

## ***Call for Papers***

**Eu-SPRI Early Career Researcher Conference (ECC), IRCRES Rome, Italy  
26-27-28 September 2018**

### ***Public R&D funding and evaluation: Methods, Trends and Changes***

The Eu-SPRI Early Career Researcher Conference (ECC) “Public R&D funding and evaluation: Methods, Trends and Changes” will take place in Rome on 26-27-28 September 2018, and is organised by the IRCRES CNR - Research Institute on Sustainable Economic Growth.

The analysis of the mechanisms by which research is financed is fundamental and assessment is a tool to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of resource allocation. The changes related mainly to the spending review of research have resulted in a considerable variation of funds, with a growing widespread use of selective and competitive procedures (Paradeise, Reale, Bleiklie, Ferlie, 2009; Jonkers and Zacharewicz, 2016; Jongbloed and Vossensteyn, 2016; Reale, 2017).

Research organisations are looking for more efficient and meaningful schemes to understand what are the conditions and funding procedures more appropriate to a good research, to account for the public money spent, and to show the scientific as well as economic and societal impact delivered from these investments (Squazzoni et al, 2013). For these and other reasons, research-funding instruments (arrangements for allocating money to research groups, individuals and organisations) and modalities (practical arrangements for implementing research-funding instruments) have become strategic issues in science, technology and innovation policy.

The conference focuses on methods, trends and changes produced by the modes of R&D funding allocation, considering also the evaluation methods and practices of proposals submitted and the effects produced by the funding allocation on the beneficiaries.

The theme proposed is relevant also as it fits with emerging needs and priorities stated in several EU policy documents. For instance, the new EU research programme, Horizon 2020, which represents the larger research programme launched at EU level since the start of European Framework Programmes, promotes studies on research evaluation and peer-review in order to maximize the quality and impact of funding.

### **Conference Tracks**

We invite early career researchers and junior scholars to participate and present their research at the conference on the following themes and streams:

- T1) public research funding instruments and modes of allocation;
- T2) methods and practices of evaluation of funding allocation;
- T3) effects of public R&D funding on beneficiaries (individual and institutions);
- T4) open track.

Suggested streams for contributors (although not limited to this list):

- ✓ Changes in the allocation and distribution of public funds for R&D and emergence of performance-based funding;
- ✓ Collaborations and strategies to improve the chance of funding;
- ✓ Changes in the peer review processes for the allocation of R&D funding;
- ✓ Effects of the ways of allocating funding in Research Organisations, in particular HEs;
- ✓ The effects of Research & Development funding on scientific productivity;
- ✓ Effects related to the availability of R&D funding on research careers.

### **Format of the Conference**

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The Conference includes plenary sessions, paper presentations in five parallel paper sessions and one dedicated poster session (up to 8 posters accepted) for PhD students at the first stage of their programme.

Four speakers are invited to deliver keynote presentations related to the Conference theme.

For each paper presentation will be allocated 30 min of time, 20 min presentation and 10 min comments. Each paper will be assigned to a discussant performed by a presenter in the same session who will provide comments and suggestions on the work presented. We aim to promote reflection and discussion among the audience and thus make the Conference a more valuable experience for both presenters and listeners.

### **Participants**

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The Conference aims at involving up to 30 participants working in the fields of Higher Education, Research Policy and Innovation studies. The Conference aims at involving primarily:

- doctoral students in the last year of their programme
- post-doctoral researchers
- research assistants having obtained the PhD within 5 years

Ten PhD students at the first stage of their programme presenting their PhD work as poster can also be accepted if the work is directly related to the Conference theme.

Priority will be given to postdoctoral researchers and to applicants from EU-SPRI members' organisations.

Participants from different social science areas are welcome (sociology, economics, political sciences, public policy, organisation studies and innovation studies). Participants from other fields, such as natural sciences and life sciences, are also welcome.

### **Abstract submission and registration**

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Participants are invited to submit an abstract (400-600 words) and the CV which should indicate PhD dissertation topic and, for research assistants and post-doctoral researchers, main research projects. Proposals should be submitted by email to the following address [eccrome@ircres.cnr.it](mailto:eccrome@ircres.cnr.it) as PDF file. Deadline for submitting the abstract is 20 April 2018. Registrations open on 7 May 2018.

Selection will be based on the quality of the proposal, the coherence with the Conference theme and CV of presenters. Notification of acceptance will be sent on 7 May 2018.

Selected authors should confirm their participation by 9 July 2018. Full papers (5000-7000 words) are due by 2 September 2018.

## **Conference fee**

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The Conference is free of charge for participants from Eu-SPRI forum organisations. The organisation will cover accommodation for two nights, lunches, Conference materials and the Conference dinner.

The Conference fee for participants from outside Eu-SPRI forum is Euro 250 (including Conference materials, lunches and accommodation up to two nights). Payment of the fee should be made by bank transfer (details will be published on the website <http://eccrome.ircres.cnr.it>) by 9 July 2018 at the latest.

All participants should cover their own travel costs.

## **Conference location and main deadlines**

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Conference will take place in Rome on 26-27-28 September 2018, at IRCRES CNR - Research Institute on Sustainable Economic Growth, 19, Via dei Taurini, Rome, Italy.

Further details are available at the official site of the Conference:  
<http://eccrome.ircres.cnr.it>

### **Main deadlines**

Call open	19 February 2018
Abstracts submission	Due by 20 April 2018
Notification of acceptance	7 May 2018
Registrations open	7 May 2018
Registration (and payment of the fee)	Due by 9 July 2018
Full papers	Due by 2 September 2018

### **About Eu-SPRI**

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The "European Forum for Studies of Policies for Research and Innovation" (Eu-SPRI Forum) aims to strengthen the vibrant but dispersed interdisciplinary community of researchers focusing on interdisciplinary dimensions related to policy and governance in the field of knowledge creation and innovation. The Eu-SPRI Forum was founded in Paris in June 2010 and has presently 17 member institutions. [http://www.euspri-forum.eu/about\\_us/](http://www.euspri-forum.eu/about_us/)

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