

# Bibliographical newsletter

15/12/2019

Year 5, 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:

- ➔ Dif-in-dif with fixed effects
- ➔ Random trial and natural experiments
- ➔ Study of heterogeneous impacts
- ➔ (Spatial) Regression discontinuity design
- ➔ Propensity score matching
- ➔ Bayesian approach

... and much more

The papers presented in this number have a strong applied attitude, so you'll find works analysing a great variety of topics:

- Electoral reforms an public sector efficiency
- Evaluation in legislative assemblies
- Start-up support and self-employment
- Networking policies, such as R&D collaboration policies, network contracts among firms, consortia
- Export promotion, investment subsidies
- Place based policies, cohesion policy, structural funds
- Regional effects of national programs
- Euro area and inflation

*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 editors manage the newsletter on a volunteering basis. 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](mailto: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 30<sup>th</sup>**

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

<b>Full bibliographical reference: Ciffolilli A., Cutrini E., Pompili M, 2019, Do European Funds support the formation of firms? New evidence from Italy, in Regional Science Policy and practices - Volume 11, Issue 3, August 2019 Pages 549-569</b>	
<b>Abstract:</b> During the Great Recession, European Cohesion Policy had an important countercyclical function. It contributed to resilience and supported economic development at the local level. This paper investigates spatial variation in new firm formation in Italy and studies the role of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the period 2007–2013. Our analysis confirms that per capita expenditure of EU funds is positively and significantly correlated with new firm formation in the aftermath of the international crisis. In line with the existing literature, the analysis confirms that formal education, unemployment, and the size of the regional economy are important drivers in new business formation. Our findings differ partially from the existing literature as regards the implications of firm size and industrial specialization. Service-oriented provinces and areas dominated by large and medium-sized firms are more likely to foster entrepreneurial capacity, presumably due to spin-offs and the effects on the network of suppliers.	
Link: <a href="https://rsaiconnect.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/rsp3.12205">https://rsaiconnect.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/rsp3.12205</a>	
Type: Article	Contact: <a href="mailto:pompili@ismerieuropa.com">pompili@ismerieuropa.com</a>
Language: English	Open source: No
Keywords: entrepreneurship, new firm formation, ERDF, European Cohesion policy	
Notes:	

<b>Full bibliographical reference:</b> De Benedetto M. A., Destefanis S., Guadalupi L., 2019. <i>Electoral Reform and Public Sector Efficiency. Some Evidence From Italian Municipalities</i> , Working Papers 3_237, Dipartimento di Scienze Economiche e Statistiche, Università degli Studi di Salerno.	
<b>Abstract:</b> We study the effect of Law 81/1993, which introduced a different electoral rule for the election of the mayor, on the technical efficiency of Italian cities. Since 1993, municipalities below 15,000 inhabitants vote with a single-ballot system, whereas cities above 15,000 inhabitants threshold are subject to a double ballot. We first estimate the technical efficiency in 1994 (taken as a pre-change year), and 1999 and 2004 for a sample of Italian municipalities, through a non-parametric DEA, and then we perform on both input and output oriented efficiency scores a difference-in-differences analysis, through various panel techniques. We find evidence that, after the reform, municipalities voting under a double-ballot show low levels of efficiency compared to cities voting under a single-ballot, by about 16 (input oriented) and 4 percentage points (output oriented). We speculate that the difference in the level of efficiency among cities voting under a different electoral rule is essentially driven by a lower average quality of politicians elected under a double ballot compared to those elected with a single ballot.	
<b>Link:</b> <a href="https://econpapers.repec.org/paper/sepwpaper/3_5f237.htm">https://econpapers.repec.org/paper/sepwpaper/3_5f237.htm</a>	
<b>Type:</b> working paper	<b>Contact:</b> destefanis@unisa.it
<b>Language:</b> English	<b>Open source:</b> yes
<b>Keywords:</b> Electoral reforms; Technical efficiency; Difference-in-differences; DEA.	
<b>Notes:</b> JEL-codes: C21, C23, C24, D72, H76.	



<b>Full bibliographical reference:</b> Destefanis S., Fragetta M., Gasteiger E., 2019. <i>Does one size fit all in the Euro Area? Some counterfactual evidence</i> , ECON WPS - Vienna University of Technology Working Papers in Economic Theory and Policy 05/2019, Vienna University of Technology.	
<b>Abstract:</b> This paper examines whether Euro Area countries would have faced a more favorable inflation output variability tradeoff without the Euro. We provide evidence that this claim is true for the periods of the Great Recession and the European Sovereign Debt Crisis. For the Euro Area as a whole, the deterioration of the tradeoff becomes insignificant with Draghi's "whatever it takes" announcement onwards. However, a more detailed analysis shows that the detrimental effect of the Euro is more severe and long-lasting for peripheral countries, pointing to structural differences among Euro Area countries as a key element of the detrimental effect of the Euro. We base our results on a novel empirical strategy that, consistently with monetary theory, models the joint determination of the variability of inflation and output conditional on structural supply shocks. Moreover, our findings are robust to potential endogeneity concerns related to adoption of the Euro.	
<b>Link:</b> <a href="https://econpapers.repec.org/paper/zbwtuweco/052019.htm">https://econpapers.repec.org/paper/zbwtuweco/052019.htm</a>	
<b>Type:</b> working paper	<b>Contact:</b> destefanis@unisa.it
<b>Language:</b> English	<b>Open source:</b> yes
<b>Keywords:</b> Euro Area; Monetary Policy; Difference-in-Differences.	
<b>Notes:</b> JEL-codes: C32, E50, F45.	

<p><b>Full bibliographical reference:</b> Forastiere, L., Lattarulo, P., Mariani, M., Mealli, F., &amp; Razzolini, L. (2019). Exploring Encouragement, Treatment, and Spillover Effects Using Principal Stratification, With Application to a Field Experiment on Teens' Museum Attendance. <i>Journal of Business &amp; Economic Statistics</i>, 1-15.</p>	
<p><b>Abstract:</b> This article revisits results from a field experiment, conducted in Florence, Italy, to study the effects of incentives provided to high school teens to motivate them to visit art museums. In the experiment, different classes of students were randomized to three types of encouragement and were offered a free visit to a main museum in the city. Using the principal stratification framework, the article explores causal pathways that may lead students to increase future visits, as induced by the encouragement received, or by the individual experience of the proposed free museum visit, or by the spillover of classmates' experience. We do so by estimating and interpreting the causal effects of the three forms of encouragement within the principal strata defined by compliance behaviors. Bayesian inferential methods are used to derive the posterior distributions of weakly identified causal parameters.</p>	
<p><b>Link:</b> <a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/07350015.2019.1647843">https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/07350015.2019.1647843</a></p>	
<p><b>Type:</b> Journal article</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> marco.mariani@irpet.it</p>
<p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Open source:</b> no</p>
<p><b>Keywords:</b> Bayesian inference, Causal inference in the presence of interference, Clustered encouragement design, Cultural consumption, Principal stratification</p>	
<p><b>Notes:</b></p>	

<p><b>Full bibliographical reference:</b> Caloffi, A., Mariani, M., Mattei, A., &amp; Mealli, F (2019). What Kinds of R&amp;D Consortia Enhance SMEs Productivity? A Hierarchical Bayesian Approach for the Analysis of a Regional Innovation Policy. <i>Papers in Regional Science</i>.</p>	
<p><b>Abstract:</b> Regional innovation policies often encourage the formation of R&amp;D consortia between co-localised small- and medium- sized firms (SMEs) and large companies, universities or other agents. We investigate the benefits in terms of labour productivity arising for SMEs from alternative configurations of such consortia. We focus on an Italian regional policy. Using a hierarchical Bayesian approach for inference, we find that consortia work better when they are vertical rather than horizontal, and when they match SMEs to large firms. On the contrary, neither the presence of a university nor that of an innovation intermediary is always associated with higher firms' productivity.</p>	
<p><b>Link:</b> <a href="https://rsaiconnect.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/pirs.12476">https://rsaiconnect.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/pirs.12476</a></p>	
<p><b>Type:</b> Journal article</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> marco.mariani@irpet.it</p>
<p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Open source:</b> no</p>
<p><b>Keywords:</b> R&amp;D consortia; regional innovation policy; SMEs; hierarchical Bayesian models</p>	
<p><b>Notes:</b></p>	

<p><b>Full bibliographical reference:</b> Mariani, M. (2019). <b>Regional Industrial Policy Evaluation: Introductory Remarks.</b> <i>Scienze Regionali</i>, 18(2), 165-172, special issue “Regional Industrial Policy Evaluation: New Insights from the Italian Experience”</p>	
<p><b>Abstract:</b> Following on from the special issue of Scienze Regionali – Italian Journal of Regional Science recently edited by Fabio Mazzola (2015), this new special issue aims to contribute further to the debate on regional policy by bringing out parts of policy evaluation that have so far remained in the background. In fact, the range of interventions targeting firms and innovation is very wide, but most of the evaluation literature has to date focused on a limited number of instruments, namely R&amp;D and generic investment supports. A first goal of this special issue is to encourage evidence-based debate on some parts of regional policymaking that, despite being common, are still understudied. A second goal of the special issue is to fuel further debate on the regional effects of national programmes. The most important lesson to be drawn from this special issue is that neither regional nor national interventions are necessarily bound to fail, but there is considerable room for improvement.</p>	
<p><b>Link:</b> <a href="https://www.rivisteweb.it/issn/1720-3929/issue/7691">https://www.rivisteweb.it/issn/1720-3929/issue/7691</a>; <a href="https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.14650/93645">https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.14650/93645</a></p>	
<p><b>Type:</b> Journal article</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> marco.mariani@irpet.it</p>
<p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Open source:</b> no</p>
<p><b>Keywords:</b> program evaluation, regional policy</p>	
<p><b>Notes:</b></p>	

<p><b>Full bibliographical reference:</b> Caragliu, A., Landoni, P., &amp; Sala, A. (2019). Network Contracts and Firm Performance: Evidence from Matching Estimates of a Regional Programme Impact. <i>Scienze Regionali</i>, 18(2), 173-192, special issue “Regional Industrial Policy Evaluation: New Insights from the Italian Experience”</p>	
<p><b>Abstract:</b> This paper empirically assesses the stimulating effect of the ERGON1 program issued by the Lombardy Region (Italy). ERGON1 provided economic incentives for creating network contracts among firms, mostly located in the region. A network contract is an innovative policy instrument introduced in Italy in 2009, which fosters the creation of firm aggregations with an ad hoc contract, without resorting to mergers. Network contracts are meant to increase economic efficiency for all firms involved in the contract. A new database has been collected for the analyzes presented. Information is available on firms' balance sheets, on ERGON1 call participants, and on network contracts existing in Italy as of 2015. Empirical results suggest that firms enjoy an increase in productivity after being financed to create network contracts. Causality issues are tackled by means of Propensity Score Matching Estimates. Estimates suggest that ERGON1 causes a better economic performance of firms in the sample.</p>	
<p><b>Link:</b> <a href="https://www.rivisteweb.it/issn/1720-3929/issue/7691">https://www.rivisteweb.it/issn/1720-3929/issue/7691</a>; <a href="https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.14650/93646">https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.14650/93646</a></p>	
<p><b>Type:</b> Journal article</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> andrea.caragliu@polimi.it</p>
<p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Open source:</b> no</p>
<p><b>Keywords:</b> Network Contracts; Firm Cooperation; Economic Growth; Regional Externalities.</p>	
<p><b>Notes:</b></p>	



<b>Full bibliographical reference:</b> Caloffi, A., Rossi, F., & Russo, M. (2019). The Network Effects of Regional R&D Collaboration Policy. <i>Scienze Regionali</i> , 18(2), 193-214, special issue “Regional Industrial Policy Evaluation: New Insights from the Italian Experience”	
<b>Abstract:</b> Adopting a counterfactual approach to the evaluation of an R&D collaboration policy, carried out on a regional scale, we investigate different types of persistent network effects, namely persistence, breadth, composition, and intensification. Our findings reveal that the R&D collaboration policy was able to generate a persistent change in the networking behaviour of participating firms (persistence effect), stimulating in particular collaborations with universities. Network effects were greater for firms that, prior to the policy intervention, were already accustomed to collaborating, than for more stand-alone firms. With respect to the former firms, we also find a composition effect, which implies a change in the type of partners in innovation-related activities.	
<b>Link:</b> <a href="https://www.rivisteweb.it/issn/1720-3929/issue/7691">https://www.rivisteweb.it/issn/1720-3929/issue/7691</a> ; <a href="https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.14650/93647">https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.14650/93647</a>	
<b>Type:</b> Journal article	<b>Contact:</b> annalisa.caloffi@unifi.it
<b>Language:</b> English	<b>Open source:</b> no
<b>Keywords:</b> Network Additionality; Network Persistence; Policy Evaluation; R&D Collaboration Policy.	
<b>Notes:</b>	

<b>Full bibliographical reference:</b> Comi, S., Resmini, L., & Vittucci Marzetti, G. (2019). The Impact of Regional Export Promotion Policies in Italy. The Case of Lombardy. <i>Scienze Regionali</i> , 18(2), 215-236, special issue “Regional Industrial Policy Evaluation: New Insights from the Italian Experience”	
<b>Abstract:</b> The paper aims at evaluating the impact of export promotion policies at the regional level in Italy. We estimate a difference-in-differences model with firm-level fixed-effects to analyze the effect of matching grants for participation in international trade fairs in Lombardy, the most important Italian region in economic terms. Results show that the vouchers are able to improve firms' export performance by affecting the intensive margin of small-sized and more internationalized firms.	
<b>Link:</b> <a href="https://www.rivisteweb.it/issn/1720-3929/issue/7691">https://www.rivisteweb.it/issn/1720-3929/issue/7691</a> ; <a href="https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.14650/93648">https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.14650/93648</a>	
<b>Type:</b> Journal article	<b>Contact:</b> laura.resmini@unimib.it
<b>Language:</b> English	<b>Open source:</b> no
<b>Keywords:</b> Export Promotion; Impact Evaluation; SMEs.	
<b>Notes:</b>	

<p><b>Full bibliographical reference:</b> Mariani, M., Mattei, A., Storchi, L., &amp; Vignoli, D. (2019). The Ambiguous Effects of Public Assistance to Youth and Female Start-Ups between Job Creation and Entrepreneurship Enhancement. <i>Scienze Regionali</i>, 18(2), 237-260, special issue “Regional Industrial Policy Evaluation: New Insights from the Italian Experience”</p>	
<p><b>Abstract:</b> Public support for start-ups often has the dual ambition of fostering self-employment of disadvantaged individuals while nurturing entrepreneurship. In this paper we evaluate a female and youth start-up program recently implemented in Tuscany (Italy) which provides public guarantees and subsidized interest rates to new firms. Under the assumption of strong ignorability of the assignment mechanism, we use a propensity score matching approach to draw inferences on the program's causal effects on firms' survival and job creation. The results suggest that public support in this area may have rather ambiguous effects. It helps women and young adults to escape unemployment or inactivity, and may lead to further job creation. Unfortunately, this occurs at the price of committing public resources to entrepreneurial projects that gain little efficiency over time.</p>	
<p><b>Link:</b> <a href="https://www.rivisteweb.it/issn/1720-3929/issue/7691">https://www.rivisteweb.it/issn/1720-3929/issue/7691</a>; <a href="https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.14650/93649">https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.14650/93649</a></p>	
<p><b>Type:</b> Journal article</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> marco.mariani@irpet.it</p>
<p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Open source:</b> no</p>
<p><b>Keywords:</b> Entrepreneurship; Self-Employment; Program Evaluation.</p>	
<p><b>Notes:</b></p>	

<p><b>Full bibliographical reference:</b> Bondonio, D., &amp; Martini, A. (2019). Are They Worth It? A Counterfactual Impact Evaluation of a Decade of Investment Subsidies to Italian Firms. <i>Scienze Regionali</i>, 18(2), 261-290, special issue “Regional Industrial Policy Evaluation: New Insights from the Italian Experience”</p>	
<p><b>Abstract:</b> In this paper we investigate the impact on employment, payroll costs and labour productivity of investment subsidies awarded to industrial firms in Italy during 2000-2009, focusing on estimating heterogeneous impacts by economic values of the subsidy and by relevant firm characteristics. The analysis exploits desirable natural experiment conditions in terms of exogenous treatment exclusions and an unique availability of administrative microdata that cover the universe of Italian firms. Our impact estimates are obtained by means of two different matching estimators and a discontinuity approach, combined with a difference-in-difference scheme, and dynamically implemented in terms of separately considering each consecutive cohort of treated firms. The results of our analysis show that large non-repayable subsidies, particularly when given to large firms and in underdeveloped regions, are an ineffective way to stimulate additional private investments leading to employment growth and/or improvements in labour productivity. Small subsidies given to small firms, not in the context of severely distressed areas, are instead the programme interventions with the best cost-effectiveness.</p>	
<p><b>Link :</b> <a href="https://www.rivisteweb.it/issn/1720-3929/issue/7691">https://www.rivisteweb.it/issn/1720-3929/issue/7691</a>; <a href="https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.14650/93650">https://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.14650/93650</a></p>	
<p><b>Type:</b> Journal article</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> daniele.bondonio@uniupo.it</p>
<p><b>Language:</b> English</p>	<p><b>Open source:</b> no</p>
<p><b>Keywords:</b> Counterfactual Impact Evaluation; Heterogeneous Impacts; Natural Experiment; Enterprise Support; Capital Grants; Soft Loans; Employment; Sales; Investments; Labor Productivity.</p>	
<p><b>Notes:</b></p>	

<b>Full bibliographical reference:</b>	
<b>Matthias Brachert, Eva Dettmann, Mirko Titze The regional effects of a place-based policy – Causal evidence from Germany Regional Science and Urban Economics, Vol. 79 (2019)</b>	
<b>Abstract:</b> The German government provides discretionary investment grants to structurally weak regions in order to reduce regional inequality. We use a regression discontinuity design that exploits an exogenous discrete jump in the probability of regional actors to receive investment grants to identify the causal effects of the policy. We find positive effects of the programme on district-level gross value-added and productivity growth, but no effects on employment and gross wage growth.	
<b>Link:</b> <a href="https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1ZxKf_3neGbVZk">https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1ZxKf_3neGbVZk</a> (until December, 10th 2019, the paper can be downloaded here)	
<b>Type:</b> journal article	<b>Contact:</b> Matthias.brachert@iwh-halle.de
<b>Language:</b> English	<b>Open source:</b> no
<b>Keywords:</b> Causal analysis, Place-based policy, Regression discontinuity design	
<b>Notes:</b>	

<b>Full bibliographical reference: Riccardo Crescenzi &amp; Mara Giua (2019): One or many Cohesion Policies of the European Union? On the differential economic impacts of Cohesion Policy across member states, Regional Studies, DOI: 10.1080/00343404.2019.1665174</b>	
<b>Abstract:</b> To what extent do regions in different member states of the European Union benefit from Cohesion Policy? A spatial regression discontinuity design approach offers distinct but fully comparable estimates of regional impacts for each individual member state. Cohesion Policy has a positive European Union-wide impact on regional growth and employment. However, a large part of the growth bonus is concentrated in Germany, while impacts on employment are confined to the UK. The picture in Southern Europe is less rosy. In Italy, positive impacts on employment do not survive the Great Recession, while in Spain economic growth benefits are limited to the recovery period.	
<b>Link:</b> <a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00343404.2019.1665174">https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00343404.2019.1665174</a>	
<b>Type:</b> journal article	<b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:r.crescenzi@lse.ac.uk">r.crescenzi@lse.ac.uk</a> ; <a href="mailto:mara.giua@uniroma3.it">mara.giua@uniroma3.it</a>
<b>Language:</b> English	<b>Open source:</b> yes
<b>Keywords:</b> Cohesion Policy; European Union; regions; growth; employment	
<b>Notes:</b>	

**Full bibliographical reference:** Accorinti M., Gagliardi F., Ragazzi E., Salberini G. (2018), *L'interesse del Senato della Repubblica per la pratica valutativa: alcune riflessioni di metodo relativamente agli aiuti per la sicurezza sui luoghi del lavoro*. RIV Rivista Italiana di valutazione, N.7, pp. 07-29 DOI: 10.3280/RIV2018-070002.

**Abstract:** This article presents the experience conducted by the authors to respond to a request by the Parliamentary Commission on work accidents and occupational diseases of the Italian Senate of the Republic. The request concerned an evaluation study on the effects of measures implemented pursuant to the current legislation on safety.

Particular attention is paid to the ways in which the relationship between the evaluator, the Commission (playing the role of client of the evaluation) and the implementer of the policy (Inail) develops and affects the feasibility of the evaluation. The main lesson that emerges from this experience concerns the proper function of evaluation in the mission of legislative bodies. It appears to be linked with specific characteristics both on the evaluation itself and on the relationship established with the administration charged by law to carry out the intervention. If the implementing policy administration is not appropriately involved and motivated, the evaluation is interpreted as a control tool by the legislative bodies and not as, instead, as a way to improve the effectiveness of the interventions and therefore the norm that generated them. In this framework, the article, in addition to presenting the conditions to carry out an evaluation in the field of safety policies in the workplace, also raises some reflections on the opportunity and feasibility of the evaluation role within the legislative bodies.

**Link:**

<https://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/SchedaRivista.aspx?IDArticolo=64825&Tipo=Articolo%20PDF&lingua=it&idRivista=109>

**Type:** journal article

**Contact:** elena.ragazzi@ircres.cnr.it

**Language:** Italian

**Open source:** no

**Keywords:** Evaluation of public policies, legislative assemblies and policy evaluation, methodology, incentives for investments, incentives for investments, ISI calls, workplace safety, inter-institutional relations, Parliamentary Commission on accidents and occupational diseases.

**Notes:**