

## First Bank of Italy EPSI (Economics of the Public Sector and Institutions) Conference

In all advanced economies, the public sector plays a fundamental role. The main justification for its role in the economy is the existence of multiple potential sources of market failures. State intervention can take different forms ranging from the regulatory framework that affects the functioning of the markets and of the business activity to direct provision of public services. Moreover, the State may directly promote structural changes, by providing incentives or imposing costs on specific sectors of the economy. The forms of state intervention can also change over time, for example as a reaction to technological and organizational improvements or political pressures. However, the presence of market failures need not per se imply that government action will allow reaching the optimal allocation. The quality and the efficiency of the public sector plays a crucial role on this respect.

On the 9 and 10 of September 2024, the **Bank of Italy** organizes the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the EPSI (Economics of the Public Sector and Institutions) Conference. The conference, which will be held every year, aims at bringing together leading world scholars engaged in research that sheds light on the above and related topics. This year we will host keynote lectures by prof. **Raffaella Sadun** (Harvard Business School) and prof. **Jan Eeckhout** (Universitat Pompeu Fabra).

We seek to attract papers of the highest academic quality on topics that include, but are not limited to, the following ones:

- Functioning of the public administration
- Public procurement
- Public sector employment and management
- Regulation and market competition
- Corporate governance
- Civil justice and corporate bankruptcy
- Crime, tax evasion and corruption

The deadline for submissions is **April 30, 2024**. To submit a paper, please send it to [epsiconference@bancaditalia.it](mailto:epsiconference@bancaditalia.it). Submissions should include a full paper. Authors will be notified by the end of May 2024. The conference will start in the morning of Monday, September 9th and will finish in the early afternoon of Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and will take place at the Centro Congressi "C.A. Ciampi" of the Bank of Italy, Rome.

**Scientific committee:** Lucia Rizzica (Bank of Italy), Audinga Baltrunaite (Bank of Italy and CEPR), Giacomo Rodano (Bank of Italy), Irene Di Marzio (Bank of Italy), Enrico Miglino (Bank of Italy)

**Local organizers:** Cristina Petrassi and Marco Romani (Bank of Italy)

**Funding:** The conference is sponsored by the Bank of Italy. There is no registration fee, and meals during the conference and the social dinner will be provided for all participants. Economy class travel and accommodation expenses for up to two nights will be covered for all successful applicants from academic institutions.