Call for Papers

Special Issue "The intangible economy, globalisation, and inclusive growth: three major issues for national accounting"

Economie et Statistique / Economics and Statistics launches a call for papers for a special issue devoted to the main challenges currently faced by National Accounts.

National accounts hold a paradoxical place within statistical production. On the one hand, they provide a consistent and connected view of monetary flows between economic agents, as well as their asset holdings. The headline indicators are eagerly anticipated and attract much comment, both by the general public and decision-makers. On the other hand, national accounting has always been contested and it is currently facing new challenges. Traditional criticisms point at its highly aggregated nature and its failure to account for non-monetary aspects of well-being and sustainability, including environmental assets. These criticisms provided most of the background to the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report, published in 2009. Today, this would be reworded by saying that national accounts were not designed to measure the "inclusiveness" of growth, that is, to take into account both changes in inequality and the overall quality of life, in the short and the long run. New forms of challenge that have emerged since 2009 are linked to the development of the digital economy, of intangible production, and globalisation. Digitalisation blurs some of the boundaries of production and intensifies product turnover and diversification. This provides an additional reason to go beyond the usual scope of national accounts and to question what new forms of production ultimately may or may not offer to final well-being. For its part, globalisation seems to make the idea of "national" accounting increasingly meaningless, especially when production is based on an increasing proportion of intangible factors such as patents or trademarks, whose location can shift very easily, mainly in response to tax incentives. This problem has been known for a long time, but it has come under a spotlight after the huge variations that have affected the Irish GDP recently.

The aim of this special issue is to provide a general perspective on these questions and how they can be addressed. Proposals can be empirical or only focus on the conceptual aspects of these debates. Interested authors are invited to **send their full papers by June 30, 2018 at the latest, in English or in French, to** redaction-ecostat@insee.fr. The manuscripts will then be submitted to the usual review process. The publication of this special issue is planned for 2019, articles will be published simultaneously in English and in French.

This project will benefit from the collaboration of a scientific committee composed of Didier Blanchet (Insee), Diane Coyle (Cambridge University), Marc Fleurbaey (Princeton University), Lionel Fontagné (University of Paris 1), Jacques Le Cacheux (UPPA, University of Pau and Pays de l'Adour), François Lequiller (ACN, Association de comptabilité nationale/National Accounting Association), Thomas Piketty (Paris School of Economics) and Peter Van de Ven (OECD).

For more information on the journal: https://www.insee.fr/en/information/2591257