will be realised in the higher education environment. The results of the test allow to make steps towards a further development of the tools for labour market adult education in general
- c) The development of tools based on criteria of viability and practicability requires the participation of a wide range of stakeholders. As universities are large and incomplete organisation, the implementation of new tools is a micro-political process, which requires a previous analysis of the political field in the institutions. The project will develop an mapping exercise of the adult education field at the participating universities a a blue print for the implementation of such tools in complex institutional environments
- d) Self-assessment toolkit including a tool to map the field of adult education in the institution and the region, a tool to measure the social effectiveness of labour market adult education, a tool to elaborate social business plans to set-up and improve adult education policies and programmes at the institutions and guideline to use the tools.

Applying the toolkit, will allow the adult education stakeholders to reflect about their adult education strategies to improve in mid and long term their adult education programme. Its application allows to evidence based strategic decision. It is conceived to to monitor the effectiveness of adult learning policies at institutional and geopolitical level and to track its contribution to social inclusion asking how it supports vulnerable people in its labour market transitions.



# Newsletter (2018/19)

## XREAP - News (2019/1)

### News of researchers



#### **Damián Tojeiro-Rivero, member of the AQR Research Group, has been awarded with the "Premi-Innova"**

Damián Tojeiro-Rivero has been awarded with the "Premi-Innova" to the young researcher presenting the best paper on R&D and Innovation in the 6th PhD-Student Workshop on Industrial and Public Economics (WIPE), held in Reus on February the 27th, 2018, awarded by the "Càtedra per al Foment de la innovació Empresarial" of the University Rovira i Virgili. The paper is motivated by the study on the capacity to generate new knowledge at a regional level and how this affects the strategies for acquiring external knowledge by the company in its impact on the generation of a greater number of innovations.

#### **Dr. Antonio Di Paolo wins the Lluís Fina Prize at the 13th Labour Economics Meeting**

Dr. Antonio Di Paolo, researcher of the group AQR, has been awarded with the Lluís Fina prize, during the 13th Labour Economics Meeting, which took place on June 12th-14th 2019, at the University of Huelva in Islantilla, Huelva.

Antonio Di Paolo received the Prize for his article entitled "Bilingual schooling and earnings: Evidence from a language-in-education reform" which he co-authored with Lorenzo Cappellari and was published in the journal "Economics of Education Review" in 2018. Antonio Di Paolo received the award from the president of the AEET Executive Committee, Raul Ramos, and the jury's representative Begoña Cueto (Universidad de Oviedo). The aim of the Lluís Fina Prize is to recognise both theoretical and applied research excellence in the field of labour economics.



#### **Kinga Tchorzewska wins the IND + I Science award in the Green Industry category**

The IEB researcher, Kinga Tchorzewska, has been awarded at the IND + I Science annual meeting that recognizes the research work of Catalan universities that impact on the transfer of knowledge towards public policy. Tchorzewska has been recognized in the category 'Green Industry for Sustainable Growth' for her work 'Are environmental taxes effective to stimulate the adoption of environmental measures and technologies?', led by the IEB researcher, José García-Quevedo.

The prize is sponsored by the Ajuntament of Viladecans in collaboration with the Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona, the Pacte de la Regió Metropolitana, the Ola Metropolitana de Barcelona, the UPC and the UB



# Newsletter (2018/19)



## **Marta Gómez-Puig is the new member-elect of the Technical Advisory Committee of the IBEX-35, which is the main Spanish Stock Index indicator.**

Prof. Gómez-Puig was selected in June 2019 due to her vast experience in research of financial markets and her high quality publications. The Technical Advisory Committee is responsible for the Indexes and consists of a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 9 members. In the event that their number is even, the President will have a deciding vote.



## **Lluís Bermúdez and Dimitris Karlis were awarded the XII Insurance Award “Ferran Armengol i Tubau” June 2019.**

Bermúdez and Karlis were awarded for their contribution to the development of pricing models that consider dependence between components. The President of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, the President of the Catalan Economic Society and the CEO of Mutua de Propietarios hosted the ceremony at the Casa de Convalescència in Barcelona. The insurance award is given every three years by the Catalan Economic Society in the memory of Ferran Armengol i Tubau..



## **Montserrat Guillen received the ICREA Academia award for the second time.**

This award is granted by the Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies in recognition of the research work by professors in Catalan public universities and, at the same time, the award contributes to retaining the research talent within the university system of Catalonia. The award was given to 45 researchers, who were recognized during a ceremony held on 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2019 at the Palau de la Generalitat de Catalunya



## **The Consulate of Japan in Barcelona recognizes the research track record of IEB researcher, Àngels Pelegrín**

The researcher, specializing in economics and Asian culture, Àngels Pelegrín, has been one of the three researchers bestowed with the Merit Award of the General Consul of Japan in Barcelona, which recognizes the most valuable academic contributions related to Japan and that facilitate relations and knowledge-sharing between Japan and Spain. Pelegrín received the award from the Consul General Naohito Watanabe, who highlighted the work of the academic as promoter of the Master in Business and Culture of East Asia and her role as a specialist trainer and promoter of the university exchange with Japan.



# Newsletter (2018/19)

## XREAP - News (2019/2)

### New Books



**Krüger, K.; Parellada, M.; Daniel Samoïlovich; Andrée Sursock (Eds.),**  
*Governance Reforms in European University Systems: The Case of Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, the Netherlands and Portugal*

Springer. Educational Governance Research book series (EGTU, volume 8). Cham; 2018.

This book examines governance reforms in higher education in six European countries: Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, the Netherlands, and Portugal. It focuses on the governance of the systems and institutions in these countries. The book shows that each of the national reform processes has been characterised by its own specific pathways embedded in the country's specific socio-economic contexts and cultures, but also has a number of features in common with the other countries and processes. The first chapter of the book presents a conceptual framework to analyse the reform processes as an 'implementation game' played by several actors with diverse interests. The second chapter describes the national reform processes of the six selected countries, giving a voice to the individual university rectors and officials who played an important role during the reform processes. Their stories constitute a vivid narrative of the government drivers of reform and of the rationales of the institutions as main partners in the reform processes. These narratives are analysed, complemented by, and contrasted with a review of the literature on the subject in the third chapter. The final chapter consist of concluding remarks and lessons learned



**Llorente, F.; Llorente, M.**

*Retos y estrategias de los fabricantes de automóviles.*  
Ediciones Llibreria Universitària. 2018)

Different strategies applied by car manufacturers are analysed, as well as the main challenges and trends that are conditioning them. Strategies include globalizing, cost reduction, designing and developing new products in less time, collaborating with external agents, being present in new segments and niches, increasing electronics in the car, offering more efficient, alternative and autonomous vehicles, develop and participate in new business models and the relevance of the internet in the marketing strategies.

**Cabasés, M. À. (coord.)**

*Valoració de l'aplicació del Sistema de Garantia Juvenil a Catalunya.*  
Edicions Universitat de Lleida. 2018

¿To what extent the System of Youth Guarantee, at his ongoing design, will be able to achieve his aims and contribute at improving the opportunities of the young persons to attain a professional future and can develop a worthy living project?

This survey pretends to give answer to this question analysing like the mechanism of Juvenile Guarantee became a guarantor of the improvement of opportunities of the youth in Catalonia



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## XREAP - Research groups



### Grup d'Anàlisi Econòmica Aplicada (GEAP)



### Grup d'Anàlisi Quantitativa Regional (AQR-IREA)

<http://www.ub.edu/aqr/>



### Centre de Recerca en Economia del Benestar (CREB)

<http://www.eco.ub.es/~creb>



### Grup de Recerca d'Indústria i Territori (GRIT)

<http://gandalf.fcee.urv.es/departaments/economia/web/english/recerca/grups/grit/>



### Institut d'Economia de Barcelona (IEB)

<http://www.ieb.ub.edu>



### Grup de Recerca Govern i Mercats (GIM-IREA)

<http://www.ub.edu/gim>



### Grup de Recerca en Finances i Assegurances (RFA-IREA)

<http://www.ub.es/dpees/risk>



### *Managment Organization*

### Fundació Bosch i Gimpera

<http://www.fbg.ub.es>



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