

RECENT ENTRIES TO THE DICE DATABASE

In the second quarter of 2005 the DICE Database (www.cesifo.de/DICE) received about 70 new entries, consisting partly of updates of existing entries and partly of new topics. Some topics are mentioned below:

- Taxing Wages
- Economic Weight of Nations (I-III)
- Public Pensions: Supervision, Authorities and Principles
- Stock Exchanges: Supervision, Taxes
- Housing Benefits/Family Benefits
- Hiring and Firing Workers
- Tax Burden of Companies
- Private Pensions Funds
- Family Benefits
- Unemployment Assistance Benefits

GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP MONITOR

The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) research program is an annual assessment of the national level of entrepreneurial activity. Initiated in 1999 with 10 countries, it was expanded to 21 in 2000, 29 in 2001 and 37 in 2002. GEM 2005 will conduct research in 39 countries.

The research programme, based on a harmonised assessment of the level of national entrepreneurial activity for all participating countries, involves exploration of the role of entrepreneurship in national economic growth. Systematic differences continue, with few highly entrepreneurial countries reflected in sustained economic growth. There is, further, a wealth of national features and characteristics associated with entrepreneurial activity.

Those interested in the research programme will find global comparisons, national reports and special topic reports based on the annual data collection cycle. For more information, contact Babson College, London Business School, UK.

PRIVATIZATION BAROMETER

The Privatization Barometer is the first Internet portal on privatization and its most recent development in old and new Europe (the first 10 CEEC accession countries are included).

The project is currently funded by Fondazione IRI (a non-profit independent research institution founded in 2002 by the former State Holding Company IRI) and Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei – FEEM (a non-profit research institution established in 1989), a leading international economic research centre.

The aim of the project is to create a unique and independent source that reports comprehensive information on the historical process of privatization, as well as on recent and future trends; to provide a focal point for an international audience of researchers, enterprises, analysts, consultants, international agencies, governments, policy-makers and media; and to establish an open forum on privatization choices and their consequences firmly based on research outputs. See Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei-FEEM, Milano, Italy.

CONFERENCES

Kiel-Munich Workshop on the Economics of Information and Network Industries

Rapid progress in information and communication technologies stirs up modern economies as do the liberalisation and deregulation of traditional network-based industries. These developments pose new challenges for economic theory and economic policy. Thus, there is a growing body of both theoretical and empirical literature focusing on these issues.

Once again, on 15 – 16 August 2005, the Center for Information and Network Economics at the University of Munich and two of the leading German economic research institutes, the Ifo Institute for Economic Research, and the Kiel Institute for World Economics will dedicate a workshop to this important research topic.

The workshop, which will take place in Munich, will concentrate on the following topics:

- Increasing Returns, Network Externalities, Switching Costs.
- Market Structure, Product Differentiation and Pricing Strategies.
- Industry Studies on Hardware/Software, E-commerce and the Internet.
- Industry Studies on Telecommunication, Energy and Transport Networks.
- Innovation, R&D and Intellectual Property in Network Industries
- National and International Regulatory Policy, Anti-trust Issues, Private Sector Initiatives.

DOING BUSINESS METHODOLOGY

The methodology for the Doing Business Database of the World Bank is developed in the following articles:

- Simeon Djankov, Rafael La Porta, Florencio Lopez-de-Silanes and Andrei Shleifer (2002), "The Regulation of Entry", *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 117, 1-37.
- Juan Botero, Simeon Djankov, Rafael La Porta, Florencio Lopez-de-Silanes and Andrei Shleifer (2004), "The Regulation of Labor", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, November.
- Rafael La Porta, Florencio Lopez-de-Silanes, Andrei Shleifer and Robert Vishny (1998), "Law and Finance", *Journal of Political Economy* 106, 1113-55.
- Simeon Djankov, Caralee McLiesh and Andrei Shleifer (2004), "Private Credit Around the World", Harvard University, July.
- Simeon Djankov, Rafael La Porta, Florencio Lopez-de-Silanes and Andrei Shleifer (2003), "Courts", *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 118, 453-517.