Research fellowship on - Counterfactual evaluation of public policies for territorial development in Europe: economic impact assessments, mediating conditions, and political consequences - Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia (Italian law 30 December 2010, n.240, art. 22)

The present document in English is to be considered as a mere summary of the main provisions of the notice of competition which is available in Italian at the following link: http://www.unive.it/data/12137/ The text in Italian is the official text of the notice of competition for all legal intents and purposes and, in the event of non-conformity with the present document, it shall prevail.

Description
The Department of Economics at Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia invites applications for a fellowship in:

- **Title:**
  Counterfactual evaluation of public policies for territorial development in Europe: economic impact assessments, mediating conditions, and political consequences

- **Academic Discipline or disciplines specifically identified by the call** SECS-P/02, SECS-P/06

- **scientific coordinator and tutor:** Prof. Stefano Magrini

- **duration:** 24 months

**abstract:**

The asymmetric spatial distribution of socio-economic conditions in Europe entails different capacities to adapt to key challenges such as increasing international competition and growing migration flows. These dynamics are influencing cultural attitudes and political preferences as well, with European voters growingly showing their discontent with the economic and political systems by embracing anti-system and Eurosceptic positions (e.g. Brexit). In this framework, policies supporting local development and helping disadvantaged regions not only play a fundamental role but may influence political outcomes as well. In many cases, regions themselves bear significant responsibilities in the design and application of such measures. A crucial issue potentially hindering their effectiveness at the local level is the presence of institutional bottlenecks distorting interventions, such as lobbying action by elite and pressure groups, corruption, and low government capacity. However, limited empirical evidence has been produced to date on the regional impact of European development policies, particularly using counterfactual methods that allow the comparison between areas receiving financial support with comparable ‘untreated’ territories. The aim of this research project is therefore to provide causal evidence on the effectiveness of public policies and regional and local development strategies being implemented across Europe. The objective is to produce comprehensive examinations of policy interventions, paying specific attention to the role of institutional factors. A special focus should be dedicated to European lagging areas and the effectiveness of development interventions through the financial support of EU Cohesion Policy. Moreover, the research would analyse the extent to which these interventions lead to shifts in the political attitudes of voters living in the territories affected by them, with a focus on the Brexit vote.

From a methodological viewpoint, impact assessments are expected to be produced by means of state-of-the-art counterfactual tools that may involve estimation techniques such as differences-in-differences, regression discontinuity design, synthetic control method or other identification strategies.
The resolution of the Council of Department of Economics of 2019-03-21 contains declaration of financial backing for the entire duration of the fellowship, which will be funded by Unicredit Foundation e Centro VERA, responsible Prof. Stefano Magrini

The research may be carried out in English.

The fellowship is intended to provide the successful candidate with the opportunity to pursue his/her own research while benefiting from the range of expertise at Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia.

Who can apply

Citizens belonging to European Union member states and non-community citizens in possession of a PhD in economics or in economic geography and appropriate scientific-professional curriculum for the research and which provides research experience in the field of empirical analysis of public policies, with particular emphasis on spatial impact.

Ca’ Foscari encourages applications from researchers with positive evaluation in all the criteria in individual proposals such as Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar.

Researchers having successfully completed Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar funded projects are warmly encouraged to apply.

The following qualifications are considered as evaluation criteria:

a. Experience in analysing and assessing the spatial impact of public policies, in particular in Europe, supported by publications.

b. Experience with counterfactual methodologies for causal analysis.

c. Experience with modelling for spatial data analysis.

d. Carrying out of documented research activities related to the theme of cheques (analysis of the factors that determine the economic development of European regions) with public and private entities with contracts, scholarships or assignments both in Italy and abroad.

e. Specialization diplomas and certificates of attendance of postgraduate courses, obtained both in Italy and abroad, the performance of documented research activities at public and private entities with contracts, scholarships or assignments in Italy and abroad;

f. Previous experience in related research projects; scientific publications relevant to the subject of the grant

Duration of contract: 24 months (approximately starting on September 2019).

Stipend: The research fellowship amounts to Euro 50,887.50=- per year, gross to the recipient, net of the expenses to be sustained by the Provider. The amount may be subject to adjustment in the event of variations in the law.
Deadline for submission of applications: by and no later than 2019-04-29, h. 12:00 noon – local time.

If the deadline is on Saturday or on holidays, the deadline is extended to the first working day thereafter.

How to apply:

Candidates should submit:
1. The application form;
2. a motivation letter (max 1 page) along with their CV in European format, duly dated and signed, both to enclosed as a one single.pdf file. (http://www.unive.it/pag/28830)
3. an abstract containing a proposal (max 3 pages, Font Arial 14) that clarifies how the candidate intends to structure the research work in accordance with what is described in art. 1;
4. a copy of a valid identity document (either Identity Card or Passport);
5. (If available) Evaluation Summary Reports of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) individual proposals having passed all the evaluation thresholds;
6. Doctoral degree;
7. (If available) Details of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships, ERC Starting Grants, FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/ SIR Scientific Young Independence Research funded projects;
8. All documents, qualifications and publications relevant for the selection procedure (please, see the notice http://www.unive.it/data/28825/).

All the schemes of the quoted documentation are available on the website http://www.unive.it/pag/28830.

How to submit your application

Applications should be submitted by the online procedure, available on the notice webpage http://www.unive.it/data/28825/

Or submit here:

https://static.unive.it/domandeconcorso-en/accesso/dec-402-12042019

The candidate, after the uploading, will receive a submission number and an e-mail acknowledging receipt of his/her application.

The candidate if necessary could access the procedures for updating any data and materials by the link provided by the e-mail, in any case any updates must be made no later than the deadline 2018-04-29, h. 12:00 noon – local time.

If the deadline is on Saturday or on holidays, the deadline is extended to the first working day thereafter.

Please note that the University can be contacted for any support needs by the candidate until 24 hours prior to the deadline.
Please note that in case of an high number of applications and/or weight of the materials loaded by the candidates the system might become slower, Therefore it is suggested not to start the process close to the deadline.

NB: the University does not take on responsibility for wrong or late communication of addresses, nor for any communication problem not depending on the University.

Evaluation

Up to 100 points, specifically:
For qualifications, publications and possible tests, from 0 to 60;
For interview, from 0 to 40.

Selection procedure

The interview will be on 2019/05/07, at 10.00 AM, at Meeting Room 4-Villette, Department of Economics, Cannaregio 873 - 30121 Venezia.
The short-list of the candidates admitted to the interview, or any postponement, will be published on the University’s webpage on 2019/05/06 (http://www.unive.it/data/28899/).
Candidates living farther than 200 Kms from Venice may ask to hold a telematic interview.

Information and contacts

Candidates may find further details about the application process and the research project in the official call published on the following webpage http://www.unive.it/data/28825/
For further information please contact: Segreteria Amministrativa del Dipartimento di Economia, phone number: 041-2349173; e-mail: simar@unive.it