

FOREWORD

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This volume brings together the papers presented at the tenth Banca d'Italia Public Finance Workshop held in Perugia from 3 to 5 April 2008. The workshop tackled the issue of fiscal sustainability with a view to highlighting recent analytical developments and emerging policy issues. It examined the most recent methodologies for assessing fiscal sustainability, through long-term projections or summary indicators, and the fiscal policy implications of sustainability assessment. It investigated the impact of health and long-term care on fiscal developments and pointed to some fiscal implications of environmental factors. Finally, it considered the role of sustainability reporting in the policy debate.

Banca d'Italia thanks the institutions that contributed to the success of the initiative, the experts who provided research papers and those who came to Perugia to take part in the discussions.

This volume extends the analysis of fiscal policy issues carried out in the previous workshops, which were devoted to *Indicators of Structural Budget Balances* (1998), *Fiscal Sustainability* (2000), *Fiscal Rules* (2001), *The Impact of Fiscal Policy* (2002), *Tax Policy* (2003), *Public Debt* (2004), *Public Expenditure* (2005), *Fiscal Indicators* (2006) and *Fiscal Policy: Current Issues and Challenges* (2007).

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