

NEW AT DICE DATABASE

In the second quarter of 2006 the DICE Database received about 60 new entries, consisting partly of updates of existing entries and partly of new topics. Some topics are mentioned below:

- Business Competitiveness Index
- Public Expenditures
- Public Revenues, Taxes
- Tax Burden of Families
- Labour Costs and Net Income
- Public Debt
- Public Employment
- Pensions: Retirement Age

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

European Finance Association, 33rd Annual Meeting

Zurich, 23–26 August 2006

The topics of the meeting are: Asset prices, corporate finance, market efficiency and arbitrage pricing, market microstructure, hedge funds and active investing, term structure of interest rates/government bonds, debt and credit risk, options and derivatives, financial history, behavioural finance, portfolio management/investments, banking/financial crises/regulation, international finance, emerging markets, mutual funds, real estate, risk, venture capital/private equity and IPOs, finance and the real economy.

European Economic Association, 21st Annual Congress

Vienna, 24–28 August 2006

The congress in Vienna will be a joint meeting of the European Economic Association and the European Econometric Society.

Scientific organisers: Jaume Ventura, Bruno Julien and Oliver Linton.

New Directions of Fiscal Federalism

Lexington, Kentucky, 14–16 September 2006

This conference is sponsored by the Institute of Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations (IFIR)

and CESifo. The keynote speakers are Jean Hindriks, Robert Inman, Peter Birch Sorenson, Barry Weingast, John D. Wilson and George Zodrow.

Scientific organisers: David Wildasin and Thiess Büttner.

Verein für Sozialpolitik, Annual Congress 2006

Bayreuth, 26–29 September 2006

The main subject of the congress will be “Public Investment and Infrastructure under Tight Public Budgets”. The Thünen Lecture will be given by Dennis Mueller.

American Economic Association, 2007 Annual Meeting

Chicago, 5–7 January 2007

THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY

The Center for Public Integrity is a non-profit, non-partisan, tax-exempt organisation that conducts investigative research and reporting on public policy issues in the United States and around the world. The Center was founded in 1989 by Charles Lewis. It is located at Washington, DC.

Apart from reports and books the Center publishes the Public Integrity Index. This index is the centrepiece of the Global Integrity report, providing a quantitative scorecard of governance practices in each country. The Public Integrity Index assesses the institutions and practices that citizens can use to hold their governments accountable to the public interest. The Public Integrity Index does not measure corruption itself, but rather the opposite of corruption: the extent of citizens’ ability to ensure their government is open and accountable.

DICE
Database for Institutional Comparisons in Europe
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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