

Description of the topic



Pensar. Atuar. Renovar Think Tank da Educação
FUNDAÇÃO BELMIRO
DE AZEVEDO

International Conference

“Economic development in Southern European Regions: Policies and higher education”

Organizers:

EDULOG

Patronage:

Belmiro de Azevedo Foundation

University of Porto

Regional Science Association International

Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Norte

Associação Portuguesa de Geógrafos

Local organizing committee:

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Yannis Psycharis

Conceição Rêgo

Description of the topic

The lagging regions of the four southern countries of Europe (Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain) share a significant number of socio-economic characteristics. In particular, these are regions which have been heavily assisted by European cohesion policies and yet were unable to catch up to the income and productivity levels of the rest of the EU, despite the relatively good performance of the most advanced areas of their respective countries.

Many reasons exist for this lack of convergence, which can be found in poor human capital, institutions, accessibility, lack of private investments, bad policy implementation, etc. These have been evidenced, among others, in a recent volume edited by Madalena Fonseca and Ugo Fratesi for Springer (2017), which focuses on the lack of structural upgrading as the reason, which left them stuck between rich regions and developing countries. The volume adopted a positive perspective, in which the various issues have been discussed by different scholars.

The conference will adopt a normative perspective, and will start from the problems of the lagging regions of Southern European countries in order to develop the policy prescriptions that should be implemented in order to achieve sustainable development. The problems of these regions are not short-run, and will need to be tackled with effective policies in the medium-long run.

Papers

Researchers and policy makers are welcome to submit abstracts for the workshops of the Conference. Each author can submit one abstract.

Papers that investigate and/or analyse the following themes are welcome:

- The success or lack of success of policies implemented in the lagging regions of the four countries.
- Theory-based evaluations or quantitative counterfactual evaluations.
- Theories behind the success or failure of policy efforts in this type of regions.
- New policy perspectives or objectives, which should be implemented.
- The interrelation between national and European regional policies and how they can be coordinated and made more complementary.
- Prospective and policy components on the link between human capital, higher education (innovation) and regional development will be particularly welcome.
- Reports from on-going projects on Smart Specialisation Strategies.

Abstracts will be assessed on merit and relevance by the local organising committee with the help of the scientific committee.

Please send abstracts (max 400 words) to: edulog@edulog.pt

Key deadlines:

November 15th, 2016: Abstract submission opens

January 31st, 2017: Abstract submission closes

March 1st, 2017: Notification of acceptance of abstracts

March 15th, 2017: Formal registration to the Conference for paper presenters and general registration

25th 26th May 2017: The International Conference “Economic development in Southern European Regions: Policies and higher education”

Fees:

There are no fees to attend the conference or the workshops.

The authors of papers accepted for the workshops are expected to send their presentation handouts before May 12th 2017, in order to ensure that they will be included in the final programme.