

CALL FOR PAPERS

International web-conference

Challenges and opportunities for the EU after the Crisis

The Standing Group on the European Union of the Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (Italian Political Science Association) organises a web conference entitled “Challenges and opportunities for the EU after the Crisis”. The conference will be entirely online: no physical presence is required for paper givers and for the audience. Pre-registration for non-paper givers is compulsory in order to arrange technical aspects and a call for registration will be circulated together with the final programme of the conference.

The conference will deal with the challenges the EU has to face to overcome the consequences of the international crisis. The governance and the policies had been identified as the key elements to analyse for understanding the nature and relevance of these challenges. So, the conference will be organised in two sections as indicated below.

Those interested in proposing a paper are kindly requested to send an abstract of maximum 500 words to both diquirico@unica.it and mattia.guidi@unisi.it **no later than October 15th 2019**. Please, indicate the section you propose your paper. Please, keep in mind the organisers can accept your paper for a section that is different than that proposed by you.

For further information, please contact diquirico@unica.it

Selected paper givers will be contacted within a few days after the deadline and technical training will be offered for using the webinar facilities. The conference will be held **6-7 December 2019**.

An edited volume is expected as the main result of the conference.

The content of the two sections is described below.

Section 1 - The European Semester and the euro area macroeconomic coordination

One of the most significant innovations adopted in response to the sovereign debt crisis is the European Semester. The European Semester was established in 2010 in response to the sovereign debt crisis, to strengthen the “preventive arm” of the Stability and Growth Pact, providing regular and consistent scrutiny of the member states through yearly Country-specific Recommendations (CSRs). While its main aim was and is to diagnose macroeconomic imbalances before they turn into sovereign debt crises, CSRs were designed to go well beyond the scrutiny of budgetary policy: they contain recommendations about all social and regulatory policies that may have an impact on economic growth and public expenditure. CSRs embrace policy fields as diverse as health, pensions, regulation of the labour market and regulation of the services sector.

This section invites contributions analysing every aspect of the European Semester: its introduction as an instance of institutional change, the content of CSRs (where does it come from? Which EU body

prevails in its drafting?), the implementation of CSRs in member states, the evolution of CSRs and of the Semester architecture through the years. Both comparative analyses and case studies are welcome. Contributions focusing on the macroeconomic governance of the euro area are also encouraged.

Section 2 - Europe as a Policy-Maker. Innovation and Policies to Relaunch the European Union after the Crisis

The international context and the never-ended Eurozone economic crisis impose to the EU to find innovative solutions for relaunching integration and economic growth in Europe. Also, many disequilibria emerged during the crisis, mainly dependent by critical structural issues that characterise the EU and that cannot be resolved by national governments and neither by means of monetary policy. In fact, years of Quantitative Easing and other financial arrangements demonstrate unable to solve structural divide between Central-Northern EU members and Southern Europe because many critical issues reside in competitiveness losses due to the obsolescence of industrial structures and the prevalence of the industrial sectors of certain member states over those of others. This means that new cohesion and new industrial policies are required to solve the structural problems of countries that never will be able to regain competitiveness and convergence by themselves.

This section invites paper proposals about EU policies (old, new and reformed) and their potential or planned impact in re-establishing the path toward convergence and integration between member states. Particular but not exclusive attention is suggested for reforms of cohesion policy, circular economy, aerospace, robotics and artificial intelligence. Also, general analysis of structural imbalances in the EU (both at EU and national level) will be appreciated. Finally, studies of the links between new economic policies and the changing international context, in particular the so-called end of liberal international order and the international relationship of the EU will be considered carefully.