Research Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies

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IRVAPP Annual Activity Report 2009

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1. Introduction

The Research Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies was established in April 2008 by the Fondazione Bruno Kessler in Trento (Italy). IRVAPP aims at carrying out policy evaluation research to measure the effects of local, national and international policy interventions. The scientific mission includes the evaluation of public policies as well as the dissemination of findings from this research, the promotion of a culture of impact evaluation and the training of policy evaluators. The methodological paradigm underlying IRVAPP's empirical work is the counterfactual model of causality. That is, the effects of public policies are measured as a difference between the expected policy outcomes and what would have occurred in the absence of the intervention. Although some progress has been made in recent years, in Italy the lack of a culture of impact evaluation and the difficulty in accessing both administrative and survey data remain major problems in policy evaluation. Therefore, promoting a culture of impact evaluation through training activities, research dissemination, and the establishment of a policy-relevant data archive are key activities for the Institute.

During the year 2009 the number of IRVAPP research projects has considerably grown compared to the previous year, so has the number of researchers involved in the projects. In particular, IRVAPP has started eleven new research projects. Four of them are impact evaluations of local policies implemented by the *autonomous Province of Trento*. One of them is the impact evaluation of an important agriculture development project in Nigeria. The remaining seven projects are impact evaluations of national policies/programmes whose effects shape people's life conditions both at the national and local level; mostly evaluations of the effects of education policies, labour market programmes and industrial policies that will be detailed in the upcoming sections.

In 2009 the most prominent partnership for IRVAPP has been with the Development IMpact Evaluation (DIME) Initiative group of the *World Bank*. A research contract was signed with the World Bank group to collaborate on the evaluation of the Commercial Agriculture Development Project (CADP) implemented in Nigeria. Another prominent collaboration started in 2009 with the *Italian Ministry of Education*, *Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli* and *Fondazione per la Scuola – Compagnia di S. Paolo*, to evaluate the impact of the introduction of new learning technologies (Interactive Whiteboards) in the lower secondary school.

In May 2010, IRVAPP agreed to evaluate an additional local policy set up by the Trento Province. The measure is an intervention in favour of small and medium local firms. Further details will be discussed during the next meetings with the Province civil servants.

This Annual Report summarises IRVAPP's activities (research, training, seminars /conferences/workshops) during the second year of set-up. The period covered by the report is May 2009 - May 2010.

2. Staff

In 2009 the IRVAPP research staff is composed of an interdisciplinary team of 14 researchers in Sociology, Economics, and Statistics, and 1 administrative secretary.

Antonio Schizzerotto (professor of Sociology, University of Trento) is Director of IRVAPP. *Ilaria Covizzi*, senior research fellow in Sociology is Deputy Director of the Institute. *Ugo Trivellato* (professor of Economic Statistics, University of Padova), *Enrico Rettore* (professor of Economic Statistics, University of Padua), and *Erich Battistin* (associate professor of Economic Statistics, University of Padua) are senior research fellows. Given the increasing amount of research projects the Institute has been involved in, IRVAPP has hired six new resident research fellows: three sociologists (*Rossella Bozzon, Alvaro Martinez Perez, Loris Vergolini*), one statistician (*Nadir Zanini*), and two economists (*Marco Cosconati* and *Francesca Zantomio*). *Anna Stenghel* is IRVAPP's administrative secretary.

Senior research associates of IRVAPP are *Carlo Barone* (assistant professor in Sociology, University of Trento), *Roberto Leombruni* (assistant professor in Economics, University of Turin), *Adriano Paggiaro* (assistant professor in Economic Statistics, University of Padua) and *Alessandro Sembenelli* (Professor of Econometrics, University of Turin).

3. Scientific Advisory Board & Associated Institutions

IRVAPP relies on advice and recommendations from seven members of a Scientific Advisory Board. The Board is chaired by *Paolo Sestito* (Director, Research Unit, Bank of Italy, Rome) and composed of:

Rodolfo Bogni	Senior Independent Director of Old Mutual plc, Chairman of Medinvest Intl, Director of Kedge Capital, Alinghi Holdings, Prospect Publishing and a trustee of the Fondazione Bruno Kessler
Marco Caliendo	Director of Research, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Bonn, Germany
Peter Fredriksson	Director, Institute for Labor Market Policy Evaluation (IFAU), Uppsala, Sweden
Alberto Martini	Professor of Economic Statistics, University of Piemonte Orientale and Director, PROgetto VAutazione, Turin, Italy
Chiara Saraceno	Research Professor, WZB, Social Science Research Center, Berlin, Germany
Chris Whelan	Professor and Head of Sociology, School of Sociology , University College Dublin, Ireland

Associated Institutions

In 2009 IRVAPP has also strengthened its research and institutional networks by formally admitting three new associated members: the *Consiglio Italiano per le Scienze Sociali* (CSS, Rome), *Fondazione Istituto Carlo Cattaneo* (Bologna) and the *Economics Department "S. Cognetti De Martiis"* (University of Turin). The *Fondazione Bruno Kessler* (Trento) and the *Istituto Regionale di Studi di Ricerca Sociale* (IRSRS, Trento) have been associated members since 2008.

4. Research

In 2009 IRVAPP has completed the following research projects:

1) "The Treu Reform and contract mobility. A comparison between cohorts of first entrance into the labour market".

2) "The Effects of Temporary Job Experiences On Short-term Labour Market Outcomes in Italy".

3) "The Effects of Remedial Exams on Student Achievement in the Higher Secondary School system in Italy".

The relative working papers are available on IRVAPP website at the address below:

http://irvapp.fbk.eu/sites/irvapp.fbk.eu/files/IRVAPP_PR2009-02_ENG.pdf
http://irvapp.fbk.eu/sites/irvapp.fbk.eu/files/IRVAPP_PR2009-03.pdf
http://irvapp.fbk.eu/sites/irvapp.fbk.eu/files/IRVAPP_PR2010-01.pdf

Both studies on labour market (1 and 2) have been presented at the IRVAPP Conference "Fixed-term contracts: traps or starting points? Impact evaluation of the Treu Reform and other legislation on temporary jobs" (see section 6.2). The two evaluations studies have been also presented at the XXIV National Conference on Labour Economics organised by AIEL on 24-25 September 2009 in Sassari, and at other conferences (see section 6).
http://irvapp.fbk.eu/sites/irvapp.fbk.eu/files/Programme_AIEL.pdf

Findings stemming from the research project on the effects of remedial exams have been disseminated both through seminars and an IRVAPP working paper. Particularly, results have been discussed during a seminar held in Trento at the presence of the two neuropsychologists *Alfonzo Caramazza* (Harvard University & Trento University) and *Roberto Cubelli* (Trento University). The study has been also presented at the Sociology Chair Seminars at the University of Bamberg, Germany. The main results of this research project will be discussed in a national conference jointly organised by IRVAPP, CSS and the Consiglio Nazionale per l'Economia e il Lavoro (CNEL), to be held in Rome on 8th June 2010. Dissemination of results through the usual channels (seminars at international conferences / workshops / universities) is expected in the next months.

4.1 Evaluating the impact of a Guaranteed Income programme in the Province of Trento

The Guaranteed Income programme (*Reddito di Garanzia*) was introduced in October 2009 in the Province of Trento with the aim of tackling poverty by providing a guaranteed amount to household whose income falls below the poverty line (equivalent to 6,500 euros per year for a single person household), as well as 'activation' measures for people able to work.. The programme represents a major innovation in the context of the national welfare system, which lacks a non-categorical 'safety net' programme.

The purpose of the research project is to produce a timely ex-post evaluation of the Guaranteed Income programme, mostly with respect to:

a) the programme target effectiveness, and therefore its effectiveness in reducing poverty;
b) the impact on labour supply, both in terms of labour market participation and of hours worked;
c) the impact on household consumption of particular good and services: e.g. health care, education, and expenditure for children items.

The evaluation will be based on data from an *ad hoc* longitudinal survey of low-income households in the Province of Trento. The survey covers the subject areas of household composition, housing, durables, consumption and financial wellbeing, children, care of elderly and disabled components; while at the individual level it covers the areas of education and training, health and disability, social inclusion, intra-household income allocation, work, income and assets.

The fieldwork for the first wave of data collection was carried out by the local Statistical Office. The sampling frame was the universe of households with fiscal income below 15,000 euros in 2006, living in 21 representative municipalities of the Province. From this universe, a random sample of 3,982 households was drawn (the 'wave 1 target sample'). During 2009 IRVAPP researchers designed the questionnaire, performed some pilot interviews and cooperated with the local Statistical Office in providing adequate training to the interviewers. Particularly detailed instructions on the income and assets section were provided in order to ensure accuracy in collecting the information required for entitlements simulations. The fieldwork took place between October 2009 and January 2010, shortly after the programme came into force (the first possible date of administrative payment occurred on the 27th November 2009). While data collection before October 2009 turned out not to be feasible, linkage of survey data with administrative data will allow to observe whether each interview took place before or after the date of claim for households who claimed the benefit. Before the interview, sampled households received an advance letter, where the survey was referred to as "Labour and Consumption of Trentino Household Survey". To gauge the role of information barriers in deterring eligible households from claiming, a random subsample of lower income households

(fiscal equivalised income in 2006 below 7,000 euros) received a slightly different letter, mentioning several initiatives recently undertaken by the Province to support household incomes and, among these, the Guaranteed Income was explicitly mentioned.

Interviews were successfully completed for 1,897 households only. Such a low response rate does not come as unexpected, given the 'borderline nature' of the target sample. However, the achieved sample size appeared insufficient to our evaluation purposes. In particular, only about 90 households in the survey appeared to have claimed the benefit.

In February 2010 it became clear that the sample size of the recipients subgroup was too low, by considering both the actual number of recipients of the Guaranteed Income and the sample size needed for any sensible impact evaluation analysis to be attempted. Therefore, IRVAPP commissioned a leading survey-based research company (DOXA) to carry out the same survey on an additional sample of 1,200 households, to be sampled among those known to be in receipt of the Guaranteed Income from administrative records. These were randomly selected from the universe of recipients households living in the same 21 municipalities as the 'wave 1 target sample' and not yet interviewed as part of that sample. The questionnaire for the 'add-on' survey covers the same subject areas as the previous wave 1 questionnaire, and includes retrospective questions so that the same time period as the one relevant to the previous fieldwork is covered. The fieldwork started on 24th of May 2010.

During the forthcoming months, we expect to be working on the analysis of 'ServStat Survey – Wave1' data (data cleaning; linkage with updated administrative data on claims received and renewals; preliminary take-up estimates); the analysis of 'DOXA Survey' data; secondary analysis of administrative data on claims with monthly updates; exploring the possibility of administering to renewal claimants a short questionnaire on their perception of the programme; the questionnaire design of wave 2 (with fieldwork due to start in January 2011).

4.2 Merit-based financial aid to students from low-income families and its effects on university enrollment

In Autumn 2009 the local government of the autonomous Province of Trento started to play a leading role in encouraging students from low income families to obtain higher education. A recent local government's disposition has assigned merit-based financial incentives to students from low income families. The monetary aid is awarded based on both the demonstrated need and merit of students. Specifically, the scholarship is paid to those who have successfully completed the last year of secondary school (*diploma di maturità*) obtaining a final score which fall above 93/100 and whose family income is below a predetermined income threshold (about €15,000 of equivalised disposable

income). In addition, students are expected to have been residing in the Trento Province for at least 3 years. The amount of the scholarship varies depending on family income and geographic location of the chosen university. Students enrolling in universities located within the Trento province are entitled to a financial aid ranging from € 1.200 to € 4.800 per year; while students enrolling in universities outside the Province and moving there are offered scholarships from € 1.800 up to € 6.000 per year. The monetary aid is renewable upon determining whether or not a student is still eligible to qualify for help from the programme from both an economic (means-tested) and a school achievement point of view.

In general, students from low-income families are at greater risk than other students of not enrolling or completing university. Evidence from the US indicates that student decisions to enroll college respond positively, and non-trivially, to public financial. Furthermore, substantial literature on the impact of tuition levels on enrollment decisions has shown that such decisions are sensitive to the amount of tuition. More generally, several studies have found that there is a direct effect of family income on child's attainment, although there is substantial variation in the strength of the identified effect.

The purpose of this project is to assess whether such financial support does have a direct positive impact on disadvantaged children's chances to successfully attend university. The evaluation design is based on a regression discontinuity design (RDD). The underlying idea is to detect potential discontinuities in the university enrolment rates at different thresholds (family income and graduation mark).

To do this, IRVAPP has carried out an ad-hoc survey in order to collect information (family background characteristics such as parental education, parental occupation, parenting styles and home environment) relevant to the evaluation exercise. The survey was conducted in collaboration with the *Opera Universitaria* (Student Support Office*)*, the Statistics Office of the University of Trento, and the research laboratory (LaboR) of the Department of Sociology and Social Research of the University of Trento. The fieldwork was carried out in November and December 2009. In order to achieve an adequate sample size, we chose to interview the universe of upper secondary graduates (3,168) in the Province of Trento in the school year 2008/2009. We obtained a 70% response rate. After the fieldwork, we have proceeded with the data cleaning and the coding of parents' occupations following ISCO.88 rules.

The project is now in its final stage. The counterfactual analysis will be completed by late June. The analysis will be based on both administrative data and the ad-hoc survey data which offer information on demographics, family background, parenting styles, students' motivations. We plan to produce both reports for local policy makers of the Trento Province and a paper for publication in peer-reviewed journals by early September 2010 and the end of the year, respectively.

4.3 Reconciling work and family: the role of the "Buoni di Servizio" in the Province of Trento

This research project analyses the implementation of the Programme "Buoni di Servizio". This is a new programme of the autonomous Province of Trento which sets up a 'service voucher' scheme (co-founded by the European Social Fund) to help women reconcile paid work and family responsibilities. The cost of child care has been recognised as one of the largest regular expenditures within the household. Therefore, the voucher programme has been introduced to help ease the financial burden and allow mothers to participate to the labour market. More specifically, financial aid is offered in the form of a cash coupon, the amount of which varies between € 900 and € 1500 depending on household income, and is valid for twelve months. The vouchers are subject to a 10% copayment by the recipients.

Based on the research carried out by IRVAPP on local administrative data, the study argues that some of the eligibility rules of the programme as well as some decisions taken at the implementation phase may well be hindering its scope and the potential positive effects in terms of work and family-life reconciliation. Specifically, eligible individuals are not only women with dependant children, precisely those facing larger trade-offs to reconcile the family and work spheres, but parents with dependant children. On the implementation side, even though the original design of the policy targeted individuals who were either 1) employed 2) about to start a job 3) about to return to work after a leave, the duration of which is at least 3 months (e.g. maternity leave, sick leave), or 4) dismissed workers attending training/requalification courses aimed at promoting active job searches, it has turned out that all the actual recipients of the programme, and their spouses – in the case of married individuals – are active in the labour market. This makes it not possible to isolate the likely effects of the programme in activating the labour market careers of, for instance, those unemployed women who wants to return to the labour market after childbirth or measure whether the vouchers help reducing the length of the maternity leave as it was originally planned in the IRVAPP research proposal.

The main goal of the project is, thus, to provide evidence that may allow re-evaluating both the design and the implementation streams of the programme in order to better accomplish its stated goals of work-life balance for women. In this vein, the study proposes a number of policy recommendations especially targeted to introduce changes in the beneficiaries of the policy and the rules of eligibility. In particular, the research report recommends to establish mechanisms that guarantee that women with dependant children are the main beneficiaries of this policy. The current implementation with so many fathers claiming the vouchers limits the leverage of a policy particularly design to facilitate work and family reconciliation. The report also suggests a more comprehensive consideration of the overall difficulties to reconcile work and family responsibilities that women face. For instance, considering, together with the time spent in the labour market, the amount of time spent doing housework and providing care to the family members. In addition, the re-formulation of the programme "Buoni di Servizio" should consider establishing some sort

of affirmative action in favour of single mothers, but also those single fathers that request the vouchers. Single parenthood, either in women or in men headed families, should be especially targeted by the programme "Buoni di Servizio" guaranteeing that when their income is clearly below the average of the partnered claimants, they get larger amount vouchers. Single fatherhood, should, therefore, be the only case in which men could be beneficiaries of the voucher.

As stated, the current implementation of the policy has substantially deviated from its original design. If in the design of the policy it identifies the aforementioned four groups as potential claimants of the vouchers, in reality the programme has only targeted those with an active involvement in the labour market and, for the case of coupled claimants, whose partners are also employed. This implementation decision has left aside those who are either temporally or permanently out of the labour market for different circumstances. This selection issue is further reinforced given that for coupled claimants their partners have to be also working even though the extent of their involvement cannot be ascertain with the data available. This is a key issue which hinders the scope of the programme since for many women with dependant children their labour market decisions are clearly dependant on their family situation. That is, many women who may potentially claim the service do not actually do so just because they are inactive in the labour market given their care responsibilities in the family. Besides of having direct negative consequences for many women and their families, this implementation of the policy, limits the potential benefits of this programme. It is a well-known fact that work-life balance policies of this type can have positive spillover effects in activating the labour market careers of mothers who are out of the labour market during the early years of their children.

4.4 Nigeria commercial agriculture development project

The Commercial Agriculture Development Project (CADP) aims at strengthening agricultural production systems and supporting the dissemination and adoption of new technologies, for targeted value chains among small and medium scale commercial farmers in five participating states in Nigeria. These value chains are based on the comparative advantage of each state and include support for staple crop production systems.

The impact evaluation wants to inform project design and test the efficacy of various project components in achieving project objectives. The purpose is to provide an estimate of the efficacy of matching grants as a tool to promote the adoption of new technologies, and assess the impact of improved access to markets and information. In particular, the evaluation design involves three levels. Level 1 is the e*valuation of the rural infrastructure component.* Based on a listing of potential areas for intervention in rural

roads and energy, locations will be randomly assigned into treatment in two phases. The initial listing will involve the identification of more locations than can be covered by the project. Combined with the randomized phase-in, this assignment strategy will allow us to identify short, medium and longer-term impacts of the infrastructure interventions. Level 2 is the *evaluation of the agriculture and market information component.* This level will be layered on top the former level. The project will implement the capacity building component in all Commodity Interest Groups (CIGs). The evaluation will test the efficacy of (i) technology dissemination and demonstration and (ii) the use of improved seeds for staple value chains. In particular, existing CIGs will be *randomized* to different combinations of these two components as explained in the table below. This will define four equivalent groups of CIGs experiencing treatments of varying intensity, depending on the combination of components being offered.

Treatment	Dissemination and demonstration of technology	Use of Improved Seeds (staple value chains only)	Capacity Building
1. Full treatment	*YES*	*YES*	*YES*
2	*YES*		*YES*
3.		*YES*	*YES*
4. Full control			*YES*

Level 3 is the *evaluation of the matching grant component*. Matching grants will be used in commercial crop value chains to promote the adoption of known and approved technologies, and in staple crop value chains to finance on-farm primary processing facilities, expansion of area under cultivation and animal traction and power tillers. For staple crops, matching grants involve a uniform contribution of 50% of the cost of the proposal. On the other hand, for commercial value chains the proportion of beneficiary contribution varies by the cost of the proposal as explained in the following table.

Cost of Activities (=N=)	Beneficiary Contribution (%)	Matching Grant (%)
Up to 250,000	*50*	*50*
250,001-500,000	*60*	*40*
500,001-1,000,000	*70*	*30*
1,000,001-5,000,000	*80*	*20*

The identification strategy for the matching grant component of the programme will use a regression-discontinuity design idea that builds on features of the selection process for the approval of proposals to create a valid comparison group. This will allow us to assess the cost-effectiveness of incremental levels of matching grants in commercial crop value chains, and to study heterogeneity of causal effects across value chains.

Our evaluation design will retrieve the causal effect of infrastructure provision by virtue of randomization. The 500 km of roads proposed by the five Nigerian states (and the electricity lines) will be constructed in two distinct phases over the next five years, creating three groups of locations – phase 1 (P1), phase 2 (P2) and control (C); feasible locations never chosen by the project). The selection of the subset of roads built in each phase will be randomly chosen, which allows P2 and C to act as valid counterfactuals for the P1 treatments for the first follow-up survey, and C group to provide the counterfactual for P1+P2 treatment during the second follow up survey conducted after the completion of P2 construction. By the second follow-up survey P1 locations will exhibit the "medium run" consequences of infrastructure, and thus this phased-in assignment strategy will allow us to differentiate between short, medium and longer-term impacts of the infrastructure interventions. Capital infusion for farmers through the matching grant component will be available at all locations, and the selection process for the approval of proposals will create a regression-discontinuity design that will allow us to compare farmers who "barely qualify" to receive a grant to farmers who "barely failed". The CIG level interventions will be randomized across CIGs in the first phase, and will be overlaid.

4.5 Evaluating the impact on students achievement of the introduction of ICT in the Italian lower secondary school

This is a project launched by the Italian Ministry of Education on a small scale basis. Its specific purpose is to evaluate the impact of providing lower secondary school students and their teachers with ICT. The impact evaluation is supported by two Italian foundations, *Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli* and *Fondazione per la Scuola della Compagnia di S. Paolo* – with IRVAPP playing as the scientific advisor in charge of designing as well as analysing the data.

Specifically, 155 schools in the country are involved in the project. In each school one class of students freshly enrolled in the first year has been chosen to receive Eu 30,000 to buy ICT which they will use over their three years at the lower secondary school. To evaluate the impact of ICT enhanced teaching on students achievement a comparison group has been selected by school chairmen by including one class - for each of the 155 school involved in the programme - as similar as possible to the class receiving ICT in that school. To check how close the comparison and the treatment groups are, and possibly to

improve their comparability, a benchmark survey has been run in March 2010 on student achievement level as well as on family background of all the students attending the classes involved in the project. The resulting data is now being processed at INVALSI (to convert the raw information into achievement scores) and immediately after it will be analysed by IRVAPP researchers.

By now the main goal of the analysis is to check whether the comparison group is adequately similar - as it should be - to the treatment group with respect to achievement levels. In case it was not, we shall make use of the available information to improve the comparability of the two groups utilising suitable econometric techniques. This step is expected to be completed by late summer/early autumn 2010. No particular trouble arose implementing the project steps so far, with the minor exception of a couple of schools in which it was not possible to identify a proper comparison class (very small schools in very peculiar geographical areas). Meanwhile, a questionnaire has been developed to interview teachers involved in the project. The purpose is to detect possible differences relevant for the outcome of this study between teachers of the treatment pupils and teachers of the control pupils. These interviews are expected to be administered in June 2010 (before the end of the academic year).

4.6 Incentives to Firms: Do They Affect the Output of the Innovation Process?

The focus of this project is to assess the impact of state aids on the probability of a firm introducing innovation. The provision of public subsidies on fixed and R&D investment is the channel through which the government affects this outcome. Both types of investment activities are found to be major determinants of firm innovation activities and ultimately of a country's growth prospects. The evidence is not conclusive since the effect of subsidies on innovation output is what matters most. In fact, we do not know much about the effect of public subsidies on innovation, although the role of intermediaries in selecting entrepreneurs with the best chances of introducing new products or processes is a key mechanism through which GDP growth is affected.

In Italy firms may receive different type of aids which can be used to finance investments in fixed capital and R&D. Typically, those are in the form of grants and tax exemptions, equity participation, soft loans and tax deferrals and guarantees. There are more than 500 programmes aimed at providing incentives to firms to invest; they differ in nature and target different type of firms. Hence, it would be unfeasible to analyze the impact of each of those on the innovation output. Rather we only distinguish between the types of aid the firm had access to. More specifically, we wish to address the following issues: 1) do firm subsidies affect firm innovation inputs, namely R&D and fixed Investment?, 2) do firm

subsidies affect firm innovation outputs, namely process and product innovation?, 3) are fixed and R&D investment complements or substitutes in the firm innovation process? 4) does the nature of the subsidy (grants, tax credits, soft loans) affect the strength of the described transmission channels?

In order to address these issues we merged three waves of a survey carried out by Unicredit-Capitalia. The 8th , 9th and 10th surveys cover the periods 1998-00, 2001-03 and 2004-06. The data contain information on several quantitative and qualitative variables for Italian manufacturing firms with more than 500 employees whereas firms with less than 500 employees are selected on the basis of a stratified sample, so that small and medium sized firms are well represented. For our purposes, in each survey the data tell us whether the firm introduced each type of innovation, the amount of the two types of investments as well as the kind of state aid provided by the government, if any. Merging the three waves allowed us to produce a rotating panel in which we have data for all of the three periods for 451 firms; data for 2,481 (7,791) firms are available for at only two (one) periods. The sample of 451 firms will be exploited to estimate the impact of subsidies on investments as well as the effect of the latter on the probability of introducing an innovation. To take into account the impact of unobserved "*managerial quality*" we take advantage of the longitudinal dimension of the dataset. In particular, we seek to employ newly developed semi-parametric estimators for dynamic panel data which efficiently use the information contained in the data. As for now, by using only the information in each of the surveys, we established that both type of investments are correlated the probability of introducing product and process innovation. The research report with conclusive results is due in September 2010.

4.7 Evaluation of the 2001 Higher Education reform in Italy

This research project assesses the effects of the reform of Higher Education (HE) approved in 1999 in Italy in the context of the so-called Bologna Process. Our project focuses on three major targets of the reform: a) enhancing enrolment rates in HE; b) decreasing the traditionally high drop-out rates as well as the long duration of tertiary studies; c) reducing social inequalities in the attainment of tertiary degrees. Our project aims at assessing whether these three targets have been achieved.

The 1999 reform was assigned the twofold task of expanding HE and increasing equality of opportunity. Its main innovation was replacing the former one-tier structure of HE with a two-tier structure, articulated in bachelor (3 years) and master (2 years) courses. According to the promoters of the reform, bachelor degrees should replace the old university degrees: the former should enjoy the same status and an equivalent legal value as the latter. If this is the case, time, costs and efforts needed to reach the "*laurea*" have been reduced by the reform. Moreover, the reform entailed an overall change in the

organization of teaching as well as in university examinations: instead of the "old" challenging university courses and exams, students are now asked to engage in shorter and more accessible courses and exams. Hence, the overall strategy behind the reform was to make HE more appealing for upper secondary graduates and less selective, particularly for students from less advantaged social background and from vocational and technical upper secondary schools, where enrolment rates are much lower than in pre-academic schools. Previous efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of the HE reform in Italy are mainly restricted to single-case studies focussing only on one University, with a couple of exceptions (Cappellari and Lucifora 2009; Di Pietro 2009) that offer some empirical evidence of increasing enrolment rates to HE and of decreasing social inequalities in access to HE. Hence, both research contributions provide an overall positive judgment on the effects of the 1999 reform. Both papers are based on the "Indagine nazionale sui diplomati" (National Survey on Upper Secondary Graduates, NSUPS), carried out by the National Statistical Office (Istat) every three years since 1995.

We have conducted some secondary analyses of the same dataset employed in the two above-mentioned contributions. It may be noted that every wave involves individuals who graduated in upper secondary education three years before the interview. Hence, the 2001 waves involves students who graduated in 1998, while the 2004 wave involves students who graduated in 2001. Hence, a before-after comparison between these two waves allows an assessment of the effects of the reform. Furthermore, the first wave, which was carried out in 1998 on the 1995 upper secondary graduates, can be used to assess any pre-existing cohort trend that may blur the estimation of the effect of interest. Finally, by comparing the surveys carried out in 2004 and in 2007, we have assessed whether any possible effect of the reform has persisted in the years immediately following the reform. In other words, this third comparison serves to establish whether the reform had any lasting consequence on participation in HE. In line with the above-mentioned targets, we have evaluated trends in: a) enrolment rates in HE; b) drop-out rates; c) the effect of parental class and of parental education on a) and b). It should be noted that, given that interviewees are contacted only three years after graduation from high school, information on the completion of bachelor courses can be censored. However, outcome b) is known to be a very powerful predictor of completion of university studies. Hence, this dataset allows us to identify any discontinuity attributable to the 1999 reform in the trends concerning these three outcomes between 1995 and 2007. Moreover, this data source contains very rich information on school achievement in lower and upper secondary education that has been used to control accurately for the changing composition of the student population. Finally, thanks to the large sample size of all waves (approximately 20,000 cases each), we can obtain very accurate estimates of the effects of interest. We have employed both standard regression techniques (logit models) used in previous work and propensity score matching that allows the investigation of possible individual heterogeneity of the effects of the reform and that deals more systematically with potential problems of common support in the estimates of interest (Morgan and Winship 2007). We have employed a detailed list of

variables for the matching: gender, age, area of residence, nationality, results in lower secondary examinations, results in upper secondary examinations, school failures in secondary education, type of upper secondary branch attended, attendance of a private school and youth (19-21 years) unemployment rate specific for high school graduates measured at regional level. We have relied mainly on a kernel matching technique, but we have also checked that our results are consistent across different matching estimators.

Our first finding is that the 1999 reform has produced a marked, positive effect on enrolment rates. More precisely, the estimated increase between high school graduates in 1998 and in 2001 is +6,6%. Furthermore, by means of a comparison between high school graduates in 1995 and in 1998, we have found that before the reform the enrolment rate was rapidly decreasing (-5,3%). Hence, the reform has stopped the pre-existing negative trend and has turned it into a positive one. This result is in line with those of the above-cited papers. In order to test the common trend assumption, we have also controlled for historical trends in enrollment rates to university. However, we have also found that, contrary to its stated purpose, the reform has produced an *increase* of drop-out rates that was not detected in previous research. In particular, we have found that the drop-out rate was rapidly decreasing between 1995 and 1998 from 16,7% to 10,4% (-6,3%), but that in 2001 (i.e. after the reform) it started increasing to 11,5% (+1,1%) and that this growth was faster more recently: in 2004, its value was 14,5%. Cappellari and Lucifora (2009) focused only on the comparison 1998-2001 and concluded for stability. However, by considering a longer time span, we found that there was a pre-existing decline that was first stopped and then significantly reverted by the reform. Moreover, we have found new results concerning the role of social origins. With regard to enrolment rates, we could confirm the previous finding of a moderate decrease of the effect of parental education, but we discovered that it is attributable simply to a ceiling effect: children of tertiary graduates had already reached almost complete saturation of enrolment *before* the reform. Hence, there was no way for them to achieve further improvements. Furthermore, previous research did not report results concerning the trends in the effect of class of origin, but we found that they were stable over time. Hence, the reform has produced only a limited and partial equalisation.

4.8 The Italian labour market programme *Liste di Mobilità*: An analysis of the impact of its "passive" component

Liste di mobilità (LM) is an Italian labour market programme introduced in the early '90s to handle redundancies in the labour market. The programme includes both a "passive" and an "active" component. The duration of eligibility depends on the age of the worker at dismissal, while the benefits the worker is entitled to depend on the size of the dismissing firm.

Crucial to our analysis, the eligibility for the passive component – a monetary benefit with a high replacement rate – depends only on the size of the dismissing firm. Workers dismissed by firms with up to 15 employees are *not* eligible for the monetary benefit, while those dismissed by larger firms are. Since the aim of the overall programme is to bring dismissed workers back to work, checking whether providing them with an income maintenance bears any impact on their subsequent labour market history is an essential ingredient for an assessment of the programme. The central issue to anyone willing to identify the causal effect of the passive component is how to disentangle it from the firm size effect, given that firm size is the *only* variable relevant for the eligibility to the passive component.

The causal effect of receiving the monetary benefit is identified making use of the so called Regression-Discontinuity Design, i.e. by comparing the post-treatment labour market history experienced by subjects *marginally above* the firm-size threshold to the corresponding history experienced by those *marginally below* it. In this specific instance the validity of this design is exposed to the threat that employees of small firms could be different from those of large firms with respect to characteristics relevant for the outcome (risk aversion, for instance) due to the process driving the matching between employers and their employees. This process is likely to feature a discontinuity at the 15 employee threshold due to the regulations of the Italian labour market, including – but not limited to – the provisions of the *Liste di Mobilità* programme. To test for the existence of this threat we are exploiting the long pre-treatment labour market history we have available, checking whether workers eligible for the passive component are comparable to those ineligible. A second threat to the validity of the design which we are currently investigating on is due to measurement errors affecting the available information on firm size. It is pretty likely that the firm size we have available (see below for details on the source of data) is *not* the one relevant to establish which employees are eligible for the monetary benefit. As a result, a contamination of both the "treatment" and the "control" groups is likely to occur calling for a correction of the standard RDD estimator to purge it from the contamination bias.

We have used data from the INPS (National Social Security Agency) administrative archive which have already been linked to the register of all workers entering the programme over the years 1995-1998 for the Veneto Region. The labour market history of all these workers has already been coded on a month by month basis over a time window from six years before the enrolment in the programme to three years after. Besides, information on their monthly gross wage is available for all the months in which they have been at work. Pre-programme histories are those we are using to test the identifying assumptions of our evaluation design. Post-treatment histories provide the outcome with respect to which we evaluate the impact of the passive component.

4.9 Changes in the Italian unemployment insurance scheme and estimation of their effects on unemployment duration and transition to a new job

The aim of the project is to evaluate the effect of different unemployment insurance (UI) schemes on subsequent labour market histories. We exploit some of the recent changes of the Italian legislation on the topic in order to estimate the effects of higher and/or longer UI on the length of unemployment spells, the probability of transition to a new job, and the 'quality' of the new job. The overall strategy is Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD), applied to different thresholds for different variables (age, time, eligibility conditions). We plan to use data from the new version of WHIP (*Work Histories Italian Panel*), managed by the Department of Economics, University of Torino: a 1:15 sample of INPS (the Italian social security agency) archives of the population of employees in the private sector, with information on beneficiaries of various kinds of UI from 1997 to 2004, and on their work histories (still in the private sector) extended back to 1985.

We got preliminary results from an updated version of the old 1:90 WHIP sample, with the same time window of the new one. The main descriptive evidence deals with 'seasonal' workers, who work only in specific months of the year and use UI as yearly wage integration during the non-worked period. This is an important issue both empirically and theoretically, as the impact of changes of provisions on them could be quite different from what expected for non-seasonal workers. Unfortunately, the available classification of contracts does not allow us to properly identify seasonal workers, as most contracts are *de facto* seasonal, while formally open-ended or temporary non-seasonal.

As regards the effect of longer UI, starting from 2001 the eligibility period depends on age, with an extended maximum duration for workers over 50: 6 months for the younger workers, 9 months for the older ones, with 40% replacement rate for both groups. By using sharp RDD techniques we estimate the discontinuity of the outcomes around the 50-years threshold for the 2001/02 sample. In order to test for the possibility of selection bias, we compare the outcomes around the threshold before UI entitlement. Moreover, we use the 1998/99 sample in order to compare the outcomes after UI entitlement in the absence of differential provisions around the 50-years threshold. The overall evidence from both over identification tests is of no significant discontinuities. Thus, the impact estimates on the 2001/02 sample are likely to be unbiased. With the 1:90 sample, results are seldom statistically significant. However, they point to a negative effect of a longer UI benefit on employment rates. As expected, the effect starts about 4-5 months after dismissal, thus when the younger group is approaching the end on the entitlement period. What is unexpected is that the differences in employment rates are still present, and often slightly larger, after 24 months, that is more than one year after all involved workers ended receiving benefits. On the contrary, there is no apparent effect on job quality: wage profiles are similar for the two groups. Finally, these results are robust to several approaches used to remove seasonality.

Starting from 01.01.2001 the ordinary UI replacement rate raised from 30% to 40% for all eligible workers (and, as already pointed out, this came together with a longer entitlement period for those over 50). In principle, we could apply sharp RDD techniques in order to estimate the effects of these changes on the outcomes of interest. Actually, it was not possible to solve some relevant problems with the 1:90 sample; we need to work on the 1:15 in order to understand whether it will be feasible to apply the proposed methods. A first problem has to do with "dynamic treatments". Starting from the beginning of 2001 the replacement rate jumps to 40% for all workers who are receiving ordinary UI benefits. Thus, those whose employment spell ended during the last 6 months of 2000, and are still receiving benefits, have an initial 30% replacement rate which suddenly changes to 40% in 2001. This change occurs at different durations of the unemployment spells at 01.01.2001, which depend deterministically from their starting date. This should allow us to use RDD methods in order to identify the differential effects of the 30-to-40% change occurring at different durations of the ongoing employment spell. Unfortunately, the 1:90 sample is too small to use this approach. Moreover, the strong seasonality affects also the outcomes of interest, as many workers have to wait for the next year to go back working; thus, the length of unemployment spells is strongly related to the time of dismissal. This way, the expected effect of a change in UI rules is smaller than the observed differences among monthly samples, which are partly due to seasonality. So, again a careful analysis of seasonality has to be carried out on the 1:15 sample. Finally, we use reduced benefits recipients as controls in order to estimate the effect of ordinary UI for those who receive them: we compare the outcomes around the threshold of 52 paid weeks during the last 2 years, which are the crucial eligibility condition to get the ordinary benefits. The assumption is that controls would have asked for ordinary benefits if they were eligible to them. The main problem is that the two groups are not deterministically identified around the thresholds, taking to a fuzzy RDD set-up. Evidence up to now, from the 1:90 sample, is that the two groups are different even before treatment, for many possible reasons. Thus, a careful selection of the two groups, treated and controls, is needed, based on the 1:15 WHIP sample, in order to make them almost equivalent. A possible alternative approach is by matching techniques.

As a tentative conclusion, the 1:90 sample is not large enough in order to obtain clear and significant evidence on the differential impacts. By the way, it is enough to underline the main problems of the proposed strategies, mainly due to different kinds of seasonality. The 1:15 sample will be useful for several reasons. Among them, chiefly:

- more precise impact estimates and/or the opportunity of stratification based on individual characteristics (as gender, area, age when possible) and of information about jobs (industry, professional status);
- a more careful analysis of the problems of seasonality, possibly by selecting sensible sub-samples of non-seasonal workers;
- estimates for small important sub-groups, such as those involved in "dynamic treatments";

- more detailed analyses around the thresholds: *e.g.*, duration analyses in order to estimate risk functions close to the expiration dates.

Moreover, there are many features of WHIP data that have not been investigated yet. Some key examples are:

- data on paid subsidies, critical for an analysis of the role of a "ceiling" to the amount of the UI;
- information related to dismissing and hiring firms, which may allow to analyse problems such as *de facto* temporary firings (*i.e.*, a dismissal followed by a planned re-hiring of the same person some time later: the so-called "*CIG fai-da-te*") or to use firm size as a conditioning variable;
- information on the whole WHIP sample, useful (i) to assess how eligibility conditions, which stayed invariant while labour contracts regulations underwent major changes, affected the dynamics of the fraction of dismissed workers not eligible to ordinary UI, and (ii) to characterize eligible UI unemployed who decide not to claim it;
- the use of geographical stratification in order to estimate the effect of different "sanction enforcements", by comparing Regions with different practices with respect to the "service's contracts" signed by UI beneficiaries and Public Exchange Offices.

4.10 Power calculations for the Minimum Detectable Effect

Power calculations for determining the size of a study sample have been a problem of longstanding concern in the statistical literature that addresses the estimation of treatment effects. In its bare essentials, the optimal sample size has to be determined to define estimators with enough precision to detect a range of values for the treatment effect that, on a priori grounds, are reasonable for the case at hand. The core analytic elements behind the choice of the optimal sample size for detecting treatment effects can easily be understood by considering the so-called Minimum Detectable Effect (MDE), which represents the smallest impact that the procedure employed has a chance to detect (Bloom, 1995). The discussion of practical problems related to the choice of sample size and the allocation of units to treatment and control groups has traditionally centered around the design of randomized experiments. However, a large part of evaluation designs employs non-experimental methods either because randomization is not feasible or because the reliability of experimental data is contaminated by non-compliance of units with the randomized treatment status (Berk, 2005). The aim of this project is twofold. On the one hand we will review the existing literature on the determination of the optimal size of the working sample by building upon past research in biology, agriculture, education and social policy. On the other hand, we will look into the possibility of extending well-established results for randomized trials to the case of non-experimental evaluations. In

this sense we aim at providing new results of practical relevance for the design of evaluations that make use of non-experimental methods such as matching, difference in differences or regression discontinuity.

As for the first aim of this research, in the last months we have reviewed the existing literature about the case of randomized experiments. We considered Bloom (2008) as a starting point for MDE definitions, design issues and practical implications for the case of social experiments. We have considered criteria that are alternative to the MDE and that should be more useful for practitioner and other researchers who are not familiar with statistical power issues. Moving from here we are extending Bloom's outcomes to two particular cases which have received far less attention so far. As a matter of fact, clustered and finite samples are frequently employed in programme evaluation and for this reason they are worth considering. As for the extension to non-experimental evaluations, we have to consider that the use of randomized experiments for social research has a longstanding tradition in statistics. For this reason we, first, reviewed Ronald A. Fisher's works on the development of the use of randomized experiments in social research and, second, we moved to William G. Cochran's contribution to the design, analysis and evaluation of observational studies. Unfortunately we did not find any discussion on how to extend classical results on survey design in randomized trials to the more complex case of observational studies. Thus we considered some works centered on the statistical power analysis and the size of the effect (Cohen, 1977 and Lipsey, 1990). This topics brought the attention of Donald B. Rubin (Rubin and Rosenthal 1982, 2003, etc.), but in all this works it is not possible to find any reference to the choice of the optimal sample size for detecting treatment effects in non experimental cases.

In the next months we aim to complete the review about the randomized experiment with the two cases of clustered and finite samples and in the following months to continue the research and to provide practical guidelines to be used in non experimental evaluation methods.

4.11 Impact Assessment of FBK Researchers' Night 2009

As part of a collaborative effort to support FBK activities, IRVAPP investigated the impact of the "An EXTRAordinary day with very Normal people" activities (e.g. visits to the laboratories, practical demonstrations, workshops, European Corner, recreational activities) organized by the Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK, henceforth) in Trento – Italy, with the financial support of the FP7 programme of the European Commission. The event took place on September 25, 2009 in a coordinated effort of all participating institutions across several EU member states. The aim of the EXTRAday activities was to improve communication between science and society by facilitating a better understanding

of what FBK researchers practically do and by promoting a better insight of the usefulness of the research work for the daily lives of citizens. The EXTRAday event sought to demonstrate that in their ordinary activities and day-to-day work researchers participate in general social and economic development as much as any other professionals. The event was intended to offer a unique occasion to discover the *human face* of researchers in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Among the activities planned, the project included the measuring of the impact of the event on the audience. To carry out this evaluation, IRVAPP contributed as a partner institution designing an ad-hoc survey. The main aim of theimpact assessment was to evaluate the effects of the event in terms of changes in the social representation of the researcher's profession after being exposed to the EXTRAday activities. To do this, a self-completion questionnaire was administered to a sample of nearly 300 participants. In particular, they received a questionnaire before participating in the event and one after the participation. The idea underlying this before-after evaluation design is that participation to the event activities is likely to produce significant changes in the attitudes towards the public role of research and researchers. More specifically, the administered questionnaire includes sections on 1) key background characteristics (gender, age, educational attainment, occupational class), 2) views on scientific knowledge (its relevance, utility, investment), 3) and a larger section of questions aimed at rating the social placement of the researcher's profession along an occupational scale.

Findings based on the before-after comparison show a positive impact on the social representation of the researcher's profession as well as on the value of science attributed by those participants who visited the laboratories. As for the socio-demographic profile of the participants, gender composition is nearly even although the proportion of women is slightly higher than that of men (52% and 48% respectively). The age profile of the visitors highlights that overall the EXTRAday event attracted young people (34 years old, on average). Women visitors were older than their male counterparts (36 and 31 years old, respectively). As for the level of education, the distribution is found to be skewed towards higher levels of education. The majority of participants reports to have a secondary school diploma (32%) and a significantly high proportion of individuals reports to have a university degree (26%). Moreover, in line with recent research on the increasing educational attainment of women in the younger cohorts, they are clearly over-represented among those with higher levels of education. With respect to the advertising campaign on people's awareness of the event, results show that the Internet campaign seems to have been quite effective given the young profile of the participants. Yet, a significant proportion of the participants (48%) had some degree of closeness with FBK researchers. Altogether these findings highlight the importance of activities aimed at increasing people's awareness and closeness to science. Yet, tight social and family networks with the research environment are likely to explain a great deal of the interest shown by the citizens towards science and research activities.

5. Training courses

5.1 IRVAPP Spring School on 'Fundamentals and Methods for the Evaluation of Public Policies': IRVAPP-Trento, 1-6 March 2010

IRVAPP - in collaboration with TSM (Trentino School of Management) - organized the second edition of the IRVAPP Spring School on "Fundamentals and Methods for Impact Evaluation of Public Policies" for a limited number of Ph.D. students, post-docs, researchers. This advanced course has been designed to be of particular benefit to Ph.D. students as well as researchers in the Social Sciences, Economics, Statistics, willing to know how to use micro data to inform policy making. The course presented the 1) fundamental principles of impact evaluation analysis with a specific focus on the counterfactual theory of causal inference and 2) the statistical methods and techniques for counterfactual analysis. The above topics were presented through a selection of case studies. In particular, the course will examine the logic of the counterfactual analysis in experimental and non-experimental settings; impact evaluation in non-experimental settings: Difference-in-Differences, Matching, Regression Discontinuity Design, and Instrumental Variables estimators. Extensive laboratory sessions provided the opportunity to apply the various techniques to specific Italian labour market, education, industrial policies.

The School ran over 6 consecutive days of theoretical and practical sessions from March 1 to March 6, 2010 at the Conference Centre Panorama, Sardagna, Trento - Italy. The number of participants was 20. The scientific coordinator of the IRVAPP Spring School was *Ugo Trivellato*. Tutors of the School were *Erich Battistin*, *Enrico Rettore* and *Ugo Trivellato* with the assistance of two IRVAPP research fellows: *Loris Vergolini* and *Nadir Zanini*. The programme is available at the following address:
http://irvapp.fbk.eu/sites/irvapp.fbk.eu/files/A1_Programma%20del%20corso.pdf

6. Seminars and conferences

6.1 IRVAPP Seminar Series

For the year 2010 IRVAPP has set up a series of monthly seminars which aims at contributing to the promotion of a culture of impact evaluation. The seminars are held at the Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento.

11 February 2010
Do Incentives to Continuing Vocational Training Matter? Evidence from Italian Regions
Giorgio Brunello (Professor of Economics, University of Padua)

25 March 2010
Developing and Refining a Social Class Schema for the European Research Area
David Rose (Professor Emeritus of Sociology, ISER, University of Essex) & Eric Harrison (Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Comparative Social Surveys, City University London)

19 April 2010
A New Framework for Relaunching the European Development Policy
Fabrizio Barca (Director General at the Italian Ministry for Economics and Finance)

20 May 2010
Ask a Silly Question – and Get a Silly Answer? Response Behaviour in Surveys of Subjective Well-Being
Steve Pudney (Professor of Economics and Director of the ESRC Research Centre on Micro-Social Change at ISER, University of Essex)

Next seminars:

10 June 2010
Locus of Control and Job Search Strategies
Marco Caliendo (Director of Research, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA))

23 September 2010
Measuring the wellbeing of individuals and society
Enrico Giovannini (President of Italian National Statistics – ISTAT)

7 October 2010
Short and Long-Run Effects of World War II in Italy and Germany
Sascha Becker (SIRE Professor of Economics and external Research Professor at the Ifo Institute at Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich)

9 December 2010
Orazio Attanasio (Professor of Economics, UCL, London)

6.2 IRVAPP conferences

On July 4, 2009 IRVAPP organized a conference on "Fixed-Term Contracts: Traps Or Starting Points?" at Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento. Focus of the conference was an impact evaluation of the effects of the "Treu Package" and subsequent Italian legislation on temporary job. The purpose was to stimulate an open discussion on this topic through the presentation of the results stemming from two IRVAPP studies. The two speakers, *Antonio Schizzerotto* and *Ugo Trivellato*, respectively presented "The Treu Reform and Contractual Mobility in Italy. A comparison Between Labour Market Entry Cohorts" and "The Effects of Temporary Job Experiences on Short-term Labour Market Outcomes in Italy". The invited discussants were: *Tiziano Treu* (Vice-President of Commissione Permanente Lavoro e Previdenza Sociale del Senato), *Giuliano Cazzola* (Vice-President of Commissione Lavoro Pubblico e Privato della Camera).

6.3 Other conferences / seminars / workshops / visiting

IRVAPP researchers have attended the following conferences/seminars on policy evaluation, normally presenting papers or playing an active role.

February-May 2009 | University of Geneva
The Econometrics of Programme Evaluation
Erich Battistin was visiting professor at the University of Geneva where he gave a 16-hour seminar for PhD students on "The Econometrics of Programme Evaluation".

22 April 2009 | ISTAT, Rome
New Methods for the Estimate of Absolute Poverty in Italy
Ugo Trivellato took part in an ISTAT seminar about "New Methods for the Estimate of Absolute Poverty in Italy".

23 April 2009 | COGIS, Rome
Perspectives on the "Federalism in Statistics"
Ugo Trivellato took part in a roundtable about "Federalism in Statistics".

14 May 2009 | Italian Epidemiology Association, Rome
Evaluation of Health Programmes
Ugo Trivellato presented the paper "Programme evaluation: paradigm and practices" at the conference "Evaluation of health programmes" organised by the Italian Epidemiology Association (AIE).

26 May 2009 | Fondazione della Camera dei Deputati, Rome

The Changing Nature of Work

Ugo Trivellato presented the paper "The Welfare State" at the Conference "The Changing Nature of Work" organised by the Camera dei Deputati Foundation.

4-7 June 2009 | Econometric Society, Boston

North American Meeting of the Econometric Society

Erich Battistin presented the paper "Survey Instruments and the Reports of Consumption Expenditures: Evidence from the Consumer Expenditure Surveys" at the North American Meeting of the Econometric Society in Boston.

13-17 July 2009 | NBER, Boston

National Bureau of Economic Research

Erich Battistin presented the paper "Survey Instruments and the Reports of Consumption Expenditures: Evidence from the Consumer Expenditure Surveys" during the workshop on "Aggregate Implications of Microeconomic Consumption Behavior" organized by the National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute of Boston.

17-18 September 2009 | Italian Sociological Association, Cagliari

Development, Institutions, and Social Quality

Loris Vergolini presented the paper "Social Inequalities and Social Cohesion. A Comparative Analysis" at the AIS-ELO National Conference (Italian Sociological Association, Section Economy, Work and Organisation).

21 September 2009 | Italian Evaluation Association, Rome

A New Evaluation For A New Cohesion Policy

Ugo Trivellato took part in a roundtable about the evaluation of cohesion policies, based on the so-called "Barca Report".

24-25 September 2009 | AIEL, Sassari

XXIV National Conference of Labour Economics

AIEL organised the XXIV National Conference on Labour Economics. The following IRVAPP papers have been presented: "The Effect of Experiencing a Spell of Temporary Employment vs. a Spell of Unemployment on the Short-Term Labour Market Outcomes" (Adriano Paggiaro, *Enrico Rettore* and Ugo Trivellato) and "The Treu Reform and Contractual Mobility in Italy. A Comparison Between Labour Market Entry Cohorts" (Ivano Bison, *Enrico Rettore* and Antonio Schizzerotto).

14 October 2009 | University of Bamberg

Sociology Chair Seminars

Antonio Schizzerotto held the seminar "The Remedial Exam Effects on the Level Of Learning of Higher Secondary School Students in Italy. An Impact Evaluation Study of an Educational Policy Measure" at Bamberg University, Germany.

3 November 2009 | Ministry for the Economic Development, Rome

The Evaluation's Future

Enrico Rettore presented a report on the "Outcome Indicators and Impact Evaluation: Limits of the System" at a seminar on "The Future of Evaluation: The Prospective Impact Evaluation", organised by Formez and the Ministry for the Economic Development in Rome.

6-7 November 2009 | Italian Labour Economists Association, Turin

International Conference On Labor Market And Household

AIEL (Italian Labour Economists Association), LABORatorio Riccardo Revelli and CHILD (Centre for Household, Income, Labour and Demographic economics) organized the first international conference on Labor Market and the Household. *Ugo Trivellato* gave the keynote address: "Ten Years of Labour Market Regulations and Policies in Italy:What Have We Learned from Their Evaluation?".

17 December 2009 | Centre for Employment Research & Policy Studies Institute, London

Westminster Applied Evaluation Workshop

Erich Battistin gave the Seminar "Making the Most Out of Discontinuities (a 60' Tour into Regression Discontinuity Designs)", at the Workshop organised by the Centre for Employment Research and Policy Studies Institute, Westminster University.

21-22 January 2010 | ZEW, Mannheim

ZEW Workshop "Evaluation of Policies Fighting Social Exclusion"

Nadir Zanini and *Francesca Zantomio* took part in the Workshop "Evaluation of Policies Fighting Social Exclusion" organised by the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) in Mannheim (Germany). Francesca Zantomio presented the paper "The Route to Take-up: Raising Incentives or Lowering Barriers?". Nadir Zanini discussed Thomas Walter's paper: "Off-the-Job Short-Term Training Programs for Migrants: Do Effects Differ from Natives and Why?".

March 2010 | University of Chicago

Life Cycle Dynamics and Inequality

Marco Cosconati lectured on models of parent-child interactions at the University of Chicago within the course "Economics: Life Cycle Dynamics and Inequality" held by professor James J. Heckman.

14-15 May 2010 | Munich, Germany

CESifo Area Conference on Employment & Social Protection 2010

Ugo Trivellato presented the IRVAPP paper "The Effect of Experiencing a Spell of Temporary Employment vs. a Spell of Unemployment on Short-term Labour Market Outcomes" (by Ugo Trivellato, Enrico Rettore and Adriano Paggiaro) at the CESifo Area Conference on Employment & Social Protection in Munich.

7. Research Reports

Battistin, E., Covizzi, I. & Schizzerotto A., *The Effects of Remedial Exams on Student Achievement: Evidence from Upper Secondary Schools in Italy*, IRVAPP Progress Report No. 2010-01, Istituto per la Ricerca Valutativa sulle Politiche Pubbliche, Trento.
http://irvapp.fbk.eu/sites/irvapp.fbk.eu/files/IRVAPP_PR2010-01.pdf

Covizzi, I., Bozzon, R. & Martínez Pérez, A., *Impact Assessment of FBK Researchers' Night 2009*, Internal Report No. 2010-01, Istituto per la Ricerca Valutativa sulle Politiche Pubbliche, Trento.

Paggiaro, A., Rettore, E. & Trivellato, U. *The Effect of Experiencing a Spell of Temporary Employment vs. a Spell of Unemployment on Short-term Labour Market Outcomes*, IRVAPP Progress Report No. 2009-03, Istituto per la Ricerca Valutativa sulle Politiche Pubbliche, Trento.
http://irvapp.fbk.eu/sites/irvapp.fbk.eu/files/IRVAPP_PR2009-02_ENG.pdf

Bison, I., Rettore, E. & Schizzerotto, A., *The Treu Reform and Contractual Mobility in Italy. A Comparison Between Labour Market Entry Cohorts*, IRVAPP Progress Report No. 2009-02, Istituto per la Ricerca Valutativa sulle Politiche Pubbliche, Trento.
http://irvapp.fbk.eu/sites/irvapp.fbk.eu/files/IRVAPP_PR2009-03.pdf

Martínez Pérez, A., *An Analysis of the Implementation of the Programme "Buoni di Servizio" in the Trento Province,* IRVAPP Internal Report No. 2009-01, Istituto per la Ricerca Valutativa sulle Politiche Pubbliche, Trento.

Trivellato, U. La *valutazione degli effetti di politiche pubbliche: paradigma e pratiche*, IRVAPP Discussion Paper No. 2009-01, Istituto per la Ricerca Valutativa sulle Politiche Pubbliche, Trento.
http://irvapp.fbk.eu/sites/irvapp.fbk.eu/files/IRVAPP_DP2009-01.pdf

IRVAPP Annual Activity Report, IRVAPP Progress Report No. 2009-01, Istituto per la Ricerca Valutativa sulle Politiche Pubbliche, Trento.
http://irvapp.fbk.eu/sites/irvapp.fbk.eu/files/IRVAPP_rapporto%20annuale_2008_ENG.pdf