



Istituto per la Ricerca Valutativa sulle Politiche Pubbliche

IRVAPP Annual Activity Report 2011

IRVAPP PR 2012-04
May 2012

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1. Introduction

The Research Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies (hereafter “IRVAPP”) was established in April 2008 by the Fondazione Bruno Kessler (hereafter “FBK”) to carry out policy evaluation research to measure the effects of local, national and international policy interventions. The scientific mission of the Institute 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.

Thanks to IRVAPP, researchers and professionals with different backgrounds had the opportunity to work together, overcoming disciplinary divisions as well as bureaucratic and administrative obstacles. The high level of operational flexibility allowed the research team to focus on the cutting edge of contemporary scientific research and, at the same time, to get in touch with a wider audience of non specialists.

After three years of activity (2008-2011) IRVAPP has: a) quadrupled the number of research projects turning its attention beyond the local and national boundaries; b) provided crucial information to the local Administration (PaT) about the effects of local welfare policies on the basis of which the Administration has reshaped those policies or their implementation; c) triggered additional impact assessments of important local policies; d) started and, in many cases, completed a series of methodologically demanding evaluations of national public policies.

In addition to policy evaluation research, which remains the core activity of the Institute, IRVAPP has: a) initiated a programme of seminars and conferences by outstanding scholars and experts in the field of evaluation of public policies; b) launched the Winter School on "Fundamentals and Methods for Impact Evaluation of Public Policies"; c) designed introductory courses to counterfactual impact evaluation of public policies for executives and managers of the public administration.

In light of the results achieved and of the largely favourable judgment expressed by the Advisory Board on the development prospects of IRVAPP, it has been decided to continue along the path taken by consolidating and capitalizing on the results obtained so far but also to identify new areas for development and to diversify the sources of funding.

In order to accomplish the above stated, IRVAPP, in January 2012 became part of FBK. As part of the Foundation, beyond consolidating its research activities and the promotion of a culture of impact evaluation, IRVAPP will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Humanities and Social Sciences in FBK, both in terms of new and wider perspectives of multidisciplinary research, and to have a greater critical mass when applying for tender.

2. Staff

At the end of May 2012, research staff at IRVAPP was composed of an interdisciplinary team of 12 researchers in Economics, Sociology and Statistics, one deputy director and one administrative secretary.

Antonio Schizzerotto (professor of Sociology at the University of Trento) is Director of IRVAPP and together with *Ugo Trivellato* (Emeritus Professor, Department of Statistics, University of Padova), *Enrico Rettore* (professor of Economic Statistics at the University of Padova), *Daniele Checchi* (professor of Economics at the University of Milano) and *Erich Battistin* (Director of research and associate professor of Economic Statistics at the University of Padova) is part of IRVAPP's team of senior researchers.

Claudio Daminato, *Silvia De Poli*, *Silvia Girardi*, *Nevena Kulic*, *Giovanna Labartino*, *Massimo Loi*, *Loris Vergolini*, *Nadir Zanini* and *Slavica Zec* are resident researchers of IRVAPP.

Paola Antonicelli (former personnel manager of the University of Trento and consultant of the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research) is deputy Director of IRVAPP and *Anna Stenghel* is IRVAPP's administrative secretary.

Giuseppe Sciortino (Professor of Sociology, University of Trento), *Franco Fraccaroli* (Professor of Work and Organizational Psychology, University of Trento), *Roberto Leombruni* (assistant professor in Economics, University of Turin) and *Adriano Paggiaro* (assistant professor in Economic Statistics, University of Padova) are Senior research associates of IRVAPP who collaborate with the Institute in relation to specific research projects.

During the last year, IRVAPP has consolidated its endowment of resident researchers. Thus, in the short term, no further increase in staff is expected to carry out the ongoing research projects at the institute. Nevertheless, IRVAPP has signed agreements with the universities of Padova and Trento to fund PhDs' scholarships and to host young trainees.

3. Scientific Advisory Board and Collaborations

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

- *Rodolfo Bogni* chairman of Northill UK, director of Waypoint Capital Holdings, trustee of the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation and of LGT and a director of Moody's (UK, France, and Germany), member of the Governing Council of the CSFI (Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation);
- *Marco Caliendo* Director of Research, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Bonn, Germany;
- *Denis Fougère* Director of Research at CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), Paris, France;
- *Alberto Martini* Associate Professor of Economic Statistics, University of Piemonte Orientale and Director, PROgetto VAutazione, Turin, Italy;
- *Chiara Saraceno* Honorary fellow at Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin, Italy;
- *Chris Whelan* Emeritus Professor, School of Sociology, University College Dublin, Ireland.

Collaborations

THE WORLD BANK

The aim of this partnership is to collaborate on the impact evaluation of an important Development Project in Nigeria. 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 the country.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TURIN

The aim of this partnership is to develop and maintain, in collaboration with the Department of Economics of the University of Turin, a database – Whip4Policies – derived from administrative information by the National Social Security Institute (INPS) suitable for the evaluation of policies regarding public pensions and unemployment benefits.

MIUR/FONDAZIONE GIOVANNI AGNELLI

The aim of this collaboration is to assess the impact of the introduction of new learning technologies in the Italian lower secondary school system.

MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO

The aim of such this collaboration is to develop a model to evaluate migrants integration policies.

4. Research

Four research projects were completed between May 2011 and May 2012, and some important steps in other long-term research programmes presented below were accomplished. Specifically, the projects completed are the following:

1. Labour market regulations and policies in Italy, with focus on the programme 'Liste di Mobilità'.
2. Changes in the Italian unemployment insurance scheme and estimation of their effects on unemployment duration and transition to a new job.
3. Evaluation of the 2001 reform of higher education in Italy.
4. Whip4Policies.

The results of the scientific activities carried out by IRVAPP's researchers over the last year are well documented in several articles or book chapters and in the working papers series of IRVAPP. Both are listed in the appendix to this document and the latter can be downloaded from IRVAPP's website: <http://irvapp.fbk.eu/it/publications>.

4.1 Evaluation of local policies

Evaluating the impact of a Minimum Income Guarantee programme in the Province of Trento

The project is aimed at evaluating the impact of 'Reddito di Garanzia', a minimum income scheme introduced in the Province of Trento in October 2009. This is a means-tested programme aiming at lifting out of poverty families living below the ICEF poverty line of € 6,500 of equivalent disposable income, by topping their income up to the above mentioned level. The effects of this programme are measured with respect to several outcomes: risk of poverty, labour market participation and consumption behaviour.

To carry out a rigorous assessment, IRVAPP has collected data through a panel survey of participants and observationally equivalent non participants. The first wave of data was completed in 2009 while the second wave was carried out in autumn 2011. This ensures pre- and post-treatment data which will allow IRVAPP to study the effects of the programme on mid-term outcomes via the implementation of the difference-in-differences method.

In 2011 pre-treatment data from the first wave have been linked to the administrative archives resulting from the management of the programme and some descriptive evidence on beneficiaries and their working and living conditions as well as their consumption behaviour was produced. On these grounds, two reports have been written in the last months: one shows some preliminary findings on beneficiaries characteristics with respect to the rest of the population and beneficiaries' participation to the programme; the other report is focused on pre-treatment consumption behaviour of beneficiaries and it aims at perform a sort of ex-ante evaluation to understand the possible effects of the programme on this domain. The former will be presented

at Espanet Italia conference “Risposte alla crisi. Esperienze, proposte e politiche di welfare in Italia e in Europa” which will be held in Rome at “Università La Sapienza” in September 2012.

The availability of post-treatment data by the end of 2011 allowed IRVAPP to start the evaluation of the programme and preliminary findings have been presented in March 2012 to local policy makers. During the rest of 2012 IRVAPP’s effort will be devoted to performing the impact evaluation of ‘*Reddito di Garanzia*’ to complete the analysis carried out so far with more robust results. Till the end of 2012 both reports for local policy makers and papers for dissemination at international academic conferences will be produced to contribute to the debate on the design and implementation of anti-poverty measures.

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

The project is aimed at measuring the effectiveness of a means-tested intervention of the Province of Trento designed to reduce education inequality by increasing the transition rates from higher secondary school to university through financial aid. The policy, known as Grant 5b, introduced in 2009, aimed at compensating indirect costs of university enrolment of good students from lower social classes. In the last three years data on transitions from higher secondary school to university and on the performances of university students were collected, exploiting CATI and CAWI procedures. Both a working paper reporting the main results of the survey, and an executive summary containing some practical suggestions in order to adjust and make more effective the intervention were produced. In 2012 an article with the main results has been published in Polis and a further working paper with various outcomes (enrolment, university location and prestige) was produced and presented in several international conferences. The resulting paper will be submitted to an international peer reviewed journal by the end of 2012. The rest of 2012 and 2013 will be devoted to the dissemination of the results and to the writing of a paper about the effects of Grant 5b on academic performances, as well as the prosecution of data collection. More precisely, IRVAPP intends to collect data on performance for students enrolled in 2009 and 2010 and 2011, in order to produce a longitudinal dataset which will allow IRVAPP to enhance the evaluation of the programme with respect to the transition rate to university, as well as its impact on drop-out rates and academic achievements of students from lower social classes who benefit from it.

Reconciling paid work and family responsibilities: The role of ‘service vouchers’ in the Province of Trento

The project aims at evaluating the impact of a programme recently introduced by the Province of Trento and designed to help women or single fathers to reconcile work and family responsibilities. This was done by alleviating the cost of childcare through a voucher scheme that subsidises relevant services.

Over the last year IRVAPP has produced two reports using administrative data of recipients of the vouchers, and has made some important policy recommendations that have been accepted

and implemented by the policy makers in the Province of Trento. The follow up for the year 2012 seeks to integrate and enrich the available administrative data with the data from other sources, in order to allow for the impact evaluation of the voucher scheme on women and their employment perspectives and its reconciliation with family responsibilities. Moreover, since there was an important change in the modality of policy implementation, IRVAPP is monitoring the beneficiaries to produce a monitoring report for the local policy makers in order to inform them about any revealed dynamics among the beneficiaries of the programme.

Impact evaluation of some active and passive labour market policies in the Province of Trento

Impact evaluation of labour market policies has been an important strand of activity of IRVAPP, and will remain one of its significant research areas. Recently IRVAPP has signed a Framework Agreement with the *Agenzia del Lavoro* of the Province of Trento (hereafter AdL), in order to provide scientific cooperation for assessing the effectiveness of existing labour market policies, as well as of some innovations to be introduced for strengthening their “active” component. IRVAPP has been invited to evaluate the effects of some of these policies on crucial outcomes such as: (i) living standard of persons receiving either unemployment benefits or a wage supplementation fund (CIG); (ii) duration of the unemployment spells of workers benefitting from passive labour policies, especially Unemployment insurance and “Mobility” income support (*Indennità di mobilità*); (iii) re-employment chances for workers receiving active labour policy measures. Reasonably, these activities will entail an investment on an intensive, systematic utilisation of administrative data sources, particularly of the “Compulsory communications” (*Comunicazioni obbligatorie*), that is the communications on associations/extensions/transformation/separations provided by any employer jointly to the Labour Exchange Offices (then to the Agenzia del Lavoro), the Ministry of Labour and the Social Security Agency.

Currently IRVAPP is investigating the impact of the training courses offered by AdL to unemployed and inactive population to understanding whether, as a result of these courses, the participants to these courses have higher chances to find a job than non-participants.

To evaluate the effects of the training courses researchers will use a counterfactual approach implementing the comparison between a group of beneficiaries and an appropriate control group formed by individuals who had no access to the benefit but are comparable to them. IRVAPP, in agreement with the staff of AdL, will initially focus on courses lasting 200 to 640 hours, which aim at developing new skills or reinforce basic skills. The evaluation project will be carried on in two phases: in the first evaluation phase, which regards the training courses already completed, IRVAPP plans to implement a strategy such as “matching” whose main feature is the ability to estimate the causal effect of the treatment under investigation using the comparison with a close match group of “subjects”. In this setting the controls have to be found in the group of people who are quite similar to the beneficiaries (in terms of previous career) but did not attend the course although they had signed for them. For this phase IRVAPP has prepared the plan for the evaluation project and AdL is going to provide the administrative data to start the evaluation project.

In phase two, IRVAPP is going to evaluate the effect of training courses that will start in autumn 2012. The selection to participate to the training course in 2012 will be along the following steps: people who apply to take part into the course have to sit a test; they will be ranked on the score they get in the test; a cut-off point will be set to determine who will take part into the course. The Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD) will be used to evaluate the effects of the course. We are now discussing with AdL the terms of the selection process and we are preparing a short questionnaire to be administered to all people who apply for training courses.

Impact evaluation of training courses: IT Voucher

This project was primarily intended as a first step towards a desirable use of systematic procedures for assessing the impact of adult education programme implemented by PaT with funding from the European Social Fund (hereafter FSE). Specifically, the programme assessed was designed to enhance computer skills, with particular regard to the use of Office Automation (hereafter OA), in order to improve the levels of employability or, when employed, the working conditions of individuals belonging to disadvantaged social groups.

The analysis of the data was based on a survey that collected the information from both participants and observationally equivalent non participants (control group), the latter being composed of individuals who applied to attend the programme but were eventually not admitted. The results showed that having taken part in OA courses offered by PaT produced a significant growth of computer skills possessed by the participants: prior to the attendance of OA courses, the computer skills of the participants and of the components of the control group were identical. After the attendance of the OA courses, the level of knowledge relative to the use of computers and relevant software among the participants was substantially higher than that of non participants. The analysis also showed that the documented impact on average computer skills is not associated to a reduction of the pre-existing gender gap with respect to these skills. Hence, suggestions were made to the officers in charge of the programme to strengthen the measures specific to the OA literacy of women with low to medium level of education.

Finally, it is important to stress that the analysis revealed no evidence that the impact of the programme on computer skills eventually resulted in an improvement in the employment status of the beneficiaries, both in terms of their occupational status and of their wages. Nevertheless, the absence of impact on employment outcomes does not necessarily signal the ineffectiveness of the program. Rather the results could be explained by very limited career opportunities in Italy, which are reflected in the structural difficulties to obtain salary improvements as a result of an increase in skills, both in the short and in the medium term.

Impact evaluation training courses: Mos-4

The aim of this project is to investigate the impact of the programmes designed by PaT, and cofunded by the European Social Fund, to encouraging high school students to experiencing a study programme abroad. Specifically this project will evaluate a programme launched in March 2012. The programme consists in giving students the opportunity to study English in an English speaking country and, in order to encouraging students and families to participate, offers a fully

funded stay of 4 weeks either in UK, or Ireland or Malta to students having completed their fourth year of secondary education. The programme provides a full time English course, accommodation in a college (with other students from different countries), and the complete coverage of travel and accommodation expenses. Together with local administrators, IRVAPP has implemented a field experiment in order to guarantee the selection mechanism to be under control: among applicants, 200 students were randomly assigned to the treatment group; the other applicants, not selected in the treatment group, will be used as the control group. This way researchers will be able to compare participants to non participants with respect to their attitudes towards diversity, to language skills and to educational outcomes to estimate the impact of the study programme abroad. To disentangle the casual effect of the programme from other confounding factors (such as socio-economic background and previous school career) IRVAPP have also administered a questionnaire together with the application form that students had to fill out to participate. Currently, researchers are cleaning baseline data gathered with the first wave of the survey and preparing the questionnaire for the second wave to gather the outcomes of interest related to attitudes and language skills. IRVAPP expects to produce a report with preliminary findings by December 2012, though for the completion of the project is necessary to wait till the end of the next school year in order to study the effects of the programme on educational outcomes.

4.2. Evaluation of National public policies

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

The project is developed in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Education, the Fondazione “Giovanni Agnelli” (Turin) and the “Fondazione per la Scuola” (Turin). It seeks to evaluate the impact of ICT enhanced teaching on students achievement through the systematic comparison of a paired treatment control classrooms across a sample of Italian Junior High schools. In the year 2010 a benchmark survey has been run on newly recruited students in the sample schools to measure their initial educational achievements before the treatment group started the programme. IRVAPP has produced the first report based on this data showing that the treatment and control groups within each school have indeed a very similar level of educational achievement once some relevant individual and family characteristics of the students are controlled for.

During 2011 the monitoring of the programme has developed according to the established protocol and IRVAPP researchers together with the other research partners involved into the project have released an intermediate report for the Italian Ministry of Education. The report provides a descriptive frame of the research design as well as that of students and schools involved into the project and also shows preliminary results about the initial educational achievements of treated and controls before the treatment took place. With this regard, results clearly show that the evaluation design is appropriate as treated and control Italian classrooms have the same pre-treatment school performance once family and individual characteristics are held into account. The final collection of data will take place in June 2012 when students will take part in the final exam of their secondary school. Based on that data IRVAPP will measure the

impact of the ICT technologies on the educational achievement of the students. A final report is expected to be completed by the end of 2012.

The effects of remedial exams on student achievement in upper secondary schools in Italy

Starting from school year 2007/08, upper secondary schools in Italy are required by the Ministry of Education to implement remedial education programmes to help low-achieving students. Until school year 2006/07 students who did not meet proficiency expectations were given a *debito formativo* ('educational debt'), which is a final mark signalling student's failure in one or more subjects. Such lack in achievement was to be recovered in the following years with no clearly defined deadline, resulting in a de facto 'social promotion' practice passing students to the next grade regardless of their performance. With the new progression system, low-performing students are compelled to recover their educational lacks by passing a remedial exam before the beginning of the new school year.

IRVAPP, with the support of the Education Department of the Province of Trento, has carried out an impact evaluation to assess whether a crucial feature of the reform, which is the threat of grade retention, has had any effect on student proficiency. The study exploits the quasi experimental variation that results from geographical discontinuities in the implementation of the reform. Unlike the rest of the country, schools located in a well defined area in Northern Italy (Trento Province), which enjoys some degree of autonomy regarding education policies, opted out of the new progression system.

Field work was carried out in 2009. During 2010 the project team has presented the results of the evaluation in a variety of seminars and national and international conferences to gather feedback about the methodological aspects of the research. With the objective of publishing results in a top level international journal, the research team has preferred to discuss further the findings from this research with the scientific community, nationally and internationally. This activity has led to a substantial revision of the initial report but, at the same time, gave greater visibility to the results obtained. The evaluation results were presented in Leuven (Belgium) at the end of April 2011 and in Bressanone (Italy) at mid-May 2011. In June 2011, the reviewed work was presented in Brussels at a conference organized by the EU to which the senior researchers of the institute participated along with a small number of European and American scholars. After these presentations, the research team drafted a revised version of the paper which was presented in April 2012 at the American Educational Research Association in Vancouver, Canada. The project is now concluded, and the paper will soon be submitted for publication to an international field journal in Economics.

Evaluation of the 2001 Higher Education reform in Italy

This research project aims to assess the effects of the reform of Higher Education (HE) passed in 1999 by the Italian Parliament and implemented in 2001. The reform was aimed at increasing access to university and at decreasing the traditionally high drop-out rates as well as the long duration of tertiary studies in Italy. Its main strategy was replacing the former one-tier structure

of HE with a two-tier structure, in the context of the so-called Bologna process. The reform was also presented as an effort to reduce social inequalities in Italian HE, characterized by a strong selectivity in favour of upper class students. This research project assesses whether the reform has achieved its two-fold purpose of increasing access and reducing inequality in HE. Previous efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of the HE reform in Italy are mainly restricted to single-case studies focusing only on one University. The assessment is based on information from national surveys on graduates conducted by ISTAT in 1998, 2001, 2004 and 2007. These investigations are carried out on large samples of individuals who graduated three years before that in which each survey has been conducted. Graduates have been investigated over the conditions in the labour market and higher education. The analysis that IRVAPP researchers conducted on data collected in the surveys are designed to assess whether the reform has raised rates of transition from upper secondary to university, has reduced the chance of unequal access to university studies related to the social origins and has produced a decrease in dropout rates of the university. To this end, in 2011 a data base was built containing the harmonized versions of the four ISTAT surveys within which were included contextual information from other ISTAT surveys. A macro analysis has been developed to understand the trend in the enrolment rate and to measure the long-term effects of the Bologna process. Moreover, the results from the macro approach has been introduced in the micro models in order to better estimate the impact of the Bologna process on the enrolment rate. Currently the research group is proceeding with the drafting of an essay to be submitted to the European Sociological Review.

The main findings were presented at several national and international conferences:

Barone, C., Schizzerotto, A. & Vergolini, L., The Bologna Process in Italy: An Empirical Evaluation of Its Effects on Social Inequalities in Higher Education, presented at the ECSR Conference, Bamberg, 30 September-2 October 2010.

Schizzerotto, A., Vergolini, L. & Barone, C., The Bologna Process in Italy: an Impact evaluation of its short and mid-term effects on educational participation and inequality discussed at the ECSR Conference, Dublin, December 14-17 2011.

Schizzerotto, A., Vergolini, L. & Barone, C., La riforma del 3+2: difficoltà di un esercizio di valutazione discussed at the AIS-EDU Conference, Trento, March 16-17 2012.

Evaluation of the “Maestro Unico” reform

The project aims at providing new insights on the relationship between students’ cognitive achievements, labour supply of mothers and school inputs in the form of length of the school day and the pupil to teacher ratio. To this end, we would exploit the exogenous change in school inputs introduced through the “*Maestro Unico*” reform in Italy. The proposed research would offer new contributions of considerable policy and practical relevance, as well as of methodological interest. The contents of the project will be organised into three main themes, aimed at distinguishing a dimension in which economic research can inform policy analysis at the national and international level. These are: (1) the effects of the length of the school day on cognitive abilities of children enrolled at the primary school; (2) the effects of changes in the supply of primary schools offering full day attendance on the supply of work of the mothers; (3) the interplay between family inputs and school inputs, the latter being measured by different

hourly profiles and by the pupil to teacher ratio, on the development of cognitive abilities in key dimensions of child learning.

In each of these domains, the proposed research would contribute to the existing international literature by providing: (a) robust evidence on school-level and household-level responses to policy interventions aimed at lowering financial resources made available to schools; (b) insights on the estimation of structural models for the education production function, using frontier methods suited to the ex-ante analysis of future policy reforms; (c) linkages to other studies considering the same issues in other countries of the EU, to draw from such research wherever possible.

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

As already pointed out, impact evaluation of labour market policies has been an important strand of activity of IRVAPP from the start, and remains of its significant research areas. At the scale of national policies, in the last year the focus has been on two topics: (i) a review and assessment of the main impact evaluation studies on labour regulations and policies implemented in Italy the last two decades; (ii) a research project on the impact of the “passive” component of a peculiar labour market programme, ‘*Liste di Mobilità*’ (LM).

A review of selected Italian labour market policies, and of the relevant impact evaluation studies, resulted in an IRVAPP Progress Report (No. 2011-02), and in a subsequent paper published in *Statistica* (71 (2), 2011): attention is brought both to the evaluation methods, the role of adequate data, and the substantive evidence.

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 the 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 (RDD), 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.

The analysis was conducted on 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.

The empirical analyses have been recently completed. The final report is expected to be drafted by September 2012.

WHIP4Policy

Following a research agreement with the Department of Economics, University of Turin, it was agreed to develop a new database - Whip4Policy - specifically suitable for the evaluation of policies on public pensions and unemployment benefits. The purpose of WHIP4Policy is the creation of a database “*banca dati normativa*” containing information about the changes in the eligibility rules on pensions and unemployment benefits in Italy since the nineties to the present. In addition to legal references, the “*banca dati normativa*” contains algorithms to determine eligibility for various benefits and to calculate the amount. The ultimate goal of this activity is to enrich the original archive WHIP (Work Histories Italian Panel) which refers to a large national sample of subjects drawn from the archives of INPS and processed by the Department of Turin. In fact, the “*banca dati normativa*” contains a significant set of procedures that will facilitate the use of WHIP for research in the assessment of passive labour policies.

In 2010, the activity focused on building the frame of “*banca dati normativa*” and developing the algorithms. The testing of the correct functioning of the algorithms which verify the eligibility for a pension (under the 2010 regime) were completed in November 2011.

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. The research exploits 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 methodology approach is Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD), applied to different thresholds for different variables (age, time, eligibility conditions). In 2010, after preliminary analysis conducted on a small sample of the WHIP dataset (1/90 of the population employed in the private sector), the activity concentrated on the setting up of an expanded sample which combines information from the IDO archives and an enlarged WHIP (which contains information from the "Statements" INPS) and the identification of four types of segments of work histories: (i) standard, (ii) seasonal within the private sector, where "seasonal" means segments of work histories with a clear sequence of seasonal episodes of employment and unemployment, (iii) seasonal within the public sector, and (iv) close to temporary lay-offs. It should be noted that this seasonal and temporary lay-off patterns are inconsistent with the scope and purpose of the ID, as specified in the legislation. This research activity was completed in 2011 and the main findings are presented in Leombruni, R., Paggiaro, A., e Trivellato, U., *Per un pugno di euro. Storie di ordinaria disoccupazione*, IRVAPP Discussion Paper No. 2012-01.

Development of a model to evaluate migrants integration policies

IRVAPP, in partnership with Vision and Values S.r.l. (V&V), was commissioned by the Italian Ministry of Interior the task of defining a model for evaluating the policies for the integration of migrant people implemented at the local level by Italian regions, provinces and municipalities. The project, which started at the end of 2011, aims to develop a consistent system of indicators to monitor the social integration of immigrants in Italy. 'Integration' is a term indicating the processes of socio-structural assimilation, inclusion in the system of social citizenship rights and participation in community life. Therefore, the project will be based on the secondary analysis of available data sets (ISTAT labour force survey and EU-SILC) and on the results of an ad hoc survey, administered by IRVAPP and V&V, to measure the degree of integration of migrants belonging to three different nationalities in four Italian regions. Finally, the project will compile information on public policies specifically designed to foster immigrants' integration. On the basis of the results of the above analyses, a model for the implementation and subsequent evaluation of integration policies will be supplied to the Ministry in Summer 2012.

Does randomly drawing the selection committee improve the quality of academic recruitment?

The project focuses on the effects of the last change in the rules of recruitment in Italian Universities. Starting from 2009 (DM27/03/09), the formation of appointment committees was

reformed, from being elected by members of the discipline to being randomly selected from the voting constituency. The rationale of the norm was the cancellation of any ex-ante agreement on the would-be winner.

To check whether the reform of the recruitment process made the difference we plan to compare the final outcomes of the academic competition run after the reform to a comparable pool of competition run just before the reform (same SSD). The comparison will be checked with respect to the quality of the winners as measured by their bibliometric indicator scores. It could be that the process is still not random and the people who participate to the competition are somehow correlated to the committees and for this reason it is crucial to see who are the candidates that do not take part into the competition although they had applied for it. In this setting the randomization fails due to problem of self-selection of participants in the competition. Given the one to one relationship between appointment committee, local competition and winner, the basic unit of analysis is the local competition. Given the impossibility of collecting information before and after the reform from all Italian universities, we have selected 4 big universities (Milan, Padua, Rome and Naples) with a sufficiently large number and variety of local competitions in different fields. We restrict to competition for full and associate professorships, neglecting those for assistant professorship because in most cases we do not have significant bibliometric measures of the applicants. We go to the final verbal of each competition in order to obtain information on: the pool of applicants; the selecting committee (distinguishing between the member appointed by the local schools and the others); existence of candidates that withdraw from the competition before its conclusion (or they do not show up for the oral interview); the winners (two qualifications were assignable); the winner that is finally hired by the local school. We will use the H-index computed from Google Scholar for both applicants and selecting committees. We are constructing the database; we already read all the final verbals for each competition starting in 2003 of university of Padua and we are now reading the ones for Rome.

4.3 . Evaluation of International public policies

Impact evaluation of the Nigeria Commercial Agriculture Development Project (CADP) – WORLD BANK

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 the country. The impact evaluation will quantify the effects of the roll out of various project components in five pilot states of the country. During the last year a sampling scheme was developed across pilot areas, after which the baseline survey (i.e. before the programme roll out) was conducted. The information derived was coded and cleaned and a preliminary baseline report with the analysis of key economic and demographic indicators at baseline has been developed. Two country missions were organized in the last year, finalizing the way forward with local governments. During 2012 IRVAPP will be responsible for the design and development of the follow up survey, which will allow the research team to draw causal inference on the effects of the CADP.

FESTA- Female Empowerment in Science and Technology Academia

IRVAPP has been requested to cooperate with the FBK, Uppsala University, University of Southern Denmark, Aachen University and Istanbul Teknik university, in a EU-financed research project that focuses on studying the role of gender in academic and research institutions. The goal of the project is to introduce the organizational changes that would create better opportunities for hiring and career progression of female academics. Several important aspects for a working life of female scientists will be considered: formal hiring procedure, criteria of excellence in hiring and career progression, and the development of a family friendly environment that helps reconciliation between work and family life. IRVAPP will contribute to the project starting from the tenth month of its implementation; in the first stage, IRVAPP will suggest both the adequate methodology for analyzing the informal decision making processes and the possible policies for better transparency, whereas in the second stage impact evaluation of those policies will be provided along with the guidelines for future developments. The project is intended to last 5 years starting from September 2011. IRVAPP will contribute to the analysis of the effects on gender disparities, in the process of research production, after the implementation of gender sensitive organisational arrangements in a set of different EU Universities and Scientific Foundations.

4.4. Other research activities

Power calculations for the Minimum Detectable Effect

The aim of the project is to review the existing literature on the optimal design of social experiments considering statistical problems of longstanding concern in agricultural, biological, educational and social policy research, and to look into the possibility of addressing the same problem for non-experimental designs. So far a thorough review of the literature on the social experiments in order to systematize the knowledge acquired has been conducted. In 2012, the research team will examine the possibility of extending these designs to best non-experimental research designs typical of the evaluation of public policies, such as matching, regression discontinuity design, difference in differences. Preliminary research results should be available by the end of 2012.

5. Publications and research reports

2012

Progress reports:

- Campione, V., Checchi, D., Girardi, S., Pandolfini, V. and Rettore, E., *Progetto Cl@ssi 2.0: Primo rapporto intermedio*, IRVAPP Progress Report No. 2012-01, Trento.

- Vergolini, L., Zanini, N., “How does aid matter? *The effect of financial aid on university enrolment decisions*”, IRVAPP Progress Report No. 2012-02, Trento.

Discussion papers:

- Leombruni, R., Paggiaro, A., and Trivellato, U., *Per un pugno di euro. Storie di ordinaria disoccupazione*, IRVAPP Discussion Paper No. 2012-01, Trento.

Other publications:

- Battistin, E., “Food and Cash Transfers: Evidence from Colombia” (with O. Attanasio and A. Mesnard), *Economic Journal*, 2012, 122, (559): 92-124.
- Battistin, E., “Connections and Performance in Bankers' Turnover” (with C. Graziano and B. Parigi), *European Economic Review*, 2012, 56(3): 470-487.
- Covizzi, I., Vergolini, L., Zanini, N., *Gli effetti degli incentive monetari a favore degli studenti universitari: una valutazione d'impatto*, Polis, 2012, 26, (1): 5-31
- Trivellato, U., “Indagini dirette e fonti amministrative: verso l'integrazione” (with P. Sestito), in M. Ciaschini e G.C. Romagnoli (eds), *L'economia italiana: metodi di analisi, misurazione e nodi strutturali. Studi per Guido M. Rey*, Milano, Franco Angeli, 2012: 212-239.
- Trivellato, U., “Inconsistencies in reported employment characteristics among employed stayers” (with F. Bassi and A. Padoan), *Statistica*, 2012, 72 (1) : 93-109.
- Trivellato, U., “Verso politiche basate sull'evidenza: il ruolo di basi di microdati”, *Statistica e Società*, 2012 (forthcoming).

2011

Reprint series:

- Trivellato, U., “Fifteen years of labour market regulations and policies in Italy: What have we learned from their evaluation?”, *Statistica*, 2011, 71 (2): 167-187.

Progress reports:

- Girardi, S., Mazzarella, G., Vergolini, L. & Zanini, N., *Il Reddito di Garanzia nella Provincia autonoma di Trento: alcune evidenze preliminari a due anni dalla sua introduzione*, IRVAPP Progress Report No. 2011-05, Trento.
- Vergolini, L., Zanini, N., “How does aid matter? *The effect of financial aid on university enrolment decisions*”, IRVAPP Progress Report No. 2011-04, Trento.

- Mazzarella, G., Kulic, N., *Una valutazione degli esiti del programma 'Voucher di informatica: Office Automation' attuato dalla Provincia autonoma di Trento su finanziamenti del Fondo Sociale Europeo IRVAPP* Progress Report No. 2011-03, Trento.
- Trivellato, U., *Fifteen years of labour market regulations and policies in Italy: What have we learned from their evaluation?*, IRVAPP Progress Report No. 2011-02, Trento.
- IRVAPP *Annual Activity Report 2010*, IRVAPP Progress Report No. 2011-01, Trento.

Internal notes:

- Zec, S., Dike, J., Krishnan, N., Battistin, E., Holmlund, M., *Nigeria Commercial Agriculture Development Project (Cadp) Baseline Survey Report*. IRVAPP Internal Notes No. 2011-03, Trento.
- Krishnan, N., Battistin, E., *Nigeria Commercial Agriculture Development Project (Cadp) Listing Survey Report*. IRVAPP Internal Notes No. 2011-02, Trento.
- Martínez Pérez, A., *Un'analisi comparativa dei costi dei corsi di formazione gestiti dall'Ufficio del Fondo Sociale Europeo e dall'Agenzia del Lavoro della Provincia autonoma di Trento*, IRVAPP Internal Notes No. 2011-01, Trento.

Other publications:

- Battistin, E., "Misclassified Treatment Status and Treatment Effects: An Application to Returns to Education in the U.K." (with B. Sianesi), *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2011, 93(2): 495-509.
- Battistin, E., "Providing Employers with Incentives to Train Low-Skilled Workers: Evidence from the U.K. Employer Training Pilots" (with L. Abramovsky, E. Fitzsimons, A. Goodman e H. Simpson), *Journal of Labor Economics*, 2011, 29(1): 1-42.
- Checchi, D., "Models of unionism and unemployment" (with L. Nunziata), *European Journal of Industrial Relations*, 2011, 17(2): 141-152.
- Checchi, D., "Should you compete or cooperate with your classmates?" (with M.Bratti e A.Filippin), *Education Economics*, 2011, 19(3): 275-289.
- Durante, R., **Labartino, G.**, Perotti, R., *Dynasties: Decentralization and Familism in the Italian Academia*, NBER Working Paper No. 17572, November 2011.
- Rettore, E., "College Cost and Time to Complete a Degree: Evidence from Tuition Discontinuities", *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, (with P. Garibaldi, F. Giavazzi and A. Ichino; accepted for publication), previously circulated as NBER Working Paper 12863, 2011, <http://www.nber.org/papers/w12863>.
- **Schizzerotto, A., Trivellato, U.**, Sartor, N., "I giovani di oggi stanno peggio di quelli di ieri? Interrogativi, metodi e quadro di sintesi", in Schizzerotto, A. Trivellato, U. e Sartor, N. (eds) *Generazioni disuguali. Le condizioni di vita dei giovani di oggi e di ieri: un confronto*, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2011: 19-67.

- Marzadro, S., **Schizzerotto, A.**, “Giovani e mobilità sociale. Un’analisi delle disuguaglianze nelle opportunità occupazionali delle generazioni nate nel corso del XX secolo”, in Schizzerotto, A. Trivellato, U. e Sartor, N., (eds) *Generazioni disuguali. Le condizioni di vita dei giovani di oggi e di ieri: un confronto*, Bologna. Il Mulino. 2011, 247-280.
- Ballarino, G., **Schizzerotto, A.**, “Le disuguaglianze intergenerazionali di istruzione”, in Schizzerotto, A. Trivellato, U. e Sartor, N. (eds) *Generazioni disuguali. Le condizioni di vita dei giovani di oggi e di ieri: un confronto*. Bologna. Il Mulino, 2011, 71-110.
- Schizzerotto, A., “Social Stratification”, in *International Encyclopedia of Political Science*, SAGE Publications, Inc: September 2011, 2443-2448.
- Barone, C., **Schizzerotto, A.**, "Career mobility, education and intergenerational reproduction in five European societies", *European Societies*, 2011, 13(3): 33-345.
- Barone, C., Lucchini, M., **Schizzerotto, A.**, "Career mobility in Italy: a growth curves analysis of occupational attainment in the 20th century", *European Societies*, 2011, 13(3): 377- 400.
- Trivellato, U., “La valutazione d’impatto controfattuale e prospettica”, *Rassegna Italiana di Valutazione*, 2011, 16(47): 29-34.
- Trivellato, U., “Mutamenti tra generazioni nelle condizioni lavorative giovanili”, (con F. Giorgi, A. Rosolia e R. Torrini), in A. Schizzerotto, U. Trivellato e N. Sartor (eds), *Generazioni disuguali. Le condizioni di vita dei giovani di ieri e di oggi: un confronto*. Bologna. Il Mulino, 2011: 111-144.
- Trivellato, U., “Gli effetti sulle disuguaglianze generazionali delle riforme nella regolazione e nel welfare del lavoro” (with B. Anastasia e A. Paggiaro), in A. Schizzerotto, U. Trivellato e N. Sartor (eds), *Generazioni disuguali. Le condizioni di vita dei giovani di ieri e di oggi: un confronto*. Bologna. Il Mulino, 2011: 369-406.
- Vergolini, L., "Does Economic Vulnerability Affect Social Cohesion? Evidence From a Comparative Analysis", *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, 2011, 36(1):1-24.
- Vergolini, L., "Social Cohesion in Europe. How do the different dimensions of inequality affect social cohesion?", in *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, 2011,. 52(3):197-214.

6. Training activities

6.1. 2012 Winter School

IRVAPP, in collaboration with Trentino School of Management (TSM), Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti (IVSLA) and under the patronage of the Centro Interuniversitario di Econometria (CIdE) & the Italian Econometric Association (SIIdE), organized the Fourth Edition of the School on “Fundamentals and Methods for Impact Evaluation of Public Policies”. The School presented: 1) the fundamental principles of impact evaluation with a specific focus on the counter-factual theory of causal inference and 2) a variety of statistical tools for counterfactual analysis (including difference-in-differences and matching methods, regression discontinuity designs and quasi experimental/natural experiments settings). Extensive laboratory sessions provided the opportunity to apply the various techniques to specific labour market,

education and industrial policies. The School ran over 6 consecutive days of theoretical and practical sessions from 13 to 18 February, 2012. Training required previous knowledge of basic principles for quantitative methods that correspond to those taught in introductory courses of statistics and econometrics at the undergraduate level. At the very least a working knowledge of OLS regression and multivariate analysis is expected. Although the exercises were guided, basic familiarity with Stata was strongly recommended. The number of participants was 36: among them 12 researchers from non-Italian Universities or research institutes and 8 researchers from the Bank of Italy. The scientific coordinator of the IRVAPP Winter School was Ugo Trivellato. Instructors of the School were Joshua Angrist, Erich Battistin, Enrico Rettore and Ugo Trivellato, and tutors were Silvia Girardi and Nadir Zanini. The programme is available at the following address: http://irvapp.fbk.eu/en/winter_school.

6.2 Introductory training course for managers of the public sector

IRVAPP, in cooperation with TSM (Trento School of Management), organised an introductory course on Counterfactual Impact Evaluation of public policies intended for high and middle grade PaT officers. The course was designed to describe the basic features of the counterfactual approach in tackling the evaluation of policy interventions.

7. Seminars and conferences

7.1 IRVAPP Seminar Series

IRVAPP has set up a series of (at least) 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. Below the list of seminars held between May 2011 and May 2012 .

10 May 2012

Immigrant background peer effects in Italian schools

Dalit Contini (Associate Professor of Social Statistics at the University of Turin)

10 May 2012

More Apples Less Chips? School Fruit Schemes and Junk Food Consumption

Giovanna Labartino (research fellow at IRVAPP)

2 April 2012

Minimum Wages and the Joint Distribution Employment and Wages

Thomas Lemieux (professor of Economics at University of British Columbia).

29 March 2012

Decomposing 'Social Origins': The Effects Of Parents' Class, Status And Education On The Educational Attainment Of Their Children

John Goldthorpe (Emeritus Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford)

1 March 2012

When the baby cries at night. Uninformed and hurried buyers in non-competitive markets

Andrea Ichino (Professor of Economics, University of Bologna)

17 February 2012

The Elite Illusion: Achievement Effects At Boston And New York Exam Schools

Joshua Angrist (Ford Professor of Economics at MIT and a Research Associate in the NBER's programs on Children, Education, and Labor Studies. A dual U.S. and Israeli citizen)

10 February 2012

Just for a few Euros. Tales of Ordinary unemployment

Roberto Leombruni (researcher at the Department of Economics "Cognetti de Martiis" of the University of Turin, where he is responsible for the database WHIP - Work Histories Italian Panel, and senior researcher at the LABORatorio Riccardo Revelli of Moncalieri.)

10 February 2012

Unemployment insurance and frequent users: heterogeneous effects of a longer duration of entitlement

Adriano Paggiaro (Assistant Professor in Statistics at the Department of Economic Statistics, University of Padua.)

20 January 2012

Liberalizing Professional Services: Evidence from Italian Lawyers

Michele Pellizzari (Assistant Professor at Bocconi University and Head of Welfare Studies at the Fondazione Rodolfo De Benedetti)

2 December 2011

Measuring and monitoring poverty and social exclusion at EU level - Some key issues and some new challenges related to Europe 2020

Erich Marlier (International Scientific Coordinator of the CEPS/INSTEAD Research Institute, in Luxembourg (<http://www.ceps.lu/>))

23 November 2011

Measuring and interpreting productivity: theoretical issues and empirical applications

Enrico Zaninotto (professor of Business Economics at the University of Trento)

10 November 2011

Schooling and youth mortality: learning from a mass military exemption

Alfonso Rosolia (economist in the Research Area of the Bank of Italy)

8 July 2011

Spillover effects in healthcare programs: evidence on social norms and information sharing

Ciro Avitabile (Franco Modigliani Research Fellow at the University of Naples Federico II and Junior Fellow of Netspar.)

16 June 2011

Imputation of Potential Outcomes to Estimate Treatment Effects of Small Groups

Susanne Rässler (Prof. Dr. rer. pol., holds the Chair of Statistics and Econometrics at the Otto-Friedrich-University of Bamberg and is speaker of the methods group of NEPS (National Educational Panel Studies))

19 May 2011

Long term youth unemployment or disposable workforce?

Bruno Contini (professor of econometrics and applied economics at the University of Torino since 1971, founder and director of the LABORatorio R. Revelli, Centre for Employment Studies at CORIPE Piemonte, Member of the Accademia delle Scienze di Torino)

7.2 IRVAPP Conferences

On February 2, 2011 IRVAPP presented in Trento the book "*Sono soldi ben spesi? Perché e come valutare l'efficacia delle politiche pubbliche*". The book was presented by one of the authors, Ugo Trivellato. Moderator was Alberto Faustini, Director of the newspaper "Il Trentino". Invited speakers were Innocenzo Cipolletta, President University of Trento, Massimo Egidi, President Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Guglielmo Epifani, President Associazione Bruno Trentin, Antonio Schizzerotto, Director FBK-IRVAPP. The event was to disseminate the basic concepts of counterfactual evaluation of public policies among a wide audience of non-experts.

7.3 Other conferences / seminars / workshops / visiting

3rd May 2012 | Rome

Ugo Trivellato presented the book "*Sono soldi ben spesi? Perché e come valutare l'efficacia delle politiche pubbliche*" at The National Institute for Statistics (Istat).

26 April 2012 | Milan

Enrico Rettore presented the IRVAPP paper "The Effects of Temporary Job Experiences On Short Term Labour Market Outcomes in Italy" at Bocconi University.

13-17 April 2012 | Vancouver

Erich Battistin presented a Irvapp Paper "The Effects of Remedial Exams on Student Achievement: Evidence from Upper Secondary Schools in Italy" at the conference organised by American Educational Research Association (AERA).

16-17 March 2011 | Trento

Schizzerotto, A., Vergolini, L. & Barone, C., presented "*La riforma del 3+2: difficoltà di un esercizio di valutazione*" and Vergolini, L. & Zanini, N., discussed, "*I trasferimenti finanziari a favore degli studenti universitari: riflessioni su una valutazione d'impatto*", at the AIS-EDU Conference

21-23 February 2012 | Belgrad

Ugo Trivellato attended the “Western Balkans Peer Exchange: Enhancing Analysis and Research-Based Advocacy in an Era of Open Data” Congress; he was the introductory speaker at the session “Impact evaluation of economic and social programmes: evaluation strategies and data requirements”.

14-17 December 2011 | Dublin

Antonio Schizzerotto e Loris Vergolini presented the paper “The Bologna Process in Italy: an Impact evaluation of its short and mid-term effects on educational participation and inequality” at the ECSR conference.

8 December 2011 | Stockholm

Erich Battistin presented the paper "The Effects of Remedial Exams on Student Achievement: Evidence from Upper Secondary Schools in Italy" at the seminar organised by Swedish Institute for Social Research.

7-9 November 2011 | Tourin

Ugo Trivellato attended the 35th "*Congresso dell'Associazione Italiana di Epidemiologia*", Torino 7-9 November 2011, where he gave the invited speech "*Perché in Italia evidence based policies non decollano? Riflessioni a valle di vent'anni di politiche in tema di istruzione e lavoro*".

20-23 October 2011 | Washington, D.C.

Ugo Trivellato attended the 72nd Conference of The International Atlantic Economic Society, Washington, D.C., 20-23 October 2011, where he presented the paper “What can we learn from recurrent Labour Force Surveys about the impact of temporary employment?” (coauthors Enrico Rettore e Adriano Paggiaro).

8-9 September 2011 | IEB, Universitat de Barcelona

Loris Vergolini and Nadir Zanini took part in the Workshop “Evaluation of Educational Policies” organised by the Institut d’Economia de Barcelona (IEB). Loris Vergolini discussed Alex Solis’ presentation “Credit Constraints for Higher Education”, and Nadir Zanini presented the paper “Does Aid Matter? The Effect of Financial Aid on University Enrolment Decisions”.

6-8 July 2011 | OECD, Paris

Loris Vergolini and Nadir Zanini attended the conference organised by OECD and Open University, where Nadir Zanini presented the paper “Does Aid Matter? The Effect of Financial Transfer on University Enrollment”.

20-21 June 2011 | Brussel DG EAC

Erich Battistin was to the International Conference “Catch the Train: Skills, Education and Jobs” organised by CRELL (Centre for Research on Lifelong Learning) of the Joint Research Center of the European Commission (JRC) the International Conference “Catch the Train: Skills, Education and Jobs”.

9 June 2011 | Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento

Loris Vergolini and Nadir Zanini have been invited to present the paper “How Does Aid Matter? The Effect of Financial Aid on University Enrolment Decisions” at the Brown Bag Seminar

12-13 May 2011 | Bressanone, Padua & Linz University

Erich Battistin, Alvaro Martinez, Gianluca Mazzarella e Enrico Rettore attended the workshop jointly organised by Padua & Linz University on labour economics. During the event Erich Battistin presented the paper "The Effects of Remedial Exams on Students Achievement: Evidence from Upper Secondary Schools in Italy", while Enrico Rettore presented the paper "The Effects of Temporary Job Experiences On Short Term Labour Market Outcomes in Italy".

4 May 2011 | CORE, University of Cattolica, Lovanio

Erich Battistin presented the paper "The effects of remedial exams on student achievement: evidence from upper secondary schools in Italy" at the seminar organised by the Center for Operations Research and Econometrics (CORE).

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