



Istituto di Studi e
Analisi Economica



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PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS INVESTIGATE PRODUCTIVITY

The European Commission has provided a budget to a consortium of European research institutes to do research on productivity in the European Union. The consortium includes ISAE, which will be responsible for developing the productivity measures for Italy and do research in the area of productivity, technology, labour markets, etc..

This research is of great importance for a better assessment of the goals as established by the EU in the Lisbon Agenda. According to this agreement, European member states will need to carry a range of structural reforms in order to make the EU the most dynamic and competitive economy of the world. Until now adequate measures on one of the most important goals of the Lisbon agenda, namely the improvement of productivity growth, were lacking.

The purpose of this 3-year project, which is funded through the 6th Framework Programme of the European Commission, is to develop productivity measures at industry level for each individual member state of the Union (as well as for the United States and Japan), and to carry out an analysis of the causes for differences across countries. As a result it will be easier, for example, to determine in which industries individual member states have competitive advantages, or by how much an increase in expenditures on research and development (R&D) stimulates growth.

ISAE joins a group of 14 research institutes in 10 European countries. ISAE has established a reputation in this area. Among the contributions of its researchers see, for example, the study recently made for the OECD by Carlo Milana (ISAE) and Alessandro Zeli (ISTAT), "Productivity Slowdown and the Role of ICT in Italy: A Firm-Level Analysis", in OECD, The Economic Impact of ICT. Measurement, Evidence and Implications, Paris, 2004, Chapter 12, pp. 261-77, and the participation ad a national expert of Carlo Milana (ISAE) to a discussion group set up by OECD in the preparation of its Productivity Manual published in 2001.

An important aim of the project is to support statistical agencies in continuing the development of productivity measures upon completing of this research project. The consortium also works together with research institutes outside Europe which do similar research at, for example, Harvard University (U.S.) and Keio University (Japan). This may contribute to an improved comparability of productivity measures on a world-wide scale.

For further information:

Carlo Milana (reference) e Mara Meacci, ISAE, Piazza dell'Indipendenza, 4, 00185 Roma, Tel. +39 06 44 48 2300; +39 06 4448 2389, email: c.milana@isae.it; m.meacci@isae.it.

Prof. dr. B. van Ark, University of Groningen (co-ordinating institute), tel. + 31 50 363 3674; email: h.h.van.ark@eco.rug.nl

See also the Web site of the project: <http://www.euklems.net/>

For general information on ISAE: <http://www.isae.it/>