

12th International Workshop on Efficiency in Education, Health and other Public Services

15th and 16th October, 2026
The Economic and Social Research Institute
Dublin, Ireland

THURSDAY, 15TH OCTOBER

9:00AM – 9:30AM

Registrations and morning coffee

9:30AM – 11:00AM

Parallel Session 1

PS1a: Student Learning and Educational Outcomes

PS1b: Health and Population Outcomes

COFFEE BREAK

11:30AM – 1:00PM

Welcome and Keynote 1

Moving Targets: Skills, Time and What We Ask of Education Systems

*Professor Francesca Borgonovi, University College London,
Social Research Institute and Head of Skills Analysis, OECD
Centre for Skills*

LUNCH BREAK

2:00PM – 3:30PM

Parallel Session 2

PS2a: School Efficiency, Accountability, and Performance

PS2b: Public Service Performance and Public Infrastructure

COFFEE BREAK

4:00PM – 5:30PM

Parallel Session 3

PS3a: Educational Inequality and Student Dropout

PS3b: Market Development, Innovation, and Economy

SOCIAL DINNER | 6:30PM – 8:30PM

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Keynote 2

From "What Works and Why?" to "For Whom and Under What Conditions?": Rethinking Educational Effectiveness through a Dynamic Approach to School Improvement

Professor Leonidas Kyriakides, Professor of Educational Research and Evaluation, Department of Education of the University of Cyprus

COFFEE BREAK

11:30AM - 1:00PM

Parallel Session 4

PS4a: Education Policy, Equity, and Participation

PS4b: Labour Markets and Productivity

LUNCH BREAK

END OF THE WORKSHOP

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PARALLEL SESSION 1

THURSDAY, 15TH OCTOBER, 9:30AM - 11:00AM

PS1a: Student Learning and Educational Outcomes	
When University Goes Global: The Causal Impact of International Peers on Domestic Students' Performance	Maxime François, KU Leuven Kristof De Witte, KU Leuven
Beyond Test Scores: A Meta-Analysis of Elite Secondary Schools and Life Outcomes	Antal Ertl, ELTE KRTK & University of Iceland Dániel Horn, Corvinus University of Budapest & ELTE KRTK
The impact of a teacher professional development program on preschoolers' mathematical and language skills	Nore Wijns, KU Leuven Joke Torbeyns, KU Leuven Bert De Smedt, KU Leuven
If You Study, You Learn: The Effect of High-Stakes Entry Exams on Later Achievement	Rita Pető, ELTE KRTK Dániel Horn, Corvinus University of Budapest & ELTE KRTK
Exploring international learning loss patterns: An ML investigation using OECD PISA data before and after Covid-19	Melvin Vooren, VU University Amsterdam Melisa Diaz Lema, Politecnico di Milano Chris van Klaveren, VU University Amsterdam Ilja Cornelisz, VU University Amsterdam Tommaso Agasisti, Politecnico di Milano

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PARALLEL SESSION 1

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PS1b: Health and Population Outcomes	
Hospital bed occupancy rates and patient outcomes	Theano Kakoulidou, ESRI Frank Wolfe, ESRI
Embedding lived experience in public service performance evaluation: Co-designing an outcomes-focused monitoring system for HSE funded adult disability day services	Deirdre Nally, National Disability Authority Jack Kenny, Robin Wynne, Liam Wheeldon, Ann Mahon, Tori Fitzgerald, Teresa Gadd, ACE communications Martina Lanigan, HSE National Disability Team Ruth O'Reilly, National Disability Authority Aoife O'Toole, HSE National Disability Team
A 'Sludge Audit' of Behavioural Frictions in Public Services: Ireland's Infant Immunisation Programme	Lucie Martin, ESRI & Trinity College Dublin Maria Lee, ESRI Deirdre Robertson, ESRI & Trinity College Dublin
Let the Children Come to Me: Church School Expansion and Religious Affiliation in Hungary	Attila Gáspár, ELTE Centre for Economic and Regional Studies & Central European University Dániel Horn, Corvinus University of Budapest & ELTE KRTK Anna Schenk, Corvinus University of Budapest & ELTE KRTK

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PARALLEL SESSION 2

THURSDAY, 15TH OCTOBER, 2:00PM - 3:30PM

PS2a: School Efficiency, Accountability, and Performance	
Moving Goalposts: Accountability System Measurement Instability and the Validity of School Performance Data	Rachel White, Loren Welles, David DeMatthews, Lesley Rivas, Pedro Reyes, University of Texas
Efficiency analysis of private- public school in European countries	Giovanni Antonini, Politecnico di Milano Tommaso Agasisti, Politecnico di Milano
The Role of Schools in Shaping Students' (Gendered) Intergroup Attitudes	Anna Moya, Selina McCoy, ESRI
Beyond Peer Bullying: Rethinking the Efficiency of School Anti-Bullying Programmes through an Adult-Inclusive Lens	Luca Janka László, Parents International Eszter Salamon, Parents International Judit Horgas, Parents International Aristidis Protopsaltis, Parents International

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PS2b: Public Service Performance and Public Infrastructure	
Fiscal Evaluation through Business Sentiments: Measuring Sectoral Asymmetry in Public Infrastructure Efficiency	Muhammad Rizwan Iqbal, State bank of Pakistan
The Effects of Municipal Mergers on Expenditures and Service Outputs: Evidence from Italy	Tommaso Agasisti, Politecnico di Milano Alice Bertoletti, JRC, European Commission Francesco Porcelli, Università di Roma La Sapienza
Beyond Metrics? Relational Public Service, Learning and the Future of Public Service Performance	Anna Visser, Department of the Taoiseach Tomás Ó Ruairc, Department of Education and Youth
Spatial spillovers of housing affordability in teacher labour markets	Mattice Venken, Panagiotis (Takis) Iliopoulos, Kristof De Witte, KU Leuven

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PARALLEL SESSION 3

THURSDAY, 15TH OCTOBER, 4:00PM - 5:30PM

PS3a: Educational Inequality and Student Dropout	
The Effect of Maternal Job Loss on School Dropout and Educational Trajectories	Rita Pető, ELTE KRTK Anna Bárdits, Central European University Dániel Horn, Corvinus University of Budapest & ELTE KRTK
Supporting Early Intervention in Higher Education: A Machine Learning Framework for Predicting First-Year Student Dropout at the School of Engineering of the University of Porto	Fernando J. Osorio, Universidade do Porto Flavia Barbosa, University of Pisa Giovanna D'Inverno, KU Leuven Ana S. Camanho, Universidade do Porto
From Dropout Prediction to Decision Support: An Explainable Machine Learning Framework Using Real-World Data from the University of Porto	Francisco Dias, Universidade do Porto Hermilio Vilarinho, Universidade do Porto Ana S. Camanho, Universidade do Porto
Inequality in access to the arts among young people in Ireland: The role of schools	Rebecca Wetter, ESRI Demos Michael, ESRI Selina McCoy, ESRI

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PS3b: Market Development, Innovation, and Economy	
Potential Equity Market Development and Efficiency Gaps: A Four-Component Frontier Analysis	Gabriela Riveros Ramirez, KU Leuven
Political economy of municipal voters satisfaction: The role of financial autonomy and voter ideology	Simona Ferraro, Tallinn University of Technology Kaire Põder, Estonian Business School
Beyond the citation count: A multidimensional vector for assessing research's social reach	Jasmina Berbegal-Mirabent, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya Rocio de la Torre, Universitat Politècnica de València Cristina Alcaide, Universidad de Granada
The Impact of Digital Skills and ICT Training on the Diffusion of Artificial Intelligence and Firm-Level Productivity	Juan Duran, ESRI Iulia Siedschlag, ESRI

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PARALLEL SESSION 4

FRIDAY, 16TH OCTOBER, 11:30AM - 13:00PM

PS4a: Education Policy, Equity, and Participation	
Supporting educational equity in Ireland: experience of a priority education programme	Demos Michael, ESRI Selina McCoy, ESRI
Developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) Programme	Adele Whelan, ESRI Diane Sheehy, ESRI Emer Smyth, ESRI Seamus McGuinness, ESRI Séamus Joyce, ESRI
Impact Assessment of a Facebook Marketing Campaign on Summer School Attendance	Diogo V. N. da Conceição, KU Leuven & NOVA SBE Kristof De Witte, KU Leuven & Maastricht University
Who Wants to Teach? Exploring Job Preferences Across Student Populations	Jacob Van Belle, KU Leuven Willem De Cort, KU Leuven Kristof De Witte, KU Leuven Mike Smet, KU Leuven

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PS4b: Labour Markets and Productivity	
Benefit-of-the-Doubt Composite Indicators for Performance Assessment: A Critical Review of Methods, Applications and Future Research Directions	Fernando J. Osorio, Hermilio Vilarinho, Ana S. Camanho, Universidade do Porto
Determinants of efficiency in Regional Innovation Systems. A Bayesian framework	Zaira García-Tórtola, Universitat Jaume I Dolores Añón-Higón, David Conesa, Joan Crespo, Universitat de València, Emili Tortosa-Ausina, Universitat Jaume I
An intertemporal evaluation for the European pillar of social rights: a benefit of the doubt approach with common weights	Laura Carosi, University of Pisa Giovanna D'Inverno, University of Pisa & KU Leuven Davide Zucchini
Citizen satisfaction, local government performance, and the inter-temporal budget constraint	Maria Teresa Balaguer-Coll, Universitat Jaume I Isabel Narbón-Perpiñá, Diego Prior, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona Emili Tortosa-Ausina, Universitat Jaume I, IIDL and Ivie

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