



ERE – Empirical Research in Economics

➤ OUR AIMS

The main goal of the non-profit organization “ERE – Empirical Research in economics” is to tackle two endemic problems of the Italian research system: (1) the difficulty for young researchers to carry out independent projects; (2) the lack of attention to the collection of datasets that can be used for scientific purposes. This second issue is particularly relevant for empirical research in economics and econometrics. For these reasons, in 2006, **a group of young Italian economists**, at the beginning of their career in Italian or international institutions, decided to set up the association ERE in order **to raise private or public funds to support the collection of original datasets**.

In accordance to ERE statute, “it is not allowed to redistribute, directly or indirectly, the operating income or profits of the association”. ERE statute and activities are in line with the **Italian regulation concerning non-profit organizations (ONLUS)**. ERE researchers do not derive any income or benefit from their membership. This means that the funds of the organization are entirely devoted to research and data collection expenses (e.g. hiring research assistants, buying software facilities, covering travel expenses).

ERE fosters the idea that **data are public goods**, and that it is in the interest of the whole society that they become available to the largest number of researchers. Therefore, after an initial use by ERE research teams, the **datasets will be made available to the whole scientific community** through the site: www.empirical-economics.com. This website will also provide updated information on the institutions and companies that support ERE's activities.

➤ OUR ORGANIZATION

The **directive board** of the association is currently composed of eight people:

- Tommaso Nannicini (*Universidad Carlos III de Madrid*) – President
- Stefano Gagliarducci (*CEMFI, Madrid*) – Vice President
- Elena Argentesi (*Università di Bologna*)

EMPIRICAL RESEARCH in ECONOMICS

- Francesco Avvisati (*Paris School of Economics*)
- Decio Coviello (*European University Institute*)
- Paolo Naticchioni (*Università di Roma “La Sapienza”*)
- Chiara Rapallini (*Università di Firenze*)
- Olmo Silva (*London School of Economics*)
- Daniela Vuri (*Università di Roma “Tor Vergata”*)

Short bios and links to the CV of the members of the directive board are available at the website: www.empirical-economics.com.

➤ OUR ACTIVITIES

ERE is currently involved in two research projects aimed at collecting unique datasets: (1) “The Labour Market for Professional Politicians”; (2) “Behavioural Economics and Gambling Markets”. The **first research project** focuses on the collection of a dataset about the members of the Italian Parliament in the period 1987-2006. The dataset will contain individual information about absenteeism, bills and legislative achievements, current and past institutional/political appointments, extensive details about income and earnings, educational background and work history, some demographics. The **second research project** concerns the collection of a unique dataset about online gambling on the Italian soccer league. The dataset will contain not only the timing and amount of individual bets throughout one year, but also the personal characteristics of gamblers.

Since 2007, ERE – in collaboration with Fondazione MPS – awards one or more **scholarships** dedicated to the memory of **Riccardo Faini** and aimed to **PhD students in economics** in Italy. The scholarships must be used by the winners to finance the collection of original datasets. Further information on the Riccardo Faini scholarships can be found on the website: www.empirical-economics.com.