“...According to REPEC, our Centre belongs to the top 5% of the world ranking of Economic Research Centres and Universities...”

Introducing CEIS Tor Vergata

The Centre for Economic and International studies (CEIS), created in 1987, is part of the University of Rome "Tor Vergata".

The Centre’s main activities are:

- policy oriented economic research
- post-graduate academic training
- consulting services and technical assistance to private and public institutions
- publishing activities
- conferences and seminars

The Centre’s activities are carried out by its own researchers and affiliated scholars. The Centre is engaged in creating international research and higher learning networking in the major fields of economics. Its research agenda continuously changes to reflect new economic phenomena and new projects in partnership with other research centres of excellence and individual scholars.

The Centre is also involved in international development programmes in the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation activities.
CEIS researchers conduct rigorous, multidisciplinary research on a wide variety of topics, including globalization processes and economic growth, public finance, economic forecasts and policy analysis, economic development, health economics and management, econometric and empirical analyses, economics of aging and welfare policies, industrial organization and regulation issues, international money and finance, energy and environmental economics, labour. The Centre engages in empirical and theoretical analysis of economic policy issues, with special emphasis on interdisciplinary analysis and on the importance of rules and institutions in the economic growth. Our research activity aims at generating solutions that address these problems simultaneously, helping policy and decision makers to take better-informed actions.

Commitment and organization

CEIS work is organized around formal research projects as well as broader themes, involving collaboration among individual scholars, often belonging to different national and international leading institutions. By tackling some of the most critical economic and social issues of the day, CEIS faculty and researchers demonstrate their commitment to academic excellence and serving others.

The Centre gives top priority to the development of methodologies and tools for the quantitative analysis of economic phenomena and policies.

A top-ranking European research group

CEIS research community represents one of the leading clusters of economics research in Italy and worldwide. According to Social Science Research Network (SSRN), at the end of 2012 CEIS research paper series has been ranked 37th out of 1,500 institutions. Similarly, according to the Research Papers in Economics (RePEc), CEIS has been ranked among the 5% of economic institution worldwide (137th out of 6,071). CEIS research activity has been published in top journal such as American Economic Review, Review of Economic Studies, Econometrica, Journal of Economic Theory, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Health Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Applied Econometrics.

The CEIS Research Papers Series collects research activities, both by researchers and affiliates of CEIS, and those distributed through the Social Science Research Network - SSRN.

Over 7500 world-wide subscribers currently receive an alert every two weeks, which contains three new research papers.

The Centre also runs the Riccardo Faini CEIS Economic Seminars held on a weekly basis.
Development (DE)

Research Director: Prof. Furio Camillo Rosati

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Two main research centres share CEIS’ mission to promote high-quality research and strategic knowledge building for informed policy making in the development field.

UCW - Understanding Children’s Work
ICID - The Italian Center for International Development

Understanding Children’s Work (UCW)
The inter-agency programme, Understanding Children’s Work (UCW), was initiated by the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF and the World Bank as one of the responses to the recommendations of the Amsterdam and Oslo conferences. Through a variety of research activities, the UCW Programme supports the partner agencies in improving statistical information on child labour and youth employment in its various dimensions as well as on what policy approaches are most effective in addressing it.

The Italian Center for International Development (ICID)
The Italian Centre for International Development (ICID), focuses on international development. The Centre’s mission is to promote a better understanding of development challenges in an increasingly globalized world, through an inter-disciplinary approach.

Energy, Land and Environmental Economics (ELEE)

Research Director: Dott. Alessio D’Amato and Dott. Mariangela Zoli

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The present economic crisis has led widespread attention towards the financial performance of the world economy and to its long run growth prospects. This has unveiled the urgent problems of limiting production and consumption activities' impact on the natural environment and of improving our use and management of natural resources. Indeed, the economic system can recover from short run financial crises and move from recession to expansion phases in the economic cycle, but the trade offs imposed by the limited availability of natural resources is by far the most pressing issue in the long run.

Our research group focuses on climate change, pollution (local air and water pollution), the overexploitation and inefficiency in the use of resources and the role of technical change, to the benefit of policies design. On top of all that, we aim at deepening our understanding of the role the State plays in addressing global environmental challenges.

Well-being, Happiness, and CSR (WHCSR)

Research Director: Prof. Leonardo Becchetti

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Subjective well-being paradoxes highlight the existence of invisible pillars of the “Wealth of Nations” represented by multifaceted variables (reduction of poverty and social exclusion evaluated on a multidimensional basis, quality of life, stock of environmental and relational resources, intrinsic motivations, social norms and social capital, quality and access to education) which are not captured by national accounts and GDP measures but that nevertheless affect perceived individual well-being and the economic growth of nations. Assessing their role is of paramount importance to understand how to increase individual well-being in a context of limited environmental resources in order to reconcile economic growth and social and environmental sustainability.

The research group aims to deepen the understanding of the effects that the above factors have on individual well-being, by developing new multidimensional measures and by assessing the degree of their heterogeneous distribution. It also aims to assess how the reform of the financial system may contribute to bring back finance to serve effectively the real economy and how social capital and social norms can be influenced by the institutions, firms and different forms of interactions among agents (role of trust game) and their interplay with economic growth.
Health Econometrics, Economics and Policy (HEEP)

Research Director: Prof. Vincenzo Atella

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of our research is to offer innovative and valuable theoretical and empirical evidence to policy makers in the health care sector. Thanks to the increasing availability of detailed micro-data, the HEEP group conducts analyses which entail the use of specific methodological and computational skills. We aim to shed lights on relevant aspects of the health care sectors, such as health care financing, regulation, incentives and delivery. Our objective is the production of indicators to allow within-country and cross-country comparison of policies, treatments and outcomes that lead to better understand the consequences of the variation in strategies, which are designed to improve population health.

In the past years HEEP has been involved in several national and international projects including, among others, the analysis of productivity at international level (Global Health productivity Project - GHP), the role of technology in the health care system (TECH project), the forecasting of the Italian health care expenditure, the role of cost-containment measures on health outcomes, the development of efficiency measures and performance indices at hospital level.

Economic Evaluation and HTA (EEHTA)

Research Director: Prof. Francesco Saverio Mennini

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of our research group is to develop advanced methodologies for an economic assessment of health interventions and facilitate the circulation of scientific knowledge between researchers and public health decision-makers. In a context of limited resources, health care systems have to improve formal processes to determine whether or not new health technologies provide good value for money.

Our activity consists in producing Health Technology Assessment (HTA) reports, Economic assessment of health interventions and empirical economic studies to support pricing and reimbursement process.

Decisions are always taken under conditions of uncertainty, and the main scope of our group is to minimize (or quantify) this uncertainty. The research group is working, both at national and international level, on corruption and health.

Our Research Areas

Industrial Organization, Regulation and Competition Policy (IORC)

Research Director: Prof. Alberto Iozzi

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of our research is to offer innovative analysis of imperfectly competitive industries, with particular emphasis on the study of regulatory and competition policies. We conduct both theoretical and empirical analyses, and our objective is the production of useful results for the comprehension of the functioning of the markets and of the effects of regulatory policies, as well as for the assessment of practices alleged to be anticompetitive. Our activity is intended to support public institutions in devising their policies and decisions, and also to firms, in shaping their strategies relative to rivals and public institutions.

In the past years, the members of the research group have been involved in many national and international projects financed by several public bodies, including Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC, UK), Italian Ministry for the University (MIUR, I), National Research Council (CNR, I), Nuffield Foundation (Oxford), and many other private funding organizations and firms.
Our Research Areas

Defensive Medicine (DM)
Research Director: Prof. Emiliano Marchisio

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
The goal of our research is to offer innovative and valuable theoretical and empirical evidence to policy makers on the role that defensive medicine can play within the health care sector and how it can shape the incentive schemes of various stakeholders like health care professionals, insurance companies, patients, lawyers and health care providers. The joint initiative of the CEIS Tor Vergata and the University Giustino Fortunato is an opportunity to discuss about the problem in an open and constructive way. It is common wisdom that the current situation in Italy is affected by the existence of inefficiencies in the existing discipline of medical liability, which should inevitably lead scholars, practitioners and all stakeholders to rethink and rewrite the legal discipline. This will not imply favoring one position against the others, but rather encouraging the proper functioning of the system to achieve the maximum protection of all its actors, whether they be both doctors or patients/users. Moreover, contrary to what happened in the last few years, the rethinking and rewriting of the discipline should occur according to a coherent project of legislative policy, leaving judicial intervention (often inconsistent, volatile and, anyway, fragmented and occasional) the sole task of adapting the system of medical liability to the needs of the moment.

PROXENTER (PXC)
Research Director: Prof. Elisabetta Iossa

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
The “Center of research in Procurement and Supply Chain,” Proxenter, undertakes interdisciplinary research on Public and Private Procurement and on the Supply Chain. It promotes the cultural and scientific debate on these issues, working with governments, institutions and companies.

The purchase of works, goods and services from public administrations (PAs) or public authorities – public procurement - typically concerns 15-20% of a country GDP. This range will increase in the next years because of the increased level of delegation to the private sector of the provision of public services, not only in traditional sectors such as transport, energy and gas, but also in new sectors, such as the prison sectors and waste. Improving the efficiency of public procurement, reducing its costs and raising the quality of goods, infrastructure and services, can therefore contribute significantly to the welfare of a country. Public procurement is indeed playing a key role in the European strategy.

The Proxenter aims to undertake research on public and private procurement, to provide evaluations, identify best practices, and offer recommendations on procurement policy and regulations.
CEIS Tor Vergata co-operates closely with several international research centres and universities. The Centre also participates in research projects with national and international bodies, such as the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian Ministry of Health, the European Commission, the World Bank, United Nations agencies, International Labour Office and non-governmental bodies. The centre offers a wide variety of projects in association with the above-mentioned institutions. The activities include the following:

- Research activities and technical assistance in various fields such as child labour reduction policies, health economics and policy, economics of culture, poverty reduction strategies, sustainable development and macroeconomics adjustments.
- Distance learning programmes
- Capacity building projects
- Training activities for developing countries

Some of the past and present projects are as follows:

- Projects with World Bank: Understanding Children’s Work (UCW); Adriatic Sea Environment Programme; Rapid Assessment of Pollution Hotspots for the Adriatic Sea; Cultural heritage and sustainable development E-learning programme;
- Several research projects with the Italian Ministry of Health;
- Research projects with the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM)-Ministry of Culture, Damascus (Syria) for 4 years;
- Erasmus Mundus Master in International Co-operation and Urban Development;
- Marie Curie Research and Training Network “Transnationality of Migrants: Enduring ties with the home country and integration in the host country (TOM)”;