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IN THIS ISSUE

This volume collects the invited papers of the XLVI Scientific Meeting of the Italian Society of Economics, Demography and Statistics (SIEDS) held in Florence on May 28-30, 2009. The Meeting was organized together with the Department of Statistics “Giuseppe Parenti”, University of Florence, and had “Poverty and Social Exclusion” as main topic.

The Meeting was opened by Professor Giovanni Maria Giorgi who presented a brief historical survey on the first 70 years of the SIEDS.

The main lecture was delivered by the Honorary President of the Society, Professor Luigi Di Comite. He focussed on “Migration and Social Marginalization”, highlighting some aspects concerning the territorial mobility of populations over the last one hundred and fifty years from a temporal viewpoint as well as across the EU countries – particularly in its old configuration of 15 member states – by a territorial perspective. Due to its specific feature of touching on several aspects of the Meeting’s main topic, this paper has been included at the beginning of this volume.

Moving on a brief description of the various subjects dealt with during the Meeting, it seems important to note that all the other papers have been published following the alphabetical order of the first Author and not the order of presentation in which they were delivered.

The paper by Gianni Betti, Achille Lemmi and Vijay Verna provides an overview of the methodologies and applications used in the context of the EU for the definition of regional indicators of poverty and social exclusion.

Claudio Ceccarelli and Giovanni Maria Giorgi used the so-called Analysis of Gini (ANOGI) on data from Italian survey on income and living condition (It-Silc) for investigating whether attrition introduces an element of bias in the analysis of Italian income distribution at the regional level.

Enrica Chiappero Martinetti compares the approaches of Amartya Sen and John Roemer, with reference to the concept of poverty as lack of possibility and lack of opportunity respectively, thus pointing out analogies and differences between these points of view.

Starting from the Gini coefficient, Conchita D’Ambrosio’s paper introduces other indices to be used for the evaluation of deprivation and social exclusion, also highlighting their links with social well-being.

On the basis of the outcomes of a survey carried out by “Banca d’Italia” and using two different approaches for the standardization of income levels, Guido Ferrari and Mauro Maltagliati compare the households welfare according to territorial divisions as well as socio-economic profiles.

The paper by Enrico Giovannini, Adolfo Morrone and Giulia Ranuzzi provides the guidelines of the OECD Project known as “Measuring the Progress of Societies” and aims at evaluating whether any consensus on how welfare and progress can be measured is actually emerging.

The paper delivered by Vincente Gozávez Pérez and José Ramón Valero Escandrell focuses on social inequalities with regard to the risk of poverty in the regions of Spain, particularly referring to single-person households and the Gypsies.

Highlighting some of the outcomes of the application of a model, the paper by Massimiliano Mascherini and Andrea Saltelli aims at providing an identikit of the active citizen in Europe.

The study presented by Daria Mendola, Annalisa Busetta and Anna Maria Milito proposes a new index – validated and tested on a sample of individuals participating in an ECHP (European Community Household Panel) research project – which measures poverty in a longitudinal perspective.

Fausta Ongaro and Silvana Salvini analyse the relationship between health status and socio-economic conditions in the light of the most recent data on health conditions of the Italian population. The paper aims at evaluating whether the differences in health levels observed in Northern and Southern Italy may even depend on socio-economic factors.

Monica Pratesi, Caterina Giusti and Nicola Salvati resort to M-quantile small area estimation methods to estimate the Head Count Ratio, the mean income and some income quantiles in the Provinces of three Italian Regions. They also estimate the cumulative distribution function of the income in the principal Municipalities of these Regions.

Finally, the paper delivered by Giambattista Salinari and Gustavo De Santis deals with the main features of the so-called “modified Gibrat’s model” – i.e. a method useful to describe the evolution of income, with particular attention to small incomes.

Enrico Del Colle

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Direzione, Redazione e Amministrazione

Piazza Tommaso de Cristoforis, 6

00159 ROMA

TEL. e FAX 06-43589008

E-mail: sieds@tin.it