

III WORKSHOP ON FISCAL FEDERALISM: Financing Sub-Central Governments

Barcelona, June 18-19, 2009

Decentralization of public expenditure responsibilities has spread in recent years in both developed and developing countries. However, only a part of these expenditures is funded by sub-central taxes and debt; the rest is funded by grants. Fiscal autonomy is further reduced by the fact that only a part of these taxes are under effective sub-central control; a high percentage of grants are earmarked, and debt autonomy is usually limited. Improving equity in the access to public services, avoiding tax competition and other inefficiencies, saving on administration costs, and ensuring financial sustainability, are arguments often put forward to justify the centralization of revenue decisions. Lack of revenue autonomy, however, is also said to negatively affect sub-central governance, public service efficiency and even the long-term fiscal stance.

The aim of this workshop is to bring together original research papers that cast some light on these issues. Both theoretical and empirical papers are welcome.

Keynote speakers

Robert P. Inman
(University of Pennsylvania)

Dennis Epple
(Carnegie Mellon University)

Kai A. Konrad
(WZB Berlin)

Topics of interest

- Taxes and the mobility of households and firms
- Tax competition: harmful or beneficial?
- Sub-central taxation of economic activity: Corporate taxes, Retail taxes, VAT
- Local taxes: Property taxes, Land taxes, Fees
- Decentralized tax administration
- Political economy of sub-central tax decisions
- Effects of grants on local spending and taxation
- Equalization grants: equity vs. fiscal incentives
- Taxes vs. grants: effects on accountability, efficiency, equity, and long-term fiscal stance
- Political economy of grant allocation
- Sub-central debt and bail-outs
- Political economy of revenue decentralization

Deadlines

- Deadline for submission of papers: April 3, 2009
- Deadline for acceptance of papers: April 17, 2009
- Registration: April 6 to June 1, 2009

Registration and further information

The registration fee of 400 euro covers, documentation, coffee breaks and working lunches. Participants who present papers are exempt from this payment. Free accommodation will also be provided for them, and their travel expenses may be covered, totally or partially, subject to budget restrictions. Papers should be sent to ieb.workshop@ub.edu. Only papers presented in PDF format will be considered. Further information on the workshop will soon be available at the workshop webpage, which can be accessed through the IEB website: www.ieb.ub.edu

Scientific Committee

- Robert P. Inman (University of Pennsylvania)
- Kai A. Konrad (WZB Berlin)
- Albert Solé-Ollé (University of Barcelona & IEB)
- Núria Bosch-Roca (University of Barcelona & IEB)
- Dennis Epple (Carnegie Mellon University)
- Santiago Lago-Peñas (University of Vigo)
- Pilar Sorribas-Navarro (University of Barcelona & IEB)
- Alejandro Esteller-Moré (University of Barcelona & IEB)