



Institute of
Public Finance



University of Zagreb
Faculty of Economics & Business



CALL FOR PAPERS

Public Sector Economics 2024 Conference

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMICS OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 ■ ZAGREB, CROATIA

The last decades have witnessed a convergence of views on the importance of education for the lifelong well-being of individuals and for the quality of economic and social development in general. The significance of education is enshrined in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and has been reinforced in recent strategic documents agreed at the global level, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4), which emphasises the need to ensure inclusive, equitable and high-quality education as well as to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Yet despite the consensus on the importance of education, progress in enhancing educational achievements and implementing reforms to facilitate them remains slow, not only in developing and emerging market economies but also in many advanced economies. The COVID-19 pandemic may have dealt a further setback, with only one in six countries expected to achieve SDG4 by 2030 without additional measures. One worrying development is that government expenditure on education has remained stagnant or declined globally over the past decade. Another is that challenges such as the lack of competent teachers, high drop-out rates, the limited extent of early childhood education and care, and skill mismatches in labour markets have intensified in recent years.

To further our understanding of these issues, the **Institute of Public Finance** and the **Faculty of Economics & Business** are organising the conference *New developments in the economics of education* in Zagreb, Croatia, on September 23, 2024. The conference will aim to explore emerging trends and innovative approaches at the intersection of economics and education. We invite submissions of critical reviews, theoretical, analytical, policy, methodological and empirical studies on various aspects of the economics of education. We encourage the submission of papers reflecting the concerns of various disciplines, such as education, economics, finance, sociology and political science.

CONFERENCE OUTLINE

The conference will feature invited keynote presentations and a panel of experts on the economics of education. Relevant topics include but are not limited to:

- Benefits of investing in early childhood education and care; reasons for limited progress
- Latest trends in vocational education and training
- Advances in measuring school effectiveness / school resources and educational outcomes
- Recent evidence on private and social returns to investment in education, academic achievement and earnings
- Teacher shortages – causes and remedies
- Education and skill mismatches in labour markets
- Pandemic learning losses and recoveries

- Bologna Process and European higher education – achievements and disappointments
- Innovative solutions for financing education at different levels
- New evidence on links between education and inequality/poverty
- New evidence on education and economic growth
- Digital transformation in education – progress and limitations
- Lifelong learning and economic development

SUBMISSION AND IMPORTANT DATES

Please **submit electronically** abstracts (200–500 words) of original, previously unpublished papers in English by **May 15, 2024**

Authors of **accepted abstracts** will be notified by **May 31, 2024**

Final papers will be due by **September 6, 2024**

Authors are encouraged to submit their papers to the journal *Public Sector Economics* (see below).

There is no conference fee. The organisers are not in a position, however, to cover the costs of travel to and accommodation in Zagreb. For more information about the logistics of the events, please visit the **conference website**.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Daniele Checchi, *University of Milan, Italy*

Harry Anthony Patrinos, *World Bank*

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Lara Lebedinski, *University of Vienna, Austria*

Dubravko Mihaljek, *Bank for International Settlements, Switzerland*

Mark Millin, *Department of Economics, University of Auckland, New Zealand*

Harry Anthony Patrinos, *World Bank*

Martina Pezer, *Institute of Public Finance, Croatia*

Šime Smolić, *Faculty of Economics & Business, University of Zagreb, Croatia*

Sunčica Vujić, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Felix Weinhardt, *European University Viadrina, Germany*

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

From the Institute of Public Finance, Zagreb and Faculty of Economics & Business, University of Zagreb, Croatia

PUBLICATION

Conference participants are encouraged to submit their papers to *Public Sector Economics (PSE)*, an academic journal indexed in Scopus, DOAJ, EconLit and RePEc, etc. Published quarterly, PSE uses a double-blind peer review process, drawing referees from a worldwide **pool of experts**. PSE ensures a quick turnaround of submissions and publication of accepted papers, and follows the highest **ethical standards**.