



Senato della Repubblica

Ufficio Valutazione Impatto  
Impact Assessment Office

# 2017-2018. One year of assessments at the Italian Senate

***“Learn, discuss and then decide”.** In the most famous of his “Useless Sermons”, Luigi Einaudi, a great economist from Piedmont and second President of the Italian Republic, posed the question that is still crucial for all lawmakers: “Is deciding without knowing of any use?”. His answer was clear: no it is not. “Hasty laws beget new laws meant to amend and perfect; but since the new ones stem from the urgent need to remedy the flaws of the badly designed ones, they are inapplicable, unless enforced through subterfuges, requiring further perfection, thus becoming one big entangled knot, which nobody can undo (...)”.*

***Evaluation is the tool that, while not replacing the political decision in the democratic circuit, allows lawmakers to decide wittingly, taking duly informed decisions.** The goal of the assessment is not to bias the lawmakers, rather to educate them as to the consequences of their decisions, hence promoting knowledge and information transparency, which are crucial aspects of the decision-making process.*

***The Senate’s Impact Assessment Office is an impartial body that works to help spread, develop and enhance the evaluation culture in Italy, within the institutional perimeter. It conducts analyses and assessments of public policies based on the study of risks, costs, benefits and efficacy, answering the following questions: Has this law worked? Has it produced the desired change? Would it have been possible to do better? Was the money well spent?***



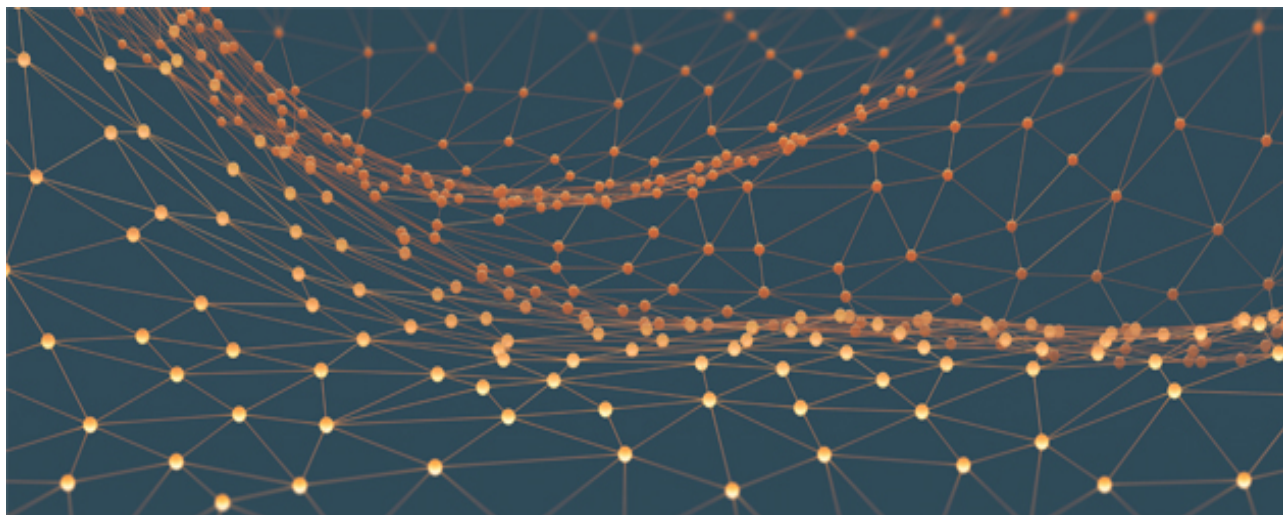
## Background

The Impact Assessment Office, chaired by the President of the Senate, began to publish its studies on **1 August 2017**.

Its conception, however, dates back to 2015: over the past three years the Senate administration started, carried out and completed the **training of its personnel** on public policy analysis and assessment, creating a restricted and skilled team.

Yet the Senate's effort went even further. It started collaborating with the Conference of the Regional Councils' Presidents while **assessing European policies in our territories** and it promoted and organised the **first 2nd-level Master's degree in analysis and assessment of public policies** within a constitutional body.

In September 2017, the Senate became the first European parliamentary body to adopt (after submitting them to public consultation) the **guidelines on public consultation**, which the OECD labelled as a formidable tool for narrowing the gap between citizens and institutions and for getting feedback from the citizens on the public policies introduced by the governments.



## The network

The Impact Assessment Office cooperates with research centres, documentation centres and assessment bodies throughout the world:

Association for the Development of Evaluation and Analysis of Public Policies (ASVAPP), Institute for Evaluation Research on Public Policies (IRVAPP), National Institute for the Analysis of Public Policies (INAPP), National Research Centre (CNR), Ca' Foscari University, Bank of Italy, National Administration School (SNA), Economy and Finance Ministry (MEF – Finance Dept.), ISTAT national statistics bureau, IFEL-fondazione ANCI (national association of municipalities), European Parliament Research Service, Joint European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC), United

Nations Evaluation Office (UNEG), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), World Food Program (WFP), World Bank Group, OCSE, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), National Assembly Research Service (NARS), Nationaler Normenkontrolrat (NKR), National Audit Office (NAO), Government Accountability Office (GAO), Congressional Research Service (CRS), Congressional Budget Office (CBO), Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) .

## Lessons from the world

**Johannes Ludewig**, President of the Nationaler Normenkontrollrat - NKR (National Regulatory Control Council of the Federal Republic of Germany): *Controlling legislation costs*, 15 June 2016.

**Marco Segone**, president of the United Nations Evaluation Office – UNEG: *The role of evaluation in public policies. From Evidence to evidence-based policy making*, 9 June 2017.

**Patrizio Pagano**, Executive Director of the World Bank: *Evaluation of World Bank projects and programmes*, 20 June 2017.

**Alberto Martini**, Senior Lecturer in Economic Statistics at the Faculty of Political Science, Università del Piemonte Orientale, winner in 2017 of the Peter Rossi Award for Contributions to the Theory or Practice of Program Evaluation: *Quale "valutazione" per quale "politica"*, 11 July 2017

**Rebecca A. Maynard** (University of Pennsylvania), president of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) and member of the Society for Research Synthesis Methodology and of the American Educational Research Association: *Using Evidence. Improving Capacity to make fair comparisons of program and policy options*, 24 May 2018.



The Impact Assessment Office constantly keeps itself **up-to-date**. Its evaluators attend the foremost **international events** on the evaluation of public policies and parliament documentation, organised by the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), Society on Research of Educational Effectiveness (SREE), European Evaluation Conference. The next meeting is **Evalcolombo 2018** (17-19 September), to be held in Sri Lanka and organised by the *Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation* together with EvalPartners to “promote the parliamentarians’ demand and use of evaluation”.





Training experts capable of **helping political bodies design and evaluate** public policies, but also teaching the several stakeholders to **“efficiently communicate the outcomes of the evaluations”**: these are the goals of the first Italian Master’s course in AVPP (public policy analysis and evaluation).

First organised in 2016 following the cooperation between the Senate and the Conference of Regional and Provincial Councils’ Presidents, together with the University Ca’ Foscari, it features the **contribution of excellence centres** such as **ASVAPP** (Association for the Development of the Evaluation

and Analyses of Public Policies), founded by **Alberto Martini**, and **IRVAPP** (Public Policy Evaluation Research Institute) of the Bruno Kessler Foundation, whose **scientific director used to be Antonio Schizzerotto**, **emeritus professor of Sociology at the University of Trento**.

The first edition trained 27 evaluators (17 of whom women). The course is currently attended by 24 people.

**Michele Bernasconi**, professor of Financial Sciences at Ca’ Foscari University, is the director of the Master’s course.

#### Master’s course 2017/2018: academic board

Michele	<b>Bernasconi</b>	Professor of Financial Sciences, Ca’ Foscari University
Valentina	<b>Battiloro</b>	ASVAPP director
Agar	<b>Brugiavini</b>	Professor of Political Economy, Ca’ Foscari University
Monica	<b>Billio</b>	Professor of Econometrics, Ca' Foscari University
Melisso	<b>Boschi</b>	Parliamentary Assistant, Senate of the Republic
Luca	<b>Corazzini</b>	Professor of Political Economy, Ca' Foscari University
Paolo	<b>Pinotti</b>	Senior Lecturer of Political Economy, Luigi Bocconi University
Enrico	<b>Rettore</b>	Professor of Economic Statistics, University of Trento
Antonio	<b>Schizzerotto</b>	Emeritus professor of Sociology, University of Trento

#### Master’s course 2016/2017: academic board

Michele	<b>Bernasconi</b>	Professor of Financial Sciences, Ca’ Foscari University
Agar	<b>Brugiavini</b>	Professor of Political Economy, Ca’ Foscari University
Monica	<b>Billio</b>	Professor of Econometrics, Ca' Foscari University
Enrico	<b>Rettore</b>	Professor of Economic Statistics, University of Trento
Antonio	<b>Schizzerotto</b>	Emeritus professor of Sociology, University of Trento
Marco	<b>Sisti</b>	ASVAPP Director
Federico Silvio	<b>Toniato</b>	Deputy Secretary-General, Senate of the Republic
Alberto	<b>Urbani</b>	Professor of Economic Law, Ca' Foscari University



## The Impact Assessment Office's work: analysis and evaluation dossiers

In its first year, the Impact Assessment Office published about 30 researches – concerning both analysis and evaluation – subdivided into six main areas: institutions and justice, labour, economy and finance, environment and living standards, education and research, productive activities. Other researches are currently being published. Particular attention was given to the issues that mostly affect the daily life of citizens.



Effective marginal tax rates  
Nurseries  
Asset building  
Legislative activity of the parliamentary groups  
Equitable and sustainable wellbeing  
Budgets/balance sheets of Municipalities  
Assessment cycle  
University professorship contests and selection  
Productive activities' damages to health/environment  
Former Provincial Councils  
Femicide  
Labour market flexibility  
Armed Forces  
EU frauds  
Youth guarantees  
Partial guarantees for SMEs

Fighting off counterfeit *Made in Italy* products  
Partially state-owned companies  
Public-Private Partnership  
Senate performance  
Presence of women in institutions  
Parliamentary procedures  
Post-earthquake reconstruction  
Parliamentary oversight  
Fiscal expenditure  
Supported employment  
Subsidies that are beneficial or harmful to the environment  
Prison overcrowding  
Income under reporting  
Assessment of major infrastructure projects  
Government documents

## Who writes for the Impact Assessment Office? The authors

The Impact Assessment Office dossiers are drafted not only by Senate experts, but also by many collaborators that work in universities, research centres and public institutions that are greatly appreciated internationally. The support of public administration officials is increasing too, given their interest in reviewing their own work from the standpoint of evaluation.



Gloria	<b>Abagnale</b>	Senate of the Republic
Andrea	<b>Albarea</b>	Ca' Foscari University, Venice
Carmen	<b>Andreuccioli</b>	Senate of the Republic
Giampaolo	<b>Araco</b>	Senate of the Republic
Giovanni	<b>Avitabile</b>	Finance Police
Davide	<b>Azzolini</b>	FBK-IRVAPP
Concetta	<b>Baratta</b>	Senate of the Republic
Daniele	<b>Bassetti</b>	Senate of the Republic
Valentina	<b>Battiloro</b>	ASVAPP
Michele	<b>Bernasconi</b>	Ca' Foscari University, Venice
Valeria	<b>Bevilacqua</b>	Senate of the Republic
Simone	<b>Bonanni</b>	Senate of the Republic
Luca	<b>Borsi</b>	Senate of the Republic
Melisso	<b>Boschi</b>	Senate of the Republic
Giuseppe	<b>Briotti</b>	Senate of the Republic
Paolo	<b>Cacopardo</b>	Senate of the Republic
Gabriele Matteo	<b>Caporale</b>	Senate of the Republic
Andrea	<b>Carboni</b>	Senate of the Republic
Lorenzo	<b>Carnimeo</b>	Senate of the Republic
Gionata	<b>Castaldi</b>	Environment Ministry - Sogesid SpA
Filippo	<b>Cea</b>	Finance Police
Roberta	<b>Ceccaroni</b>	Prime Minister's Office
Giovanni	<b>Cerulli</b>	CNR-IRCRES
Daniele	<b>Checchi</b>	FBK-IRVAPP

Nicolò	<b>De Salvo</b>	Senate of the Republic
Ciro	<b>D'Urso</b>	Senate of the Republic
Oriol	<b>De Luca</b>	Finance Police
Domenico	<b>De Palo</b>	Bank of Italy
Silvia	<b>De Poli</b>	FBK-IRVAPP
Marco	<b>De Santis</b>	Senate of the Republic
Giuseppe	<b>Delreno</b>	Senate of the Republic
Rosella	<b>Di Cesare</b>	Senate of the Republic
Carla	<b>Di Falco</b>	Senate of the Republic
Lorella	<b>Di Giambattista</b>	Senate of the Republic
Alessandra	<b>Di Giovambattista</b>	Senate of the Republic
Fernando	<b>Di Nicola</b>	Economy and Finance Ministry
Alberto	<b>Franceschin</b>	Finance Police
Francesco	<b>Felici</b>	Economy and Finance Ministry
Maria	<b>Frati</b>	Senate of the Republic
Luigi	<b>Fucito</b>	Senate of the Republic
Beatrice	<b>Gianani</b>	Senate of the Republic
Piergiorgio	<b>Gawronski</b>	Prime Minister's Office
Francesco	<b>Gilioli</b>	Senate of the Republic
Carla	<b>Giorgio</b>	IFEL-Anci (national association of municipalities)
Elena	<b>Griglio</b>	Senate of the Republic
Luana	<b>Iannetti</b>	Senate of the Republic
Fortunato	<b>Lambiase</b>	Senate of the Republic
Cristiano	<b>Lenzini</b>	Senate of the Republic
Renato	<b>Loiero</b>	Senate of the Republic
Manuela	<b>Magalotti</b>	Senate of the Republic
Michele	<b>Magrini</b>	Senate of the Republic
Stefano	<b>Maiolo</b>	Agency for territorial cohesion
Laura	<b>Maragnani</b>	UVI - Impact Assessment Office
Stefano	<b>Marci</b>	Senate of the Republic
Anna	<b>Marenzi</b>	Ca' Foscari University, Venice
Giorgia	<b>Marinuzzi</b>	IFEL-Anci (national association of municipalities)
Alberto	<b>Martini</b>	Piemonte Orientale University - ASVAPP
Massimo	<b>Mastrogregori</b>	Senate of the Republic
Luca	<b>Mo Costabella</b>	ASVAPP
Andrea	<b>Molocchi</b>	Environment Ministry - Sogesid SpA
Giorgio	<b>Mongelli</b>	Economy and Finance Ministry
Luigi	<b>Nava</b>	ASVAPP
Marco	<b>Nicolai</b>	University of Brescia
Cesare	<b>Pagotto</b>	Senate of the Republic
Rosanna	<b>Ravazzi</b>	Senate of the Republic
Aldo	<b>Ravazzi</b>	Environment Ministry - Sogesid SpA



Enrico	<b>Rettore</b>	FBK - IRVAPP
Dino	<b>Rizzi</b>	Ca' Foscari University, Venice
Barbara	<b>Romano</b>	ASVAPP
Enrico	<b>Ronzoni</b>	Senate of the Republic
Manuela	<b>Ruisi</b>	Senate of the Republic
Emanuela	<b>Salustri</b>	Senate of the Republic
Annarita	<b>Sansò</b>	Senate of the Republic
Vladimiro	<b>Satta</b>	Senate of the Republic
Antonio	<b>Schizzerotto</b>	University of Trento - FBK
Maurizio	<b>Sole</b>	Senate of the Republic
Alessandro	<b>Solipaca</b>	ISTAT – national statistics bureau
Italo	<b>Tommasino</b>	Finance Police
Federico Silvio	<b>Toniato</b>	Senate of the Republic
Walter	<b>Tortorella</b>	IFEL-Anci (national association of municipalities)
Marco	<b>Ventura</b>	ISTAT – national statistics bureau
Loris	<b>Vergolini</b>	FBK - IRVAPP
Lorenzo	<b>Villani</b>	Finance Police
Davide	<b>Zaottini</b>	Senate of the Republic
Antonio	<b>Zito</b>	Senate of the Republic

### The staff

Gianluca	<b>Cheli</b>	Anna Maria	<b>Cianfoni</b>
Nadia	<b>Clementi</b>	Angelina	<b>Fraraccio</b>
Katia	<b>La Rosa</b>	Glauco Chiyaki	<b>Sesta</b>



### The website: evaluation just a click away for all

The works of the Impact Assessment Office are not just meant for insiders. The authors want to make their studies accessible to as many stakeholders as possible (MPs, journalists, legislative offices, researchers, students, citizens), using a **clear language, easy to understand**.

The dossiers always have an **abstract in English** and some are directly written in English: that's a positive novelty in the field of parliamentary documentation, even more so in a country where foreign languages are not used much.

On the website [www.senato.it/ufficiovalutazioneimpatto](http://www.senato.it/ufficiovalutazioneimpatto) – created by the IT technicians of the Senate, free of charge – each dossier features a **didactic version (Focus)**, **infographics**, **FAQs** and **video-interviews** with the authors: this too is a way to break free from the inner circle of experts and reach out to a vaster audience.

Over the past year, the website published, aside from **30 original dossiers**, **34 studies** that illustrate assessment experiences in Italy, in Europe and in OECD countries. A section is dedicated to **public consultations**, while the **Public Finance Monitoring Centre** – overseen by the Senate Budget Service – offered **39 monthly news bulletins** featuring the main data and documents concerning the economy, public finance, accounting, labour, national insurance and taxation.

## One year of analyses and assessments. The researches



### Top papers

The media became increasingly interested in the works of the Impact Assessment Office. Among the most followed by the press were: the dossier on EU frauds, **At the expense of Europe**, drafted together with the Finance Police; the analysis of **fiscal expenditure** (*Incentives, deductions and exemptions. How many exist? Who benefits from them?*), an updated version of which will soon be published; the dossier on healthcare and environment costs generated by productive activities, **Does the polluter pay?**, followed by **Does the polluter profit?**, which reviewed the subsidies that have a beneficial or harmful impact on the environment; the analysis of the resources allocated for post-quake reconstruction after the last three **earthquakes** (L'Aquila, Emilia Romagna, Central Italy).

Great attention was also given to the research on **income under reporting**, a new approach for estimating tax evasion (*Is evading information on income an indicator of tax evasion?*) and to the report on **Seeking for equality** (*70 years of elections in Italy. How are women faring in terms of power?*).

The study on **university professorship contests** (*Does the random selection of commissioners improve the quality of selected candidates?*) was republished by the *Italian Economic Journal*, the official magazine of the Società Italiana di Economia. In his latest book, *Falso! Quanto costano davvero le promesse dei politici?*, economist Roberto Perotti looked to the Impact Assessment Office's first dossier, on the **effective marginal tax rates jungle**: *is it always better for the taxpayer to work (and earn) more?*



## Asset building. From (integrated) savings to the degree: how can we support tertiary education for low income youths?

**1 August 2018**

Italy is lacking graduates In 2017 only 18.7% of Italians aged between 25 and 64 finished university, compared with a European average of 31.4%. The gap is particularly evident in the 30-34 age group: in Italy, **only 26.9% of them has a degree**, compared with an **EU average of 39.9%**.

## Why there is a lack of nurseries in Italy (and what's being done to close the gap)\*

**25 July 2018**

**Fewer than a quarter of Italian babies between the ages of zero and two** have a place in a public facility for infants. Coverage is uneven across the country: in Valle d'Aosta, four tots out of ten go to nursery; in the Campania region, the number is just 6 out of 100. To increase the number of available places, over the last decade **the Italian state has spent some €1.15 billion**. The "Buona Scuola" Reform now adds **over €200 million per year** to the pot, **starting from 2017**. What's the outlook?

## Honourable Bills. Legislative proposals submitted by Senate Parliamentary Groups: who introduced what in the 17th parliament?

**25 July 2018**

In 1,833 days, Senators introduced **2,539 bills**. What issues were Senators most interested in? **Justice and constitutional affairs** were the top scorers, followed by **health, culture and pensions**. **Family and children** follow **armed forces, safety at work** follows **trade law**. **Foreign trade**, local finance, Southern Italy and **energy**, combined, fall short of **1%** of bills submitted.

## In Defence of the Country. From conscripts to military professionals: How is the new model of the Italian Armed Forces working?

**20 July 2018**

**In 2000 Italy abandoned compulsory conscription** and migrated **to a leaner military model** (from 265.000 men and women to 190,000) **entirely composed of professionals**. The crisis that exploded in 2008 has deeply affected the fulfilment of the reform. And even the deployment of troops abroad has been reduced: 35 operations in 22 States in three continents are expected in 2018, with an average deployment of **6,400 units**. **Back in 2003 the figure totalled 12,000**.

## 1996-2017: how (and how much) has the Italian Senate contributed to the formation of European laws?

**31 May 2018**

Up until the fifteenth parliament, the Italian **government** chose which Community acts to send to Parliament for examination. The flow varied widely (**2 documents in 1999, 115 in 2000, one in 2002**) until **in 2006 the European Commission amended its standard practice**. Today, dialogue between Rome and Brussels is direct and continuous: during the XVII parliament, the Italian Senate **"processed" 924 European acts**, of which at least **ten per week were flagged by the Government as being of national interest**. How are Senators organized to cope with this pace?

## At the Expense of Europe. European funds are defrauded in a thousand and one different ways: how they work, what they cost, and who's fighting frauds

15 May 2018

**Between 2014 and 2020, the European Union is setting aside more than 77 billion euros for Italy in structural and investment funds: 46.5 bn in cohesion policies, and 31 bn for the common agricultural policy.** However, the UVI and Italy's Financial Police reveal that **in 6 out of 10 cases, these funds end up in the hands of scoundrels, swindlers and organized crime.** Southern Italy is the biggest offender, accounting for **85% of structural fund fraud.** Central Italy is responsible for the **lion's share of offences involving agriculture and fishing.**

## Does the polluter profit? EHS and EFS: bonuses that save the environment and subsidies that foster pollution

9 May 2018

**Incentives, exemptions, benefits: every year the State spends 76 billion Euros on fiscal expenditure.** But do these measures always respect the environment? Paradoxically, the answer is no. According to the first (and still incomplete) **Catalogue of Environmental Subsidies**, drafted by the Ministry of Environment with the technical advice of Sogesid, in 2016 about **16.2 billion Euros were allocated for SADs (EHS - environmentally harmful subsidies)**, while 15.7 billion were allocated for SAFs (EFS - environmentally friendly subsidies). Is there a way to intervene?

## Partners wanted (for investments). Where, how and how much does the public-private partnership in Italy work?

3 May 2018

Italy's public spending accounted for a good 49.6% of GDP in 2016, but it allocated a very modest share of its resources to investments: just 2.1%. **The public-private partnership (PPP)** has therefore been, over the past 15 years, **a very important resource for financing new infrastructure projects and for providing services to citizens.** Yet excess bureaucracy, technical and design-related shortfalls and management **criticalities** can **jeopardise these major works.**

## The Uncompleted. Evaluation of Legislative Acts in Italy: Critical Issues, Prospects and Good Practice

19 April 2018

If well-implemented, **the evaluation cycle is an excellent tool for political decision-makers**, making it possible to choose which one of a number of options is likely to produce the best results. In Italy, the use of these techniques - impact analysis and assessment (AIR and VIR), measuring administrative burdens (MOA), and consultations - is often undertaken merely as a bureaucratic exercise.







## **Femicide: The final report of the first Italian Joint Committee of Inquiry.**

**12 March 2018**

**In 2016, 149 women were murdered, more than 4,000 women reported sexual violence, over 13,000 were victims of stalking and 14,000 reported being abused.** A very high percentage of sexual assault and murder proceedings in our country is **against persons unknown**, and about one quarter of the reports filed against known people end up being archived. What has the **Joint Committee of Inquiry on femicide found out?**

## **Seeking for equality 1948-2018. Seventy years of elections in Italy: how are women faring in terms of power?**

**8 March 2018**

The first Parliament, only 4 senators and 49 deputies were women, that's 5%. **In 2018, the number of women MPs reached 35% and for the first time, the Senate elected a woman as its president.** What has happened in the meantime? **Only 83 women were appointed ministers thus far, out of 1,500 appointments (five in the current government).** No woman has ever been elected Prime Minister. Only one woman was appointed at the head of the RAI watchdogs, two have chaired the Anti-Mafia unit, no woman has ever headed the Copasir. And only nine women have been elected regional council presidents.

## **How is happiness measured? The Equitable and Sustainable Well-being in the Italian public finance cycle**

**12 February 2018**

Following the reform of the state budget in 2016, Italy became the **first country** that officially introduced **Equitable and Sustainable Well-being in the implementation of public policies**. GDP alone is not enough to evaluate the happiness of a people, as the rankings of the World Bank show: **in 2017 Italy was in the top 16% of the richest countries, but ranked only 48th (out of 155) in the World Happiness Report.** In short, given parity of GDP, by comparison with other countries, Italy is lacking in certain "happiness factors".

## **Labour. Does market flexibility boost employment? What the theories, studies and researches on the reforms passed in the last 20 years tell us**

**26 January 2018**

According to the foremost theories of economic thought, **a more flexible job** better suits the enterprises' **need to cut costs and increase efficiency**. Yet it also brings about a **market dualism, between guaranteed workers and non guaranteed workers, income uncertainty, depressive effects for the economy**. As for employment, has it increased or dropped? And what about productivity? Here are the main conclusions of the **IMF, World Bank and OECD**.



## Income under reporting and tax evasion in Italy. Estimates and distributive effects

12 January 2018

It is difficult to measure tax evasion: **untruthful tax returns on the one hand, and interviewees lying during the sample surveys on the other**. That's the so-called **under reporting**: according to a recent research of the Ca' Foscari University, **one freelancer out of four does not report truthful income statements** and a good **44% of citizens lie on their income from rented locations**.

## In favour or against? "Subject to" is better. Twenty years of Senate opinions on the bills submitted by the Government

7 December 2017

**Emergency decrees, enabling laws, execution of regulatory powers**: over the past decades **the Government has remarkably expanded its regulatory activity**, but with the obligation, for the Government, to involve the Parliament in its consultative function. **From 1996 to 2016 the opinion of the parliamentary committees has been requested 2,786 times**. And what were the results? To what extent were the Senate opinions followed up?

## Does the polluter pay? The social cost of pollution caused by economic activities and environmental taxes in Italy

30 November 2017

Considering only the emissions into the atmosphere and transport noise, in 2013 **households polluted for a total of 16.6 billion, followed by the industry (13.9) and agriculture (10.9)**. But there is an imbalance between those who pollute and those who pay: in 2013 environmental taxes for families exceeded by 70% the damage caused, while the figure was 26% lower for enterprises, while agriculture enjoyed the best discount (93%).

## Reforms. What impact did the harmonisation of financial statements have on Italian municipalities?

20 October 2017

A new budget balancing, electronic invoicing, split payment, contract for tenders: over the past years **the accounting of Italian public bodies has been revolutionised by a number of reforms**. One of the most radical of such reforms was the harmonisation of financial statements, introduced in 2011: in order to comply with the new accounting systems, **many mayors had to conduct a real truth operation, sorting out assets and liabilities** and writing off **bad debts**.

## Partially state-owned enterprises. Why has it not been possible to complete the census yet?

29 September 2017

**How many are there? Who runs them? What do they do? How much money do they make?** In Italy we have been trying to complete the census of these companies for years, for it is crucial for sorting out a **fragmented and blurry system**. In 2014 the Extraordinary Commissioner for expenditure review pointed out that four different databanks exist. The Treasury Department seeks information from over 10,000 public administration bodies every year. But too many of them **have never replied**.





## Tax Expenditures. Incentives, deductions and exemptions: how many exist? Who benefits from them?

19 September 2017

The OECD considers them **public spending through the fiscal system**, the IMF deems them **assets the State waives** in favour of certain categories: in Italy, in 2016, a good **610** were officially counted, with a **financial impact of -76 billion Euros**. The national reform programme envisaged an **overall reorganisation** in 2017 and 2018. But we lack exhaustive data on the exact number of the so-called tax expenditures to be reorganised, on the actual sums and involved taxpayers.

## Earthquakes. Central Italy 2016, Emilia 2012, L'Aquila 2009: reconstruction resources and laws

24 August 2017

Italy is a seismic country: from 2000 to present day, the INGV (national institute of geophysics and volcanology) has recorded 39 earthquakes exceeding magnitude 5, ten of which between 2016 and 2017. Since the quake that struck at 3:36 am on 24 August 2016, central Italy has rocked more than 72,000 times; over 300 people were killed and the material damage totalled **23.5 billion Euros**. For the reconstruction, the government has allocated 3.2 billion Euros, and 10 more for the **next 30 years**. The **planned expenditure** following the last three earthquakes rises to **over 20 billion Euros**.

## Supported Employment. People with psychic disabilities and inclusion in the labour market: two experimental projects by ASVAPP

27 July 2017

In Italy **only 18% of disabled people work**. And the most vulnerable ones, who have mental issues, have even **less opportunities** than the others. In the US, the presence of a **job coach definitely helps overcome social stigma**, enterprise scepticism and inclusion problems. And what about Italy?

## Counterfeiting without frontiers. Fighting off the counterfeiting industry and preserving *Made in Italy* products

26 July 2017

**Senate of the Republic and the Finance Police** describe the situation of **counterfeit *Made in Italy* products**, zeroing-in on a phenomenon that puts at stake health, security and the Italian productive system. Between 2012 and 2016, the Finance Police has **carried out 60 thousand judicial police measures**, **seized 1 billion products** worth 10.8 billion Euros and **shut down 1,614 websites**.

## Awaiting a reply. Ten years of parliamentary questions and interpellations at the Senate: analysis of 28,000 parliamentary control reports

25 July 2017

From 28 April 2006 to 31 December 2016 have submitted 1,271 interpellations, 7,780 senators, **7,780 questions calling for a verbal reply and 19,309 questions calling for a written reply**, for a total of **28,360 parliamentary oversight reports**. Between the 15th and 17th parliament, 6,913 were followed up (about 24%).

## Youth guarantees. Has the European NEETs programme boosted the probability of them finding a job? A closer look at the cases in Piedmont and in Sardinia.

25 July 2017

**Italy holds the EU record** (19.9%, versus an EU average of 11.5%): one youth in five doesn't go to school, doesn't work and is not looking for a job. The trend is dropping (in 2013, 23 young men out of 100 did nothing), but if we consider inactive youths aged between 25 and 29, unemployed too (in Italy, Greece and Spain their percentage exceeds 40%), **the NEET generation tops 2.2 million units**.

## Differential Effects of Partial Credit Guarantee Schemes: A Dose-Response Function Approach

25 July 2017

**Difficulties in accessing credit** is a well-known problem for small and medium enterprises. In fact, many countries have set up guarantee funds for SMEs, offering **total or partial guarantees** as substitute collateral. However, the variability of gender quotas generates some very **diversified treatments and results**.

## Does random selection of commissioners improve the quality of selected candidates? An investigation in the Italian Academia

24 July 2017

**Rigidity. Self-referentiality.** But sometimes even **excessive localism in hiring professors and personnel selected according to their political/financial entourage, rather than focusing on the candidate's educational background**. The **result is a scarce average performance in Italian universities** and inconsistent quality levels in research. The Parliament intervened on several occasions to try to find a solution.

## Former provincial councils. How is the reorganisation of the bodies working, three years on?

24 July 2017

They have limited resources but relevant tasks, such as that of guaranteeing the **security of 3,226 high schools** attended by 2.6 million girls and boys. They are in charge of the **maintenance of 130,000 km of roads**, including bridges, viaducts and tunnels. 107 provincial councils were involved in the so-called Delrio reform in 2014, a law that profoundly modified the strategic management of our territory.





## Beyond the prison bars. Ten years of pardons, “prison emptying” and alternative measures to detention: what’s the current situation of prison overcrowding?

21 Luglio 2017

**Almost 57,000 thousand detainees at 30 June 2017:** with 113 inmates per 100 places available, the crowding rate in Italian prisons has gone up by 5 points compared with 31 December 2016. In eight regions, the prison crowding rate has exceeded 120%. In Apulia it has reached 148%, nearing the index that in 2013 led the European Court of Human Rights to condemn Italy over the “inhuman and degrading treatment” of detainees.

## Programs and Projects Impact Assessment. Is Italy able to correctly assess infrastructure and investment projects, optimise expenses and duly meet the citizens’ needs?

20 July 2017

In Italy we have been discussing for years about the role of the economic evaluation and analysis of public investments, but the experience of the **major projects** 2007-2013 revealed some **shortfalls and criticalities** in the preliminary phase. Today, for the 2014-2020 major works, Europe is asking is to **conduct a more thorough cost-benefit analysis**.

## How much does the Senate work? Targets, new services and performance evaluation in the spending review era

20 July 2017

The evaluation of civil servants and the **quality of the services provided to citizens/users** have become increasingly important over the past years. The Senate is not part of the Public Administration bodies, but in 2001 it too started assessing its performance: **personnel dropped (down 40% from 2006), financial resources fell too** (-32% in real terms), while the **provided services** have increased, according to the latest Senate report.

## The effective tax rates jungle. Effective marginal and average tax rates in the 2017 Italian tax-benefit system for individuals and households

20 July 2017

Ever heard of marginal tax rates? When it comes to taxation, Italians generally tend to perceive the overall sum they must pay, on the one hand, and the different levels of the most well-known tax, the personal income tax (Irpef), on the other. But aside from the so-called **explicit Irpef tax rates**, there are many **implicit rates**. **It is their total that determines how much the taxpayers will be able to keep in their pockets**, once all the taxes are paid and the potential benefits enjoyed.





## Public consultations

From the United States, which has been consulting its citizens since 1946, to New Zealand, where the people can openly have their say on all bills, an increasing number of governments – including Italy – resort to public consultation to better calibrate their strategies, draft more efficient rules, **evaluate their laws** and increase democratic participation

The Senate conducted its first consultations at the start of the 17th Parliament. Taking cue from these experiences, and supported by a specific public consultation that featured over 100 comments from 9 March to 30 April 2017, it has set the principles and procedures required to ensure a correct participation of the citizens to its policy-making and assessment activities.

**Indeed, consultations can be used to listen to the recipients of the public policies to be evaluated, allowing the citizens to play an active role in the assessment process.** Quoting the World Bank, “**Control by the citizens can guarantee a rational use of resources, while their evaluation can give us feedback on the problems and shortfalls of services, and give ideas as to collective solutions**”.





The work of the UVI is supported by the whole Senate Administration. In particular:

**CARLO MARCHETTI**

**FULVIA SANNIA**

**ROBERTA RAPACCINI**

IT Unit

**ELI BENEDETTI**

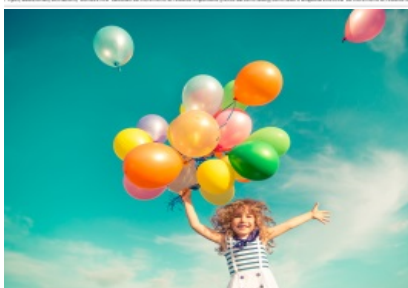
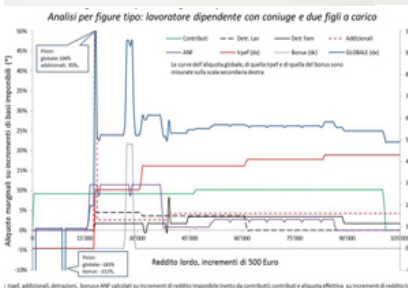
**MARCO TAGLIAVINI**

**MARTA LAVARONE**

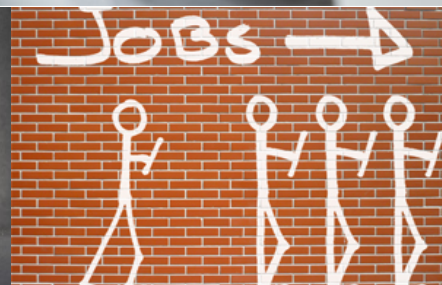
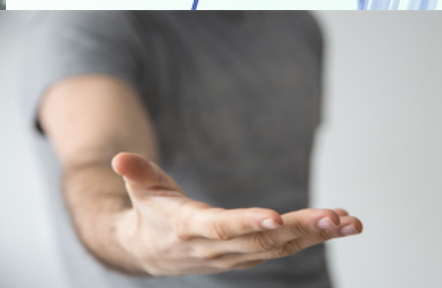
**SERENA SILLITTO**

**ALEXANDER SKERL**

Press and Internet Unit



0,00	0,00	0,00	1.108,89	1.111,11	1.111,11	8.330,00	38.271,79
2.757,84	25,29	1.200,00	1.080,00	1.080,00	1.080,00	10.800,00	38.271,79
3.900,86	1.111,11	1.111,11	1.111,11	1.111,11	1.111,11	11.111,11	38.271,79
5.932,85	879,86	23.809,08	25.500,00	25.500,00	25.500,00	25.500,00	38.271,79
11.243,25	24.500,00	17.315,00	20.377,66	20.377,66	20.377,66	20.377,66	38.271,79
22.475,81	17.800,00	17.800,00	17.800,00	17.800,00	17.800,00	17.800,00	38.271,79
21.007,81	0,00	0,00	77.302,46	77.302,46	77.302,46	77.302,46	38.271,79
21.007,81	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	38.271,79
10.940,02	4.878,48	1.105,82	801,85	801,85	801,85	801,85	38.271,79
10,00	0,00	14.106,63	0,00	176.917,05	235.151,64	235.151,64	38.271,79
13.116,79	245,79	152.789,26	152.789,26	152.789,26	152.789,26	152.789,26	38.271,79
105,68	128.479,89	63.316,55	75.889,40	66.494,43	2.384,56	86.474,44	38.271,79
186.712,93	48.061,21	3.791,72	40.570,96	40.570,96	40.570,96	40.570,96	38.271,79
76.309,20	1.771,93	29.062,46	10.548,90	10.548,90	10.548,90	10.548,90	38.271,79
6.025,33	34.791,31	0,00	21.289,81	0,00	0,00	0,00	38.271,79
38.792,89	9.234,49	0,00	22,00	58.567,16	0,00	0,00	38.271,79
309.542,45	1.175,81	0,00	40.500,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	38.271,79
3.635,15	22,35	120.642,54	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	38.271,79
63,83	0,00	0,00	13.884,04	13.884,04	13.884,04	13.884,04	38.271,79
101.458,50	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	38.271,79
20.623,77	18.390,72	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	38.271,79
21.029,10	463,40	161.990,33	184.895,45	184.895,45	184.895,45	184.895,45	38.271,79
991,79	0,00	25.798,78	12.324,36	12.324,36	12.324,36	12.324,36	38.271,79
177.760,72	96.572,06	0,00	32.738,72	32.738,72	32.738,72	32.738,72	38.271,79
37.050,91	0,00	35.133,91	634,28	634,28	634,28	634,28	38.271,79
55.687,26	1.335,03	6.240,98	1.775	1.775	1.775	1.775	38.271,79
51.321,20	1.862,39	10.228,03	2.174	2.174	2.174	2.174	38.271,79



## IMPACT ASSESSMENT OFFICE

Senate of the Republic

[www.senato.it/ufficiovalutazioneimpatto](http://www.senato.it/ufficiovalutazioneimpatto)

Sign up to our mailing list: [uvi@senato.it](mailto:uvi@senato.it)