

## RECENT ENTRIES TO THE DICE DATABASE

In the fourth quarter of 2006 the DICE Database ([www.cesifo.de/DICE](http://www.cesifo.de/DICE)) received about 110 new entries, consisting partly of updates of existing entries and partly of new topics. One special point was the expansion of our new topic “Social Values” with further tables on the values of the inhabitants of major industrial countries with respect to science and technology, labour, environment, equality, family and personal values. Some further topics are mentioned below:

- Economic weight of nations (I-III)
- Employment rate
- Agreements on cross-border employment
- Centralisation of collective bargaining
- Lawfulness of strikes and lock-outs
- Minimum wages
- Unemployment rates
- Active labour market programmes
- Unemployment benefit systems
- Duration of unemployment insurance
- Unemployment assistance benefits.

## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

### Workshop on International Outsourcing

Helsinki, 1–2 June 2007

CESifo, the Helsinki Center of Economic Research and the Research Unit of Economic Structures and Growth in Helsinki will organise a workshop on international outsourcing. Both theoretical and empirical research contributions belonging to the fields of labour economics, international economics, industrial organisation or organisation theory are welcomed.

Invited speakers include:

- Elhanan Helpman, Harvard University and
- Hans-Werner Sinn, CESifo, Germany.

### CESifo/SP-SP Center, IESE Conference on “Complementarities and Information”

Barcelona, 15–16 June 2007

The SP-SP Center of IESE and CESifo will organise a conference on recent contributions to the analysis of complementarities and information. The confer-

ence will take place on 15–16 June 2007 at the IESE Business School in Barcelona. The conference aims at bringing together both recent theoretical developments and empirical analysis with applications ranging from international finance (exchange rate crises), monetary policy (transparency), macroeconomics (co-ordination problems), banking (crises), market micro-structure (asset pricing) to industrial organization (mergers).

The editors of the Journal of the European Economic Association (JEEA) have agreed to publish a symposium issue based on the conference. The symposium editors and conference organisers will be Douglas Gale (New York University) and Xavier Vives (IESE and ICREA-UPF).

### International Society for New Institutional Economics, Annual Conference

Reykjavik, 21–23 June 2007

The 11th Annual Conference of ISNIE will take place at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik.

### CESifo/Ifo Conference on “Do We Need National or European Champions?”

Munich, 16–17 November 2007

EU countries are deeply divided about the role of industrial policy, with preferences ranging from neo-liberal approaches to strong government support for national champions. Does this facilitate the sell-out of national economies with hands-off governments, or do interventionist governments harm themselves because they create huge and inefficient corporations? Is economic patriotism legitimate? Should other EU members counter by adopting similar national policies? Do we need a common industrial policy that supports European champions? What is the best way of unleashing Europe’s innovation potential? These questions are central to the future position of the European market in the international division of labour, and yet the views about the relative role of the various government levels concerning these questions of competition supervision, regulation and industrial support vary strongly.

Invited papers will be presented by Philippe Aghion (Harvard), Martin Hellwig (Bonn), Paul Seabright (Toulouse) and Xavier Vives (IESE and INSEAD).

## WORLD VALUES SURVEY

The World Values Surveys were designed to provide a comprehensive measurement of all major areas of human concern, from religion to politics, to economic and social life, and two dimensions dominate the picture: (1) traditional/secular-rational and (2) survival/self-expression values. The traditional/secular-rational values dimension reflects the contrast between societies in which religion is very important and those in which it is not. The second major dimension of cross-cultural variation is linked with the transition from industrial society to post-industrial societies, which brings a polarisation between survival and self-expression values.

Four waves of the Values Surveys were conducted, in 1981, 1990, 1995, and 1999–2001. The fifth wave of the World Values Survey went into the field on 1 July 2005 and will continue until late 2006.

**DICE**  
**Database for Institutional Comparisons in Europe**  
**[www.cesifo.de/DICE](http://www.cesifo.de/DICE)**

The database DICE was created to stimulate the political and academic discussion on institutional and economic policy reforms. For this purpose, DICE provides country-comparative information on institutions, regulations and the conduct of economic policy.

To date, the following main topics are covered: Labour Market, Public Finances, Social Policy, Pensions, Health, Business Environment, Natural Environment, Capital Market and Education. Recently a chapter on Experts' Assessments of Governance Characteristics has been added. Information about Basic Macro Indicators is provided for the convenience of the user.

The information of the database comes mainly in the form of tables – with countries as the first column – but DICE contains also several graphs and short reports. In most tables, all 25 EU and some important non-EU countries are covered.

DICE consists primarily of information which is – in principle – also available elsewhere but often not easily attainable. We provide a very convenient access for the user, the presentation is systematic and the main focus is truly on institutions, regulations and economic policy conduct. Some tables are based on empirical institutional research by Ifo and CESifo colleagues as well as the DICE staff.

DICE is a free access database.

Critical remarks and recommendations are always welcome.

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