Department of Economics

Our research
From a consolidated tradition of economic studies, research at the Department of Economics develops knowledge and understanding of economic phenomena dealing with the complexity of global market scenarios and exploring related social, juridical, ethical and environmental implications.

The main research areas include microeconomic and macroeconomic analysis of real and financial markets, quantitative methods for economic analysis, national and international law, welfare studies and social policies.

The Department of Economics is regularly in the top ten departments of economics in Italy on the basis of RePEc ranking. Furthermore, Ca’ Foscari is in the top 250 in the world for “Economics/Econometrics” based on QS World Ranking by Subject 2017 and in the top 300 for “Economics” based on the ShanghaiRanking’s Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2017.
Research areas

Economics
The main research themes of this macro-area are: microeconomic analysis, from both a theoretical and an economic perspective; macroeconomic analysis; the economics of the public sector, welfare and taxation; health economics; policy evaluation.

Finance
The main research themes of this macro-area concern risk measurement and its management both for financial and insurance sectors, modelling and forecasting of financial series (prices and volatilities), portfolio analysis and the stability of the financial system.

Social policies
The main research themes relate to the evaluation and impact of public policies, encouraging the consolidation of interdisciplinary approaches (economic, sociological, juridical, quantitative). Research mainly focuses on the fields of health policies, pension reforms, welfare and social inclusion, distributional analysis of fiscal policies through tax-benefit micro-simulation models.

Legal studies
The main research fields are general theory of law, private law, public law, administrative law, economic law labour law, business and commercial law, international and human rights law and European Union law.

Quantitative economics
The main research themes in this area are mathematical and statistical models for financial markets and economic systems. Main research fields are: decision making and risk theories; deterministic and stochastic, statistic and dynamic optimization; performance and evaluation models; agent based models; dynamic models; behavioural finance models and pricing models; models and methods for multivariate and time series analysis.

Environment and sustainability
The main research themes developed in this area include: environmental economics and policies; economic and political geography; natural resources management, global changes and sustainable development in public and private contexts with integrated model approaches; evaluation research in participation-led contexts to support policies and decision making.

The projects

Research and development

SERISS - Synergies for Europe’s Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences
Europe is dealing with great social challenges: aging, youth unemployment, immigration, and the consequences of the economic crisis. The main goal of the project is to provide the EU and its member states with scientific tools to face these social challenges. The scientific goal of this project is to make the most of the synergies between three large research infrastructures (ESS European Social Survey, CESSDA Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives, SHARE Survey for Health Ageing and Retirement in Europe) to overcome the existing fragmentation of small research infrastructures on these themes.

SHARE DEV3 - Achieving world-class standards in all SHARE countries
SHARE, the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe, is a research infrastructure set up to better understand and cope with population ageing created after a joint communication by the European Council and the European Parliament to the European Commission. It has been a huge success measured by the number of users, the number of scientific publications and its public policy support. The data has world-class value as proven by the many users also outside the EU, especially in the US. The key value of SHARE lies in its strict cross-national comparability which permits unbiased cross-national comparisons of the economic, health and social situation of European citizens aged 50 and over.

The central objective of SHARE DEV3 is to improve European coverage, stability and cross-national comparability of SHARE, while a sustainable funding model will be negotiated with the member states, DG Research and Innovation, DG JRC and several policy-related DGs to fully implement SHAREERIC in all SHARE countries.

Shapetourism - New shape and drives for the tourism sector: supporting decision, integrating plans and ensuring sustainability.
Shapetourism improves the tourism knowledge framework, providing analysis and operational tools to pinpoint an integrated methodology to shape and drive tourism sustainable growth, particularly for cultural destinations. It supports policymakers and private operators to achieve: attractiveness, growth and sustainability, taking into account...
the major challenges of global competition. Starting from the capitalization of scientific studies and from tourism established patterns, the project gears towards the balance between divergent public and private interests with the final scope to drive tourism development to an holistic, highly operational and sustainable approach.

**EeMAP - Energy efficient Mortgages Action Plan**

In Europe, buildings are responsible for 40% of total energy consumption and 36% of dioxide emissions. Improving their energetic efficiency may reduce total consumption by 5-6% and emissions by 5%. The fact that real estate represents the greatest energy consumer in Europe with a mortgage market worth 53% of the European GDP suggests a great connecting potential between financial innovation and energetic efficiency, and its ability to unlock green loans to the benefit of all.

The EeMAP project will develop a model based on benchmarks to stimulate investments from European households on the energy efficiency of their homes thanks to financing from private banks. The three key main keys of the project will be:

- A structure for an energy “passport” for buildings that would register the history of a building’s energy efficiency recognizing improvements achieved;
- A structure that can integrate a “green value” of the property through market data and energy efficiency;
- A structure for an energy efficient mortgage.

The project will create a virtuous circle between those who provide financial services, debtors and investors, from the creation of green loans to by-products in order to reach energy efficiency covered bonds.

In the long term, the EeMAP has the potential to influence sustainably the European real estate market and to encourage significant reductions in energetic consumption in line with the European expectations and what is required to deal with global climate change. Concretely, activating 35 thousand green mortgages per year could be worth yearly annual savings of 88 GWh.

**EU.WAT.HER - European Waterscape Heritage**

The project aims to promote the knowledge and rehabilitation of the cultural heritage of European Historic waterways and rivers. Another important objective is to develop new opportunities for eco-tourism and outdoor recreation along the European waterways, as a driver of sustainable development.

Expected outputs:

- census, inventory and filing of material and non-material waterscape heritage;
- four meetings in different academic contexts enhancing an interdisciplinary approach;
- a number (approximately twelve) of cultural itineraries aimed to re-evaluate local material and non-material heritage;
- a dedicated, innovative APP on hydraulic heritage of small rivers and canals;
- two publications (final proceeding, monograph) and a number of scientific papers;
- four dissemination workshops involving research groups and local important stakeholders.

**MAKERS - Smart Manufacturing for EU Growth and Prosperity**

MAKERS will bring together leaders from companies, academia and politics to understand the issues linked to the causes and dynamics of the sustainability of European manufacturing competitiveness.

The project will create a multi-stakeholder platform to discuss the current knowledge on the issues linked to the manufacturing renaissance:

- the role of small, medium-sized and large manufacturing companies and local production systems in a local-global sector;
- identifying drivers and innovation processes, technological capabilities and technological transfer from research institutions to companies;
- reshoring and nearshoring trends, and the reindustrialization and the shortening of the supply chain;
- the impact of the social, economic and environmental sustainability agenda on European competitiveness;
- examination of how policies can ensure competitiveness of European manufacturing to support a more sustainable and better-distributed growth and prosperity from a socio-economic perspective.

The training programme of the project includes yearly summer schools, specific workshops on Business/Academia/Policy (BAP) and dissemination workshops.
Ex Side - Expectations and Social Influence Dynamics in Economics

The Innovative Training Network ExSIDE project aims at improving our understanding of the role of building up expectations and of social influence on the economic dynamics and on optimizing the design of economic policies. The goal will be pursued by combining an interdisciplinary research agenda with an innovative joint European PhD programme, which will provide young researchers with a wide range of skills and knowledge required for an in-depth analysis of expectations building processes and of their role within economics. Both research projects and training activities will include behavioral economics, psychoanalysis, opinion forming, social network analysis, agent-based models and economic models in different fields. The consortium brings together eight important European universities and nine non-academic partners. Each researcher is hosted by two universities, has a “secondment” with a non-academic partner, and will be awarded a joint or double PhD degree.

ExSIDE research and training will guarantee international employability of PhD graduates in and outside academia, and will enhance the capabilities of universities and companies to develop efficient policies and long term sustainability with joint European programmes in economics.

Other international projects

- Strengthening higher education in Urban Sustainability and Transitions towards internationalization of Academic Institutions and Networks (2013-2016)
- ADRlatic FORTresses and military areas (2012-2015)
- Strategic project for knowledge and usability of shared cultural heritage (2009-2015)
- Strategic project for the knowledge and user-friendly quality of shared cultural heritage (2009-2015)
- DAta Service Infrastructure for the Social Sciences and Humanities (2012-2014)
- People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing Sustainable Development of Ocean and coast (2010-2014)
- Knowledge - based approach to develop a CULTUre of RISK prevention (2011-2013)

Other projects in Italy

- Going beyond differential demographics: a syndemic approach to research on urban mortality
- The economic impact of the ageing of the European population (2013-2016)
- Multivariate statistical models for risk assessment (2013-2016)
- Climate change in the Mediterranean area: developmental scenarios, economic impacts, mitigation policies and technological innovation (2013-2016)
- LEGAL_frame_WORK. Work and legality in an inclusive society (2013-2016)
- Smart Tourism Location – Experimenting, Modelling (2014-2015)
The department in figures

79 professors
121 PhD candidates in the last 5 cycles
67 research fellows in the past 5 years
450 publications on Scopus since 2012
1144 publications since 2012

Recent publications
• Belloni, Michele; Meschi, Elena; Pasini, Giacomo, The Effect on Mental Health of Retiring During the Economic Crisis in HEALTH ECONOMICS
• Trevisan, Elisabetta; Zantomio, Francesca, The Impact of Acute Health Shocks on the Labour Supply of Older Workers: Evidence from Sixteen European Countries in LABOUR ECONOMICS
• Di Novi, Cinzia; Marenzi, Anna; Rizzi, Dino, Do healthcare tax credits help poor-health individuals on low incomes? in THE EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF HEALTH ECONOMICS
• Monica Billio, Roberto Casarin, Francesco Ravazzolo, Herman K. Van Dijk, Interconnections between Eurozone and US booms and busts using a Bayesian Panel Markov-Switching VAR model, in JOURNAL OF APPLIED ECONOMETRICS
• Paolo Bertoletti, Federico Etro, Monopolistic Competition when Income Matters, in ECONOMIC JOURNAL
• Gianni De Nicolò, Marcella Lucchetta, Forecasting Tail Risks, in JOURNAL OF APPLIED ECONOMETRICS

PhDs

PhD programme in Economics
The PhD programme in Economics offers advanced training in economics and finance, with such specializations as quantitative analysis with regard to the many aspects and problematics of both microeconomic and macroeconomic economic and financial systems.

The fields of research of the PhD programme include:
• Microeconomics
• Macroeconomics
• Public economics
• Econometrics
• Micro-econometrics
• Applied economics
• Finance theory
• Mathematics for economics
• Mathematical finance
• Operational research

The duration of a PhD programme is 4 years of which the first is dedicated to training with taught classes. The remaining 3 years are dedicated to research and also visiting period in international leading institutions. The entire programme is taught in English.

Support to research
The Department of Economics has dedicated staff for the support of research projects and cooperation management, and in particular three staff members with specific management and reporting skills for funded projects.
PhD programme in Law, Market and Person
The PhD programme in Law, Market and Person aims at preparing “European jurists” specialized in facing the challenges of contemporary law, characterized by the interaction between national, supranational and international sources of law.

The fields of research of the PhD programme include:
• Theory of rights, Individual rights fundamental rights, and new generation of rights.
• Law, science and society. Biolaw and family relationships. Law and the challenges of intercultural societies.
• Law and politics. Social rights and public policies.
• Theory of the sources of law, supranational law and national laws in the European integration process. Law, jurisdiction and sovereignty in the legal systems of global society (hard law, soft law and case law).
• Comparative legal research. Circulation of legal models in the private and public sectors and theory of legal formants.
• Competition and market law. Regulatory models, independent authorities and forms of government and economic systems in of transnational markets. European and international economic institutions.
• European contract law. Consumer contracts, business contracts, commercial contracts (banking, insurance, finance...), employment contracts and industrial relations, from a domestic, European, and comparative perspective.
• Private law and market law. Corporate law. Business and non-profit.
• Maritime law and port law.

PhD programme in Science and Management of Climate Change
The PhD programme in Science and Management of Climate Change offers advanced training in an interdisciplinary environment beyond atmospheric and earth sciences, economics, international policies and negotiations, integrated modelling. It is one of the first international programmes dedicated to climate change since 2007. The programme is managed by the interdepartmental centre VICCS (Venice Centre for Climate Studies), involving the Department of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics and the Department of Economics.

The duration of the PhD programme is 4 years of which the first is dedicated to candidates’ training with taught classes, while the second is generally dedicated to training experiences abroad and the last two to the thesis. The entire activity is carried out in English.

Ranking
Italian ranking (VQR ANVUR 2017)
3rd medium-sized university in the economics field

Department of Economics
5th in Italy

Econometrics
1st in Italy

Mathematical and financial methods
2nd in Italy for medium-sized departments

Economics and Political Economics
3rd in Italy for small-sized departments

Classifica CENSIS 2017

lauree triennali economico-statistiche
2° in Italia

QS World Top Universities Rankings by Subject 2017

Economics & Econometrics
TOP 250

ShanghaiRanking’s Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2017

Economics
TOP 300
Network

- Bank for International Settlements
- Bielefeld University
- EM Strasbourg Business School
- Erasmus University Rotterdam
- European Central Bank
- European Investment Bank
- European Investment Fund
- European University Institute
- Eurostat
- Goethe University Frankfurt
- International Monetary Fund
- London School of Economics and Political Science
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne
- Université Aix Marseille
- Université Paris Dauphine
- University of Groningen
- University of Lausanne
- University of Kent
- Université Paris Nanterre
- Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona
- Universidad Publica de Navarra (Pamplona)
- Universidad de Salamanca
- Washington University in Saint Louis