

RECENT NEW ENTRIES TO THE DICE DATABASE

In the second quarter of 2004, the DICE Database (w) received about 50 new entries. Education has been one of the main topics. Many tables and charts are focused on "Learning Environment and Organisation of Schools", on the "Mobility of Students" and on the results of "PIRLS".

SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD (SSPTW)

This publication of the U.S. Social Security Administration highlights the principal features of social security programs in more than 170 countries: old-age, survivors, and disability; sickness and maternity; work injury; unemployment; and family allowances. A set of tables in each volume provides information for each country on the types of social security programs, types of mandatory systems for retirement income, contribution rates, and demographic and other statistics related to social security.

Beginning with the March 2002 edition, SSPTW now appears in four volumes published on a rolling basis every six months. Each volume focuses on a specific region of the world: Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and the Americas.

(<http://www.ssa.gov/policy>)

EURYDICE

The information network on education in Europe, Eurydice has since 1980 been one of the strategic mechanisms established by the European Commission and Member States to boost cooperation, by improving understanding of systems and policies. Since 1995, Eurydice has also been an integral part of Socrates, the Community action programme in education. Eurydice is an institutional network for gathering, monitoring, processing and circulating reliable and readily comparable information on education systems and policies throughout Europe. Eurydice covers the education systems of the Member States of the European Union, the three countries of the European Free Trade Association which are members of the European Economic Area, and the EU candidate countries involved in the Socrates Programme.

In order to meet the varied needs of its users, Eurydice prepares and publishes the following:

- readily comparable and regularly updated monographs on the organisation of education systems,
- comparative studies on specific topics of Community interest,
- indicators.

Apart Eurydice makes available to its users Eurybase, a highly detailed database on education systems.

(<http://www.eurydice.org>)

CESIFO VENICE SUMMER INSTITUTE 2004

Now into its fifth year, the CESifo Venice Summer Institute is by now a well established highlight of the international economists' conference agenda. CESifo will hold this year's Summer Institute from 19 to 24 July at its traditional venue on the tiny island San Servolo, about ten minutes by boat from the San Marco square in Venice.

With six workshops on this occasion, the institute will cover a wide range of research fields. The Institute will open with two workshops: *The Revival of Aggregate Demand Management Policies: Back to Keynes?*, with Torben Andersen, Alex Cukierman and Jordi Gali as keynote speakers, and *Behavioral Public Economics*, where the keynote speakers will be Andrei Shleifer and Eytan Sheshinski. Both workshops will be held on July 19 and 20. On July 21–22, while the *Recent Developments in Antitrust Analysis* workshop proceeds, with Timothy Bresnahan and Michael Waldman as keynote speakers, Christian Keuschnigg will run a parallel workshop on *Policy Analysis With Numerical Models*. Finally, on July 23 and 24, globalisation will be discussed in a workshop with Richard Higgott, Pierre Sauvé and John Whalley as keynote speakers, concurrently with the workshop on *Growth and Institutions*, with keynote speakers Philippe Aghion, David Dollar and Danny Quah.

PENSION REFORM

Mindful of the importance of the policy debate on pension reform in Europe and elsewhere, CESifo

and DELTA will jointly organise two scientific conferences on reform-related issues, the first to be held in Munich on 5-6 November 2004, the second in Paris in the first half of 2006.

The two conferences will deal with the microeconomic incentives, macroeconomic implications, and political sustainability of intergenerational transfers, on the one hand, and the transitional costs and macroeconomic implications of funded systems of retirement savings, on the other. The intention of the organisers is to focus more on the analysis of intergenerational transfer systems in the first conference, and more on funded systems of retirement savings in the second, but to address both aspects in both conferences. Each of the two conferences will feature both theoretical and empirical research.

Scientific organisers: Georges de Menil and Robert Fenge.