



Methods, Advancements & Interchange
open-Line of the Impact evaluation
Network Group

Bibliographical newsletter

30/11/2017

Year 3, Number 2

In the following pages you'll find bibliographical news on recently published papers and on open source works in the field of policy evaluation.

Information has been organized by Author, following a first-in, first-served criterion. Nevertheless, here are some previews of the methods applied in the research works presented:

- ➔ Dynamic pane models
- ➔ Fuzzy analysis
- ➔ Indicators for soft skills
- ➔ Randomized experiments
- ➔ Model based composite indicators

... and much more

In this number you'll find works analysing:

- Social innovation projects
- How to manage individual disadvantage
- Early school leaving
- School-to work transitions
- Place based policies
- Structural funds and cohesion policies
- Innovation policies

By Elena Ragazzi and Lisa Sella





This newsletter circulates bibliographical information about recently issued research work concerning impact evaluation. It is fed by the contribution of the authors, who remain responsible for the correctness and completeness of information and for the quality of the work. The newsletter is managed on a volunteering basis by the editors. We hope that it will foster a reflection on the evaluation experiences so as to improve methodological tools and to ease their correct application, and that it will encourage a discussion on the latest advancements, by easing their diffusion.

The next bibliographical newsletter will occur in SPRING.

Please send to mlist@ircres.cnr.it

- ➔ new open source works (reports, working papers, papers and presentations discussed at conferences). In this case send
 - the full bibliographical reference
 - the link to download it,
 - a short abstract (no more than 250 words)
- ➔ bibliographical references of published works (articles or books). In this case send
 - the full bibliographical reference
 - a short abstract (no more than 250 words)

WITHIN March 15th

Please follow the format of the following pages, that can be download [here](#)

Full bibliographical reference:	
Mariani, M., Mealli, F. (2017). The effects of R&D subsidies to small and medium-sized enterprises. Evidence from a regional program. <i>Italian Economic Journal</i> , DOI: 10.1007/s40797-017-0062-2	
Abstract: This article evaluates a small-business program implemented in an Italian region, Tuscany, providing small and medium-sized firms with R&D subsidies. To establish whether the subsidy has encouraged non-transitory R&D, enhanced the propensity to intellectual property protection and to collaborative R&D with other firms or research centers, or improved firm performance in general, we estimate a number of potential input, output and behavioral effects that the program might have induced shortly after the completion of the subsidized project. In order to do so, we perform a careful application of matching techniques, using a wide set of pre-subsidy characteristics. We find that the program has been ineffective with respect to the innovation and commercial outputs of small and medium-sized firms, but has encouraged a non-transitory practice of R&D by former non-R&D-performers and contributed to firm upskilling, which may be seen as prerequisites for the creation or the consolidation of absorptive capacity.	
Link: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40797-017-0062-2	
Type: journal article	Contact: marco.mariani@irpet.it
Language: English	Open source: no
Keywords: R&D, Subsidies, SMEs, Program evaluation	
Notes:	

Full bibliographical reference:

Caloffi, A., Mariani, M. (2017). Regional policy mixes for enterprise and innovation: A fuzzy-set clustering approach. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, DOI: 10.1177/2399654417691515

Abstract: The paper identifies different regional policy mixes, ranging from the more minimal to the more proactive or entrepreneurial and verifies their diffusion in the Italian regional enterprise and innovation policies. The empirical analysis is based on an original database containing every enterprise and innovation programme that has been implemented in Italy from 2007 to 2013, and is carried out by means of fuzzy-set clustering techniques. The results show the existence of remarkable heterogeneity, partly reflecting the well-known North-South divide, with some regions adopting minimal policy mixes and other regions adopting different types of proactive mixes.

Link: <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/2399654417691515>

Type: journal article

Contact: marco.mariani@irpet.it

Language: English

Open source: no

Keywords: Policy mix, enterprise and innovation policy, regional policy

Notes:

Full bibliographical reference: L'impatto delle politiche di coesione sullo sviluppo delle regioni italiane. Gianluigi Coppola, Sergio Destefanis, Giorgia Marinuzzi, Walter Tortorella. EyesReg 7 (3)	
Abstract: In this paper, we focus on the European Structural Funds' effects on the economies of the 20 Italian administrative regions for 1994-2012. Our evidence implies that the Funds had a significant impact on regional GDP per capita, as well as a weaker effect on capital accumulation. We also find that (nationally-financed) subsidies to firms increase GDP per capita. Quality of government is found to have little impact on Structural Funds, but enhances the impact of subsidies to firms. Different types of Structural Funds are found to have widely different influences, with the European Regional Development Fund, arguably, having the strongest impact. (<i>JEL: C43, D24</i>).	
Link: http://www.eyesreg.it/2017/limpatto-delle-politiche-di-coesione-sullo-sviluppo-delle-regioni-italiane/	
Type: journal article	Contact: destefanis@unisa.it
Language: Italian	Open source: yes
Keywords: European Structural Funds, Quality of government, Regional productivity, Local development.	
Notes:	

<p>Full bibliographical reference: Youth Labour-Market Performance, Institutions and Vet Systems: A Cross-Country Analysis. Destefanis, Sergio; Caroleo, Floro Ernesto; Ciociano, Elvira. ITALIAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL. 3(1). 39-69.</p>	
<p>Abstract: Youth are a vulnerable category of workers, since they are in a delicate phase of their working life, the first entry in the labour market. Young graduates and early school leavers are involved in the school-to-work transition process, whose duration considerably varies across countries. In this paper we explore the impact of labour-market and educational institutions on youth labour-market performance across OECD countries for the 1985–2012 period. We extend to 2012 the CEP–OECD dataset and match it with series about youth population, schooling and the vocational education and training participation rates from OECD and World Bank. We estimate a dynamic panel model, building upon Bassanini and Duval, “Employment Patterns in OECD Countries: Reassessing the Role of Policies and Institutions? OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers n. 35, Paris, 2006, including unemployment rate in the analysis, articulating the analysis upon various age groups (15–24, 20–24) and distinguishing between male and female workers. The tax wedge, changes in union density, the minimum wage, educational attainment and the level of economic activity stand out as the key determinants of youth employability (minimum wage has not however the sign most often expected in the literature). VET programmes participation also matter, although only in the short-run. There are also some interesting differences across age and gender groups. In particular, labour-market institutions seem to have a stronger impact for women.</p>	
<p>Link: https://econpapers.repec.org/article/spritalej/v_3a3_3ay_3a2017_3ai_3a1_3ad_3a10.1007_5fs40797-016-0045-8.htm</p>	
<p>Type: journal article</p>	<p>Contact: destefanis@unisa.it</p>
<p>Language: English</p>	<p>Open source: no</p>
<p>Keywords: Youth labour market; VET systems; School-to-work transitions; Institutions.</p>	
<p>Notes: JEL-codes: J24, J21, J64.</p>	



Full bibliographical reference: Cerqua, A. & Pellegrini, G. (2017). "Are we spending too much to grow? The case of Structural Funds", Journal of Regional Science, published online: 26 Oct 2017. doi: 10.1111/jors.12365	
Abstract: We evaluate whether the impact of EU Structural and Cohesion Funds (EUF) on Member States' regional economic growth depends on the intensity of treatment, measured by the normalized amount of funds distributed in each region. We use an original data set that covers all the main sources of EUF and extend the regression discontinuity design to the case of continuous treatment. The results suggest an average positive effect on regional growth. The estimated conditional intensity-growth function is concave and presents a maximum value. Therefore, the exceeding funds could have been allocated to other lagging regions without reducing the effect on growth.	
Link: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jors.12365/abstract	
Type: journal article	Contact: a.cerqua@westminster.ac.uk
Language: English	Open source: yes
Keywords: Continuous regression discontinuity design, EU Structural and Cohesion Funds; intensity of treatment	
Notes:	

Full bibliographical reference: Cerqua, A. & Pellegrini, G. (2017). “Qual è l'impatto delle politiche regionali sul mercato del lavoro?”. WorkINPS Paper No.5, Agosto 2017

Abstract: Place-based policies that stimulate growth and employment in less developed areas are at the heart of national interventions in most developed countries. The main difficulty in their empirical assessment lies in their intrinsic endogeneity: the lower the development of a region, the greater the public intervention intensity aimed at filling the gap. We measure the effects of a policy shock on the local labour market systems (LLM) exploiting the peculiar information necessary to apply for capital subsidies in Italy over the period 1996-2006, instead of using the Bartik instrument as almost all other papers do. Besides, the use of the Italian Social Security Institute (INPS) data allows to estimate reliable employment changes in subsidized and non-subsidized firms by LLMs. The model disentangles the effect on tradable and non-tradable sectors. We also distinguish between direct effects (within the LLM) and indirect effects coming from contiguous labour systems. The results show the presence of positive multipliers in the South of Italy, in line with what previously found for the US, but higher than those identified in literature for European countries. The reason lies not only in the greater accuracy of the data and the relevance of the econometric instrument used, but also in the characteristics of the LLMs of the South of Italy, where the widespread presence of unemployment and underutilization of production factors makes the local economy more responsive to exogenous shocks.

Link: https://www.inps.it/docallegatiNP/Mig/Allegati/Paper_n5_Pellegrini.pdf

Type: Working paper

Contact: a.cerqua@westminster.ac.uk

Language: Italian

Open source: yes

Keywords: Local multipliers, place-based policies, policy evaluation, spatial spillovers

Notes: The work-in-progress English version of the article is available upon request to the author

Full	bibliographical	reference:
<p>To cite this article: Francesca Salvà-Mut, María Tugores-Ques & Elena Quintana-Murci (2017): NEETs in Spain: an analysis in a context of economic crisis, <i>International Journal of Lifelong Education</i>, DOI: 10.1080/02601370.2017.1382016</p>		
<p>ABSTRACT</p> <p>This article presents the research results from a study that was conducted on Spanish youths aged 25–29 years who are neither in employment nor education and training (NEET). Their characteristics were analysed as well as the differential aspects in relation to people who are in employment, education or training. A typology of NEETs was also established based on their availability for and attitude towards employment, and the similarities and differences between the diverse subgroups were analysed. A mixed methodology was used: a quantitative perspective, which enabled a statistical and regression analysis using data that were obtained through questionnaires, and a qualitative perspective based on a biographical interview, which made it possible to focus on perceptions and processes. The results enable us to identify the common characteristics of the NEET population as well as the perceptions and determining factors of the three typologies.</p>		
<p>Abstract:</p>		
<p>Link: http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/EWQDrF3DK7c5gfiFjSA4/full http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02601370.2017.1382016</p>		
Type: Journal article	Contact: f.salva@uib.es	
Language: English	Open source: No	
<p>Keywords: NEETs; youth transitions; early school leavers; employment; education</p>		
<p>This article is part of the project 'Trajectories from secondary education into employment: a biographical perspective' (EDU2009-13312), funded under the National Plan R+D+I (Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, Government of Spain). These authors form part of the Education and Citizenship Research Group (University of the Balearic Islands) and it is considered a Competitive Research Group and is sponsored by part of the Autonomous Community of the Balearic Islands, through the General Directorate for Research, Technological Development and Innovation (Ministry of Innovation, Interior and Justice) and co-financed by FEDER funds.</p>		
<p>Notes:</p>		

<p>Full bibliographical reference: Cataldo R., Grassia M. G., Lauro N. C., Ragazzi E., Sella L., "Individual disadvantage and policy performance: The makings of "model-based" composite indicators", 2017, in Lauro N. C., Amaturio E., Grassia M. G., Aragona B., Marino M. (Eds.), Data Science and Social Research – Epistemology, Methods, Technology and Applications, Springer, ISBN 978-3-319-55476</p>	
<p>Abstract: In evaluating a policy, it is fundamental to represent its multiple dimensions and the targets it affects. Indeed, the impact of a policy generally involves a combination of socio-economic aspects that are difficult to represent. In this study, regional training policies are addressed, which are aimed at recovering the huge gaps in employability and social inclusion of weak Italian trainees. Previous counterfactual estimates of the net impact of regional training policies show the mess to observe and take into account the manifold aspects of trainees' weakness. In fact, the target population consists of very disadvantaged individuals, who experience hard situations in the labour market. To overcome this shortfall, the present paper proposes a Structural Equation Model, that considers the impact of trainees' socio-economic conditions on the policy outcome itself. In particular, the <i>ex ante</i> human capital is estimated from educational, social and individual backgrounds. Then, labour and training policies augment the individual human capital, affecting labour market outcomes jointly with individual job search behaviour. All these phenomena are expressed by a wide set of manifest variables and synthesised by composite indicators calculated with Partial Least Squares SEM. The makings of SEM are appraised, applied to the case of trainees in compulsory education.</p>	
<p>Link: http://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319554761</p>	
<p>Type: Book chapter (acts of a conference)</p>	<p>Contact: elena.ragazzi@ircres.cnr.it</p>
<p>Language: English</p>	<p>Open source: no</p>
<p>Keywords: Impact evaluation, labour policies, composite indicators, structural equation models</p>	
<p>Notes:</p>	

<p>Full bibliographical reference: Lamonica V., Ragazzi E., Sella L.. 2017, Counterfactual impact evaluation of a pilot program on bullying migrant adolescents, paper presented at the 57th ERSA conference, Groningen 29/08-01/09.</p>
<p>Abstract:</p> <p>The present case study describes the starting steps of a counterfactual evaluation design assessing the impact of a pilot training program addressed to foreign adolescents at high dropout risk in junior high school, their family and their teachers. The intervention is jointly developed by state junior high schools and Piazza dei Mestieri, a private training centre for adolescents in Turin, Italy. The project involves as well some junior high schools and training centres in France (Chambery and Lion) and in Belgium (Liège), which are supposed to develop similar interventions on immigrant students in the next future.</p> <p>All students involved in the program attend the first junior high class and had some bullying experience, either as victim or bully. This is fundamental, since bullying is an important predictor for drop out behaviour, most of all among young adolescents. Hence, the intervention is supposed to reduce drop out risk at school by a multifaceted treatment on the educative community, involving students, teachers, and families. A preliminary experience run in the recent past, had positive results, although the evaluation was based only on qualitative</p>

evidence and on the subjective assessment of the teachers.

The pilot experience that will be presented in the paper will be evaluated through experimental counterfactual approach. Moreover, it is addressed to migrant students, who are more exposed to bullying than native, and so it concerns a more disadvantaged but also more homogeneous target. .

During the experiment, the treated students are transferred to the training centre for two days a week, during institutional school lessons, for a 290-hour professional training course. The course has strong practical contents (bread-maker, chef's assistant, ...) and aims at restoring students' interest in education by professionally-oriented teaching, inductive innovative pedagogic methods, and individual mentorship. On their turn, teachers are involved in a weekly seminar, which reinforces their pedagogical approach to migrants' and bullying problems. Finally, families are involved through seminars and collective meetings, aiming at raising their awareness on bullying episodes at school.

For the project evaluation we constructed a grid of profiling variables, starting from the one developed and successfully applied in the project "Provaci ancora, Sam!" (<http://www.provaciancorasam.it/>). That will be monitored, for students belonging both to treated and control groups. The aim is to assess social and behavioural skills, alongside other variables concerning school performance.

Previous experimental evaluations of similar programs (see Kautz et al., 2014 for a survey) provide ambiguous results: depending on program features such as length of the treatment, role and pervasiveness of training, tutors, mentors, families' and peers' influence, long-term analyses showed either positive (Durlak et al., 2011; Tierney et al., 1995; Orr et al., 1994) or negative (Rodrigues-Planas, 2012) effects on some outcome variables such as behavioural attitudes, character skills, educational attainment, future wages and other labour market outcomes. For this reason the project will adopt a randomised experimental design, so as to get sound evidence on the effectiveness of the implemented activities.

Link: <https://ocloud.to.cnr.it/index.php/s/r8rQakpInNYaoeX>

Type: Conference paper

Contact: elena.ragazzi@ircres.cnr.it

Language: English

Open source: yes

Keywords: counterfactual impact evaluation; bullying; migrant; character (soft) skills; randomized experimental design

Notes: