

## - CALL FOR PAPERS -

*INSTITUTIONS ARE THE RULES OF THE GAME,  
AND ORGANISATIONS ARE THE PLAYERS*  
(NORTH, 1990)

## SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUND AND ANALYTICAL CHALLENGES

The role of institutions as fundamental drivers of economic and social performance is now well recognised in economics. However, the interplay between institutional transformations and growth and development in the context of political cooperation and economic integration — such as the European Union experience — is less explored in research. The process of European integration has led to the development of supra-national institutions and legislation, as well as to changes to national or subnational (including sectoral) institutional arrangements. Moreover, changes of formal institutions impacted informal institutions, triggering complex economic, social, and political outcomes.

A key achievement of the EU is the four freedoms and the associated integration of goods, services, capital, and labour markets. Several additional aspects of European integration led to the progressive recognition of common rights for citizens of the Union and to a community of interest at the EU level. These translate into policy convergence and evolutions of citizens' expectations about public service delivery. With increasing integration, countries and regions, as well as corporations compete to attract economic activity, skills and investments, resulting in increasing pressure on national and subnational institutional arrangements. However, with uneven institutional capabilities across the EU depending on historic background, social preferences and political and economic traditions, and no clear path to institutional harmonization, this process may lead to differences in economic and social development both between and within EU Member States. These differences, in turn, could endanger the cohesion of the EU.

At the same time, Europe is facing tremendous challenges. First, the global environmental challenge requires major transformation and investments to guarantee sustainable and inclusive growth. Second, innovation and new technologies – especially digital ones – call for strengthening European capabilities so that the EU can fully benefit from their potential, while also addressing the risks to core European values, fundamental rights, and democratic principles. Third, shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic or the energy crisis challenge the resilience of our societies. Fourth, the EU and its Member States are affected by various attempts to rebalance the global order, resulting in a less cooperative global governance climate. Designing appropriate new institutions and adjusting existing ones to these challenges is a major task, but one that also opens opportunities at different levels of governance (local, regional, national, and European).

# PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

The purpose of the conference is to better understand the role played by the complex web of formal and informal institutions characterising Europe, its nations and regions in shaping policies and their implementation. It will also address the challenges faced by the EU, its Member States and the public when implementing the required reforms and developments to align institutional arrangements with the EU's main policy objectives – namely, managing the green transition and the digital transformation, promoting sustainable and inclusive growth, guaranteeing social and territorial cohesion, and ensuring economic, social and institutional resilience.

The scientific committee will consider papers that contribute to the understanding of the socio-economic outcomes of alternative institutional arrangements or to institutional reform processes in the context of the EU and its policy priorities. It will consider rigorous analyses of alternative designs or processes of transformation that matter to EU policy making

Submitted papers should establish clearly how their analytical framework or results apply to the understanding of how institutions affect the implementation of EU priorities; or how they inform the design of relevant institutional frameworks that contribute to the European project.

The Scientific Committee will welcome theoretical and empirical papers that explore these issues and their measurement, with equal emphasis on European, national, and subnational institutions, and their interactions. It will welcome contributions by academics involved in institutional analysis in a broad range of fields including political economy, economic history, law and economics, economic geography, innovation studies, sectoral policies and development economics.

Beyond contributions that fit the above description, the Committee will favourably consider papers dealing with various additional topics, including:

- Crises and institutional change (incl. institutions as the origin of crises)
- Culture and institutions
- Institutional complementarities and synergies • Institutional emergence and evolution
- Economic governance and institutional design
- Institutional learning (incl. importing/exporting/experimenting designs)
- Measuring and assessing institutions and their performance
- Multilevel governance (global / EU / national / regional)
- Trust, social capital, and economic, civic and political behaviours
- Institutions, inequality, and cohesion

The conference should enable a lively exchange between researchers and policy makers. It will feature the presentation of a limited selection of papers to spur discussion. Additional papers will be displayed in the form of posters. Upon authors' consent, final papers will be considered for publication, subject to further peer review, in a symposium published by the **Journal of Comparative Economics**.



# CONTEXT OF THE CONFERENCE

The Annual Research Conference (ARC 2023) is a large forum bringing together academic research and analysis of European and global institutions. It aims to gather researchers and those who work on policy design at the European and national levels. The conference should serve as a forum connecting the Directorates-General of the European Commission and other EU institutions, and academic and professional researchers working on the topics of integration, institutions and development.

Being co-organised by academics and the European Commission, a key objective of the conference is to assess the state of knowledge of institutional and organisational economics on issues relevant for EU policymaking, both to extend the European Commission's capability to implement policies, and to identify research programmes that should address knowledge gaps.

The Conference's Keynote Speech shall be delivered by **Tim Besley (London School of Economics)**.

Visit the Conference website to (pre-)register : [https://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/arc](https://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/arc)

## FORMAT

ARC 2023 will take place in Brussels on **13-15 November 2023**.

**14 November is the main conference day, falling in the middle of two half-days of satellite events, including:**

- **'Policy meets academia'**, where people working in academia can discuss reform ideas in light of new academic research ;
- **'Research meets policymaking'** sessions, where policymakers and practitioners - including industry and citizen representatives - can discuss the feasibility and adequateness of research based recommendations;
- **'Brainstorming'** sessions involving conference speakers and European Commission staff.

## VENUE



**Charlemagne Conference Centre, Rue de la Loi 170,**

**1000 Bruxelles, Belgium.**

**This will be a hybrid event, with participants able to join and participate in the sessions remotely.**



# SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- **Ron Boschma** (Utrecht University)
- **Eric Brousseau** (University Paris-Dauphine | PSL) (Chair)
- **Daria Ciriaci** (European Commission, Joint Research Centre)
- **Anabela Marques Santos** (European Commission, Joint Research Centre)
- **Jens Prüfer** (University of East Anglia and Tilburg University)
- **Anna Thum-Thysen** (European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs)

# REFEREES

*The members of the Scientific Committee will proceed to the selection of submitted papers thanks to evaluations provided by:*

- **Gani Aldashev** (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
- **Elizaveta Archanskaia** (DG Economic and Financial Affairs)
- **Emmanuelle Auriol** (Toulouse School of Economics)
- **Lisa Bernstein** (University of Chicago)
- **Johannes Binswanger** (University of St. Gallen)
- **Erik Canton** (DG Research and Innovation)
- **Ruben Durante** (Barcelona School of Economics)
- **Ruben Enikopolov** (Barcelona School of Economics)
- **Alessandra Faggian** (Gran Sasso Science Institute)
- **Inge Graef** (Tilburg University)
- **Pauline Grosjean** (University of New South Wales)
- **Luigi Guiso** (Harvard University)
- **Sergei Guriev** (Sciences Po Paris)
- **Madina Kurmangaliyeva** (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
- **Edurne Magro** (Orchestra-Basque Institute of Competitiveness)
- **Stan Metcalfe** (University of Manchester)
- **Manuel Oechslin** (University of Lucerne)
- **Andrés Rodríguez-Pose** (London School of Economics)
- **Stephane Saussier** (Sorbonne Business School)
- **Richard Spady** (Johns Hopkins University)
- **Stefan Trautmann** (Heidelberg University)
- **Elvira Uyarra** (University of Manchester)
- **Anneleen Vandeplass** (DG Economic and Financial Affairs)
- **Lukas Vogel** (DG Economic and Financial Affairs)



## ORGANISERS

- **Bruno Castanheira** (European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs)
- **Daria Ciriaci** (European Commission, Joint Research Centre)
- **Xabier Goenaga** (European Commission, Joint Research Centre)
- **István P. Székely** (European Commission, DG Economic and Financial Affairs)

## FEES AND REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

There is no conference fee. The European Commission will cover travel expenses and fully cover the accommodation expenses of speakers and panel members at the hotel affiliated with the event.

## IMPORTANT DATES

The deadline for submissions is **31 May 2023**. Papers should be submitted at <https://conferenceservice.com/ARC23>. Long abstracts are accepted but full papers are preferred. Unless otherwise mentioned with the submission, it is understood that the author submitting a paper is also the presenter and present at least throughout the conference.

Submitters should indicate whether they accept their paper to be considered for a poster session if organisational constraints prevent its presentation in a session. If accepted for a poster session, authors are responsible for producing their poster.

Authors of accepted papers will be notified by **1 August 2023** and invited to submit a draft paper if was not submitted in May. Speakers might be asked to discuss another paper.

Completed drafts of accepted papers are due by **1 November** and will be made available for download on the conference website.



**ANNUAL  
RESEARCH CONFERENCE** <sup>2023</sup>  
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION,  
INSTITUTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT  
**13-15 NOVEMBER 2023**  
**BRUSSELS**

