



122nd EAAE Seminar - February 17-18, 2011
Department of Economics, Università Politecnica delle Marche
Piazzale Martelli 8, Ancona (Italy)

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

“Evidence-Based Agricultural and Rural Policy Making: Methodological and Empirical Challenges of Policy Evaluation”

The 122nd EAAE Seminar is organized by the Interuniversity Research Consortium on Rural, Environmental and Economic Policies (SPERA) in cooperation with the Associazione “Alessandro Bartola” and the Department of Economics – Polytechnic University of Marche at Ancona, where the Seminar will be held.

Theme

The Seminar focuses on the evaluation of agricultural and rural policies, its methodology and practical experiences, with specific attention to the challenges raised by new emerging objectives of agricultural and rural policies in developed countries. Though the Seminar does not limit its focus on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), still both pillars of the CAP and their recent evolution are exemplary of the need for robust evaluation approaches and promote policy evaluation as a scientific challenge.

Background

Over the last decade in many developed countries (and, in particular, in the EU) agricultural and rural policies have been substantially reformed often with the aim of assigning new and multiple objectives. The emphasis on agricultural and rural policies as multipurpose policies is likely going to be confirmed and reinforced even in the next decade. Multiple and heterogeneous goals, however, make policy evaluation an even more complex task, because evaluation is expected to look at the capacity of the policy to effectively achieve the whole set of its stated objectives, across territories and farm-agent typologies.

Also as a reaction to this increasing complexity, policy evaluation has emerged as a sub-discipline within social sciences on its own, with remarkable developments in both methodological approaches and policy modelling. The attention of political institutions sharply increased in this respect, they being persuaded that any future developments in agricultural and rural policy making must be necessarily grounded on a rigorous and extensive evaluation work.

Objectives

The Seminar aims at bringing together papers presenting evaluation approaches suited to investigate efficiency and effectiveness of policy instruments with respect to their declared objectives. The emphasis of the Seminar is primarily on methodological and quantitative contributions either presenting relevant methodological improvements, or dealing with issues encountered in empirical evaluation activities. The Seminar is also willing to accept contributions providing wider views on policy evaluation exercises and literature. Surveys and meta-analyses are welcome, as well as critical reflections on the theory and the philosophy underlying policy evaluation. Contributions dealing with how evaluators extract information from their models and



applications and deliver the information requested to policy makers and stake-holders are also accepted.

Topics

According to these background and objectives, Seminar topics can be summarized in four categories within which participants are asked to contribute:

1. *The methodology of agricultural and rural policy evaluation*: Contributions under this topic are expected to focus on existing and innovative evaluation methods and tools. Methodological improvements may concern, among others: policy modelling; econometric models and methods, as well as other quantitative approaches; sampling procedures, experimental and non-experimental designs (such as issues in building appropriate farm surveys); developments in data collection and processing.
2. *Experiences of agricultural and rural policy evaluation*: The topic collects possibly heterogeneous empirical applications sharing the objective of evaluating, *ex-post* or *ex-ante*, the impact of agricultural and rural policies. Related to this, contributions on aspects related to data availability and quality are also welcome. Particularly under this topic, the focus mostly (but not exclusively) is on CAP evaluation; papers may concern the whole CAP, one whole Pillar or single measures. They may present applications at the EU-wide level, at a country level or at a smaller geographical scale. Papers analysing the interaction between the effects of the CAP and the objectives pursued by other EU policies are welcome.
3. *The economics of agricultural and rural policy evaluation (with the CAP in the foreground)*: contributions under this topic may analyse the theoretical background of policy evaluation and, in particular: Which are, according to policy objectives and instruments, the economic agents whose behaviour is relevant to analyse policy impacts? Are we able to analyse such behaviour thus correctly inferring the impact of the policy under scrutiny?
4. *Evaluating the distributional implications of agricultural and rural policy*: This topic emphasizes one aspect that is often disregarded in both policy evaluation and design. This seems relevant in particular for the CAP given the emphasis on territorial cohesion as a major strategic objective of the EU. As evaluation is often carried out at an aggregation level that does not allow distributional implications across agents and territories to emerge, papers contributing to take steps forward in this direction are particularly appreciated.

Call for papers

Participants who would like to present a paper are requested to submit an abstract in English (max 2 pages; Times New Roman font size 12, single spacing) by **September 15, 2010** entering the following webpage (it is possible to upload the abstract after registration): www.eaae-seminar.univpm.it.

Notification of acceptance/rejection will be communicated by **October 31, 2010**. The deadline for the submission of the full version of the accepted papers is **January 15, 2011**. All accepted papers will be collected in a CD-ROM and those presented will be then fed in the AgEcon Search database.



A selection of papers will be proposed for publication in a special issue of an highly-ranked sectoral academic journal. The European Review of Agricultural Economics (ERAЕ) has been approached as the first option.

The call for papers together with all information concerning the Seminar are downloadable from the Seminar website: www.eaae-seminar.univpm.it. The Local Organization Committee can be also contacted at eaae-seminar@univpm.it.

The Associazione “Alessandro Bartola”, as Seminar co-organizer, will also provide additional website services and organize collateral events for Seminar participants and external audience. These services will be offered through its on-line journal, **agriregionieuropa** (<http://www.agriregionieuropa.it/>). More details will be provided few months before the Seminar.

Invited Papers

The International and Program Committee is inviting prominent scholars and policy makers to present key-note papers covering the Seminar topics. The Program of invited speakers will be communicated soon.

Contact person for EAAE

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Local Organization Committee

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- Beatrice Camaioni – Università degli Studi della Tuscia (Viterbo), Director of the Associazione Alessandro Bartola
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- Franco Sotte - Department of Economics – Università Politecnica delle Marche; EAAE Liaison Officer; President of the Associazione Alessandro Bartola

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- Alfons Oude Lansink, Wageningen University (The Netherlands)
- Federico Perali, Università degli Studi di Verona (Italy), President of SPERA
- Beatriz Velasquez, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, EU Commission
- Pat Westhoff, FAPRI, University of Missouri (USA)

Language

The official language of the seminar will be English.

Registration

Participation Fee

Participants of an EAAE-Seminar have to be member of the EAAE. The participation fees for the Non-EAAE-members include the EAAE membership fee. Participants are kindly asked to pre-register by November 30, 2010. Although registration will be possible until the seminar starts, reduced rate subscription is offered until November 30, 2010.

	EAAE-Members	Non-EAAE-Members
before November 30, 2010	250 Euro	295 Euro
after November 30, 2010	295 Euro	335 Euro

The fees include lunches on both seminar days, dinner on the first day, coffee during the breaks and a copy of the conference proceedings (CD-ROM). Accommodation is not included.

Cancellation after November 30, 2010 will incur a cancellation fee of 50 EUR for administrative purposes. No refunds will be given for cancellations after January 1, 2010. Registration is only valid after payment has been made.

Payment:

Participants may pay with credit card or by bank transfer. Payment details will be provided soon.

Important dates (deadlines)

Abstract Submission: September 15, 2010

Notification of acceptance: October 31, 2010

Final registration: November 30, 2010

Full paper submission: January 15, 2011

Seminar: February 17-18, 2011