

Fondazione Rodolfo Debenedetti (fRDB)

The objective of Fondazione Rodolfo Debenedetti (fRDB) is to promote applied and policy-oriented research on three main topics: i) reform of social policies in the light of demographic trends and the ongoing transformation of capital markets; ii) the causes of European unemployment, its social costs and the political feasibility of strategies aimed at liberalising EU labour markets; and iii) the co-ordination/harmonisation of social policies in the EU as a precondition for effective labour mobility across the EU countries. The Fondazione Rodolfo DEBENEDETTI offers a documentation centre on social policy reforms and EU labour markets. It mainly includes micro data on labour market flows, recipients of unemployment benefits and other social programmes and persons involved in active labour market policy programmes. It has collected micro data on EU Nations, transitional economies and several others countries. Data currently available includes: Banca d'Italia, EUROSTAT ECHP, GSOEP, ISTAT , OECD, WERS, and administrative data focused on ALMPs and others.

The material collected at the Fondazione can be of help to students working on dissertations in this field and to researchers interested in these issues.

The Fondazione Rodolfo DEBENEDETTI promotes three kinds of initiatives:

- Conferences covering issues of Europe-wide relevance;
- Workshops on themes relating to Italian current political affairs;
- Public lectures by leading academicians on issues at the forefront of economic research (*Rodolfo Debenedetti Lectures*).

The *conferences* are based on reports prepared by teams composed of senior academicians, professional economists operating in international organisations and advisors to policy-makers. The team members work in close co-operation with the Fondazione, which co-ordinates the various working groups. The topics of the conferences are defined in the framework of a two-year plan of the Fondazione's activities.

In particular, on September 2001, a conference on the sustainability of pension system in Italy has been organized.

The *workshops* envisage the presence of experts from countries that have recently implemented important reforms of its social welfare system. The experts are asked to describe these experiences, devoting particular attention to policy implementation and enforcement issues, including the gathering of the necessary social consensus around the reform package. The aim of the workshops is to draw positive lessons to be borne in mind when reforming the Italian labour market and social welfare systems. However, in some cases, even negative lessons are proposed as experiences not to be repeated in Italy. Experts come from national administrations or research centres involved in the monitoring and evaluation of reforms.

The main purpose of the *Rodolfo Debenedetti Lectures* is to present to a non-technical readership, new and evolving research on topics, such as the implications of the ageing of populations; income distribution; the changing size and composition of welfare states in an integrated Europe; transitions across employment, unemployment and inactivity; the spread of atypical and temporary work; international and regional migration; the future of trade unions and collective bargaining and the political economy of social welfare reform. The *Scientific Committee* in charge of selecting the authors of the *Rodolfo Debenedetti Lectures* is composed of Giuseppe Bertola (European University Institute), Olivier Blanchard (M.I.T.), Tito Boeri, (Bocconi University) and Stephen Nickell (London School of Economics).

Fondazione Rodolfo Debenedetti operates mainly by creating networks and sub-contracting work to international teams operating under the supervision of fRDB researchers. This method has been successfully used in 1998-2001 in finalising 3 major research projects on Social Policies in an integrated Europe (now published as “Welfare and Employment in a United Europe”, MIT Press, 2001), the changing nature and role of unions (“The Role of Unions in the Twenty-First Century”, Oxford University Press, 2001) and international migration (“Immigration Policy and the Welfare State”, Oxford University Press, Spring 2002). These books have been translated in Italian, English and Spanish.

Fondazione Rodolfo Debenedetti has been particularly active in the field of political economy of pension reforms. In particular, fRDB promoted studies on the opportunity to reform pension systems in Europe. The main publication on this topic are “Would you like to shrink the Welfare State?”, by Tito Boeri, Axel Boersch-Supan, and Guido Tabellini, *Economic Policy* n° 32, April 2001; “Pension reforms and the opinions of European citizens”, by Tito Boeri, Axel Boersch-Supan, and Guido Tabellini, *American Economic Review*, May 2002; “How Would you Like to Reform Your Pension System? The Opinions of German and Italian Citizens”, by Tito Boeri, Axel Boersch-Supan, and Guido Tabellini, in Brooks, R. and Razin, A. (eds.) *The Politics and Finance of Social Security Reform*, forthcoming.

Fondazione Rodolfo Debenedetti is a small research institutions. It operates mainly by creating networks and sub-contracting work to international teams operating under the supervision of fRDB researchers. This method has been successfully used in 1998-2001 in finalising 3 major research projects on Social Policies in an integrated Europe (now published as “Welfare and Employment in a United Europe”, MIT Press, 2001), the changing nature and role of unions (“The Role of Unions in the Twenty-First Century”, Oxford University Press, 2001) and international migration (“Immigration Policy and the Welfare State”, Oxford University Press, forthcoming, Spring 2002).

The fRDB team is composed of Professor Tito Boeri, Prof. Pietro Garibaldi and Prof. Michele Pellizzari.

After obtaining his PhD in economics from New York University, Boeri was senior economist at the OECD from 1987 to 1996. In this position, among other things, he co-ordinated the Organisation’s work on human resource policies in the Central and East European economies in transition after 1990. He has also been a consultant to the IMF and the World Bank. He is currently Professor of Economics at Bocconi University in Milan where he teaches courses on labour economics and the economics of transition. He is also affiliated with the Innocenzo Gasparini Institute for Economic Research (IGIER), a CEPR Research Fellow and a Fellow of the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan Business School. Boeri is Director of the Fondazione Rodolfo Debenedetti.

Pietro Garibaldi holds a PhD in economics from LSE. Between 1996 and 1999 he was an economist in the IMF's Research Department. From September 2000, he is ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR of Economics at Bocconi University. His main research interests lie in the macroeconomics of the labour market, with particular emphasis on the role of institutions, and on the cross-country differences in job creation, job destruction and employment reallocation. He is also a CEPR Research Affiliate.

Selected Publications:

BOERI, T. and TERRELL, K. (2002) Institutional Determinants of Labour Reallocation in Transition, forthcoming on the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*.

BOERI, T., BOERSCH-SUPAN, A. and TABELLINI, G. Would you Like to Shrink the Welfare State? The Opinions of European Citizens, *Economic Policy*, Spring 2001.

BOERI, T. Structural Change, Welfare Systems and Labour Reallocation, Oxford University Press, 2000.

GARIBALDI, P. (1998), "Job Flow Dynamics and Firing Restrictions", *European Economic Review*, Vol. 42 No 2., pp. 245-75.

GARIBALDI, P (2001) "Wages and the Size of Firms in Dynamic Matching Models", joint with Giuseppe Bertola, in *Review of Economic Dynamics* Vol. 4, 335-368.

GARIBALDI, P. (2002) , Anatomy of Employment Growth, *Economic Policy*, joint with Paolo Mauro, Spring 2002.