



# EACES Newsletter

## No. 94 – January 2023

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## 1. Official news

### 1.1 Message from the president

Dear members of EACES:

We all looked forward to a better year 2022 after the COVID epidemic seemed to be abating. We all hoped for more scientific exchange in personal meetings at workshops and conferences across Europe. But alas the year 2022 turned out to be truly an “annus horribilis” when for the first time since the

end of WW II a large war started to unfold on our continent. The management board of EACES on February 27, 2022, condemned the aggression of the Russian Federation against an independent and democratic country, Ukraine, and asked for the immediate withdrawal of all Russian forces from Ukrainian territory. I am convinced that the overwhelming majority of our members supported this stance of the management board.

Our thoughts go above all to the innocent Ukrainian children, women and men who thus far lost their lives in this war and to the entire population of Ukraine, which has encountered and is encountering incredible suffering and hardship on such a vast scale. I am sure I speak for all members of EACES if I wish for an unfolding of events in 2023 that guarantee the conclusion of peace in the not-too-distant future; a peace that maintains the territorial integrity of Ukraine and that allows the Ukrainian people to live in a democratic state with the prospect of eventually joining the European Union.

The far too early passing away of Francesco Pastore, elected vice-president of our association, was another major shock in 2022 to many of us. Francesco was a very close friend of mine, so losing him was personally very painful to me. Despite nearly permanent major health problems Francesco worked tirelessly when it came to research and teaching. He was one of the leading European experts on School to Work Transitions and was very prominent as an economist studying labor markets in the post-Soviet region. Francesco developed the first version of the program of the 17th EACES Conference that took place in September 2022 at Parthenope University in Naples.

When Francesco passed away in July 2022 Antonella Rocca and Alessandro Sapio from Parthenope University continued Francesco's work in splendid fashion and ensured that our 2022 conference was a great success. For the association this conference was the main positive event in 2022. I am very grateful to Antonella and Alessandro for their tireless and efficient work. The conference was a hybrid event, with about half the participants being present in Naples. What was encouraging and bodes well for the future were the many young colleagues presenting their exciting research in Naples.

The last section of this newsletter presents announcements of a workshop, a conference and the 2023 IOS/APB/EACES summer academy. These three events, all organized by EACES members, show, how vibrant the association is when it comes to research areas that are of great policy relevance. EACES will support events like the ones documented with up to 800 €. I, therefore, encourage you to send us announcements of conferences and workshops that you plan for 2023. We will post them on our website upon receipt.

I hope that the year 2023 started well for you and I wish all of you a happy and healthy new year!

Hartmut

## 1.2 EACES General Assembly Meeting minutes

The general assembly of the European Association of Comparative Economic Studies (EACES) took place on Friday, September 17th 2022 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Parthenope University, Naples, Italy. All members have been invited in time via the association's website [eaces.eu](http://eaces.eu). No further suggestions concerning the agenda have been received from the members. Present were 28 members of the association.

## Presidential Report and Financial Report

The president Hartmut Lehmann welcomed the members. He reported that 2021 was dominated (again) by the Covid pandemic, also with regard to finances. The usual financial support of workshops dropped to zero because they either were cancelled or shifted to an online format at drastically reduced costs. As a result, there was no application for funding in 2021. The (usually bi-annual) conference also had to go online. Since the organizers – as usual – worked pro bono and the association could benefit from the online infrastructure of the

University of Regensburg, the expenditures were almost zero. The two keynoters (Tito Boeri, Armin Falk) also came without costs for travel and accommodation that would have been covered by EACES. Furthermore, the 2021 EACES doctoral award winner, Peter Howard Jones, happily accepted the recognition of his work, but generously abstained from accepting the prize money.

Instead of the treasurer, Jürgen Jerger, who could not attend for family reasons, the president reported the following financial data: The total wealth of the association as of 31 Dec 2021 has been 21.819,52 € and lies in an account at Unicredit HVB Regensburg.

In 2022, so far there were only minor expenditures (website maintenance and banking fees). Only one workshop (IOS Summer Academy) asked for support (800 €). In connection to the Naples conference, EACES received 12-13 k€ in membership and conference fees, the largest part of which is expected to be spent on the conference including prize money.

The total wealth of EACES per 15 Sept 2022 is 34.351,27 €. Whereas almost all revenues from the conference are included in this number, most of the conference-related cost still have to be billed and paid. But even taking into account the expected expenses for the conference, there is quite some potential for the support of workshops and other activities that foster research in comparative economics.

### Approval of the actions (discharge) of the managing board

The president asked the members to formally vote on the approval (discharge) of the managing board. 100% of the EACES members present approved the actions of the managing board (number of votes: 28).

### Elections

Usually, EACES officers are elected every two years in connection with the bi-annual conference. In 2020, this cycle has been disrupted since the conference had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. In connection with the elections at the general assembly in 2021, it was agreed that in 2022, there should be a return to the bi-annual cycle. It is also a good tradition in the association that the incumbent vice president runs for presidency after one term of office. Due to the untimely and unexpected death of our vice president Francesco Pastore, this tradition cannot be followed. Furthermore, the incumbent secretary, Kseniia Gatskova, informed the managing board that she will not run for another term.

In this situation, Hartmut Lehmann declared his willingness to serve another term as president and in preparing this general assembly asked the following colleagues to run for the respective offices of the managing board:

Vice-President: Sonja Avlijaš (University of Belgrade)

Treasurer: Jürgen Jerger (University of Regensburg and Leibniz Institute of East and Southeast European Studies)

Secretary: Norberto Pignatti (ISET Tbilisi and IZA).

All incumbent other members of the executive board – except Sonja Avlijaš, who runs for vice presidency – (Beata Farkas, Vladimir Gimpelson, David M. Kemme, Michael Keren, Satoshi Mizobata, Martin Myant, Urmaz Varblane, Andrei Yakovlev) gave their consent before the general assembly that they run for another term of office.

The general assembly then voted on the four candidacies for the managing board sequentially, approving the four candidates

unanimously (28 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 abstentions were recorded for each candidacy). The continuation of the other members of the executive board was approved of (again 28 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 abstentions) en bloc.

All elected officers present in the GA accepted their election upon the announcement of the result. The others accepted upon notification via Email after the GA.

### Other Issues

No other issues have been raised by the members. Hartmut Lehmann closed the meeting at 7 p.m.

### 1.3 Short report about the 14<sup>th</sup> Joint IOS/APB/EACES Summer Academy on Central and Eastern Europe

The Summer Academy *Gender inequality in Central and Eastern Europe: Labor market in focus* took place in the premises of the Akademie für Politische Bildung Tutzing between the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2022.

Twelve junior scholars were invited to attend and present their papers. During the three days of the Academy, the participants had the opportunity to present their research as well as attend presentations from three keynote speakers:

- Irena Kogan (University of Mannheim, Germany)
- Ariane Pailhé (French National Demographic Institute (Ined), France)
- Norberto Pignatti (ISET, Tbilisi State University, Georgia).

Sally Zhang, from Stanford University, received the Hans Raupach Award as the author of a paper of exceptional merit.

## 2. Calls for papers

### 2.1 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on the Comparative Economics of Southern Europe: investment in economic and social infrastructure (30-31 March 2023)

Following the multiple shocks of transition to a market economy, the global financial crisis, the Covid pandemic and the destructive effects of the war in Ukraine, the economies of South East Europe are under increasing strain. As interest rates rise around the world, the burden of debt payments in indebted countries is rising and governments are under pressure to cut back on their expenditures. Often, social and economic infrastructure investments are the first in line for cutbacks. However, these investments lay the foundations for future economic growth, recovery and reconstruction. The importance of infrastructure investments is recognised in the EU's Economic and Investment Plan for South East Europe, in the EU's Recovery and Resilience Plans for EU members states, and in the support promised to Ukraine by international institutions as it struggles to rebuild its essential infrastructure damaged and destroyed by Russian aggression. However, research evidence on the contribution of infrastructure investments in Southeast Europe is poorly developed and much needs to be known about the role of both economic and social infrastructure in the economies of the region.

Which infrastructure contributes most to productivity and economic growth? How should infrastructure investments be financed? How can infrastructure investments be designed to contribute to the goals of environmental protection, combatting climate change and reducing economic inequalities? What will be the effects of new economic and social infrastructure investments on the labour markets, and on skill development and on youth unemployment? Can investments in

digital infrastructure reduce the development gap between Southeast Europe and more advanced European states? How can infrastructure investments be designed to reduce large regional disparities and boost local economic development? These and other questions will be discussed at this workshop.

[Here you can find the full text of the Call for Papers](#)

## 2.2 Szeged conference (14-15 April 2023)

In the years of the Great Moderation, competitiveness was in the focal point of economic discussion. Since the 2008 global crisis the idea of resilience has come to the fore. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the disrupted global value chains exhibited the importance of resilience and adaptability, and the priority of security often overwrote the aspects of profit maximization or competitiveness. The war in Ukraine and the unfolding East-West decoupling have taken us even further from the economic concept of globalization. In addition, the energy crisis caused by the war only makes it more difficult to cope with the climate change challenge and to achieve sustainable development.

We invite papers on the following topics that address the changing global economic landscape, primarily but not exclusively from the perspective of the European integration and economy:

- European and national policy responses,
- green and digital transition,
- energy transition,
- changing global value chains,
- new financial and business models,
- geoeconomic and geopolitical relationships in transition.

Papers based on the approach of either economics, political economy or business studies are welcome.

Papers as well as panel proposals can be submitted.

The Conference provides a dedicated session for PhD students.

Selected papers will be published after a peer review process in an online proceeding with an ISBN number.

[Here you can find the link to the webpage of the organizers and the Call for Papers.](#)

## 2.3 15<sup>th</sup> Joint IOS/APB/EACES Summer Academy (3-5 July 2023)

The 15<sup>th</sup> Joint IOS/APB/EACES Summer Academy on Central and Eastern Europe organized by the Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS Regensburg) in cooperation with the Akademie für Politische Bildung, Tutzing (APB) and the European Association for Comparative Economic Studies (EACES) will be held from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of July in Tutzing, Lake Starnberg, Germany.

We invite junior scholars (Ph.D. students and Postdocs) from economics, sociology, political and population studies to submit extended abstracts or full papers. Topics include but are not limited to long-term and short-term perspectives for the influence of migration on the development of the economic and social sphere for both countries of origin and destination. The major themes can be grouped under the following groups of research:

- Migrants on the labor market (countries of origin and countries of destination)
- The role of migration in social and demographic development of sending and receiving countries
- Refugees and displaced persons, economic and social integration
- Impact of remittances on sending and receiving countries

- The influence of Covid-19 pandemic shocks on migration, integration, and remittances
- Migration and human capital formation

Preference will be given to papers focusing on Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans and Post-Soviet countries.

The IOS/APB/EACES Summer Academies on Central and Eastern Europe aim to bring together Ph.D. students and Postdocs in a workshop atmosphere. The workshop language is English. The Hans Raupach Award will honor the author(s) of a paper of exceptional merit. Further information on the program and past summer academies is available at: <https://www.ios-regensburg.de/veranstaltungen/summer-academy.htm>

**[Here you can find the full text of the call for papers.](#)**