

EPSI Conference 2026

Call for papers

In all advanced economies, the public sector and institutions play a crucial role for economic growth and prosperity. State intervention can take various forms, ranging from establishing regulatory frameworks to directly providing public services and developing critical infrastructure. Additionally, the State can actively drive structural transformation by offering incentives or imposing constraints on specific sectors of the economy. Overall, the design and enforcement of the regulation, as well as the effectiveness of public action, significantly influence drivers of economic growth, including the accumulation of human and physical capital, the functioning of markets, and the level of business dynamism. Importantly, the quality of government intervention is neither static nor exogenous; it is shaped by political and bureaucratic constraints, the technological and organizational capacity of the public sector, and the availability and quality of human and physical capital as key production factors.

On the 14th and 15th September 2026, the [Bank of Italy](#) organizes the 3rd edition of the EPSI (Economics of the Public Sector and Institutions) Conference. This yearly conference 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. [Chiara Farronato](#) (Harvard Business School) and prof. [Michael Carlos Best](#) (Columbia University).

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
- Organized crime, tax evasion and corruption

The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2026. Authors are invited to submit their papers via Conference Maker at [this link](#). Submissions should include a full paper. Authors will be notified by the end of May 2025. The conference will start in the morning of Monday, September 14th and will finish in the early afternoon of Tuesday, September 15th and will take place at the headquarters of the Bank of Italy, Rome. We kindly expect all participants to be present for the full duration of the workshop.

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 successful applicants from academic institutions. For enquiries, please email epsiconference@bancaditalia.it

Conference organizers: Audinga Baltrunaite (Bank of Italy and CEPR), Lucia Rizzica (Bank of Italy)

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

Local organizing committee: Manuele Nucci, Cristina Petrassi and Marco Romani (Bank of Italy)