



European Week of
Regions and Cities

Brussels

9-12 October 2017

Counterfactual Methods for Regional and Urban Policy Evaluation SESSION - UNIV11C105

Promoted by EWRC University:
European Regional Science Association
(Leader), Association of European Schools
of Planning and Regional Studies
Association



European Week of
Regions and Cities

Brussels

9-12 October 2017

Organisers



Marco Mariani, IRPET Regional Institute for Economic Planning of Tuscany, Villa la Quiete alle Montalve, Via Pietro Dazzi 1, 50141 Florence (Italy). marco.mariani@irpet.it

Marco applies quantitative evaluation methodologies in the field of enterprise and innovation policies.

His interests also encompass active labour market policies, public procurement and cultural economics.



IRPET

Istituto Regionale
Programmazione
Economica
della Toscana



European Week of
Regions and Cities

Brussels

9-12 October 2017



Organisers

Elena Ragazzi, IRCRES-CNR – Research Institute on Sustainable Economic Growth- National Research Council, Via Real Collegio, 30, 10024 Moncalieri (TO), Italy. elena.ragazzi@ircres.cnr.it

Elena is an expert in policy evaluation, with methodological and practical competencies, acquired through the participation in a wide list of projects (most of them as project leader).

Her experiences include policies in the fields of training and education, labour market, rural development, culture, equal opportunities, security



European Week of
Regions and Cities

Brussels

9-12 October 2017

Counterfactual evaluation inside the ERSA

The ERSA association hosts a lively community of applied scientists working on impact evaluation.

The ERSA annual conference has been hosting since 2014 (ST Petersburg, Lisbon, Vienna and Groingen) a special session on counterfactual impact evaluation.

The session adopts an inductive style. Researchers are invited not only to present their results but also to discuss about their experience, with the idea that methodological approaches to CIE may benefit by feedbacks from empirical research.

This workshop is the heritage of this experience.



European Week of
Regions and Cities

Brussels

9-12 October 2017

What is counterfactual impact evaluation (CIE)?

CIE addresses the assessment of the effectiveness of a policy respect to a relevant target variable.

If you just observe the change of the variable before and after the “treatment” you don’t know in which portion this change may be ascribed to the policy and which could have been achieved also without it.

Only comparing the change in a group of treated units, to the one obtained in a group of non treated units you may get the real impact of the policy.

The two groups should be made of identical but independent units, and here come most of the challenges for the evaluators...



Why is CIE important for regional policies?

- Stronger demand of evidence to policy makers and administrators by local communities
- Implementation of experimental policies
- Eterogeneity of impacts among countries and regions
- Interactions among actors at the local level (spatial spillovers)



The workshop

Examples (not exhaustive) of policies relevant for regions and cities:

- coesion funds,
- inclusion policies for migrants,
- traffic regulation for environmental control

...that have been evaluated with couterfactual approach

Which type of evidences?

What are the challenges of their implementation?



European Week of
Regions and Cities

Brussels

9-12 October 2017

The interactive tool

The listeners will be involved in the workshop not only for the final open discussion.

You will be soon asked to contribute by participating to a consultation concerning your experiences and perceptions, through the event app.

You are also enabled in any moment to send questions and comments.



As far as you know, has the institution for which you work ever implemented or commissioned a policy evaluation?

Yes

No



As far as you know, has the institution for which you work ever implemented or commissioned an evaluation **with counterfactual approach?**

Yes

No



European Week of
Regions and Cities

Brussels

9-12 October 2017

If you answered yes to any of the previous questions, please write a positive point attached to that experience (eg: “quantification of our perceptions”, or “more force to support our vision”)



European Week of
Regions and Cities

Brussels

9-12 October 2017

If you answered yes to any of the previous questions, please write a negative point attached to that experience (eg: “not worth the effort”, or “no conclusive result”)



European Week of
Regions and Cities

Brussels

9-12 October 2017

The presentations

PELLEGRINI Guido (Full professor of Statistics and Statistical Methods for Regional Sciences; President of the Italian Association of Regional Science). Department of Social and Economic Sciences, Sapienza University of Rome, P.le Aldo Moro, 5 - 00185 Rome, Italy. guido.pellegrini@uniroma1.it.)

The effects of the European Structural Funds: What have we learned from counterfactual evaluations?



European Week of
Regions and Cities

Brussels

9-12 October 2017

The presentations

DRANGE Nina

(Statistics Norway, Research Department, postboks 8131, Dep.,
0033 Oslo, Norway. Nina.Drange@ssb.no)

**Promoting the integration of immigrants. Lessons from a
policy providing free child care**



European Week of
Regions and Cities

Brussels

9-12 October 2017

The presentations

VÉDRINE Lionel

(CESAER - French National Institute of Agricultural Research, 26
boulevard dr. Petitjean 21000 Dijon CEDEX, France.

lionel.vedrine@inra.fr)

**The effects of urban tolls and low emission zones:
Evidence from counterfactual evaluations**



After the end of the workshop, we would know your perceptions about counterfactual evaluation. Please select up to 3 words in the following list

- Feasible
- Interesting
- Difficult
- Not for practitioners
- Unexpected troublesome results
- Costly
- Uncertain
- Sound evidence
- Aversion
- Legitimizing
- Scientific
- Useful
- Stakeholder resistance
- Insightful
- (please add your word)



Roundtable question

Good evaluations do not only need correct methods but also:

- **Well designed policies (clear and univocal goals, well defined targets, joint design of the policy and of the evaluation)**
- **Cooperation with policy makers that are motivated and aware of challenges, potentialities and limitations of (C)IE**

You are invited to comment upon the relationship evaluator – *authority promoting the evaluation* – *body in charge of the policy implementation* in your specific field of evaluation



European Week of
Regions and Cities

Brussels

9-12 October 2017

Thank-you for your attention and
cooperation

elena.ragazzi@ircres.cnr.it