



BANK ĊENTRALI TA' MALTA
EUROSISTEMA
CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA

Public Finance Workshop

Central Bank of Malta
5 July 2019

Biographies

Presenters

Krzysztof Bankowski is an Economist in the Fiscal Policies Division of the European Central Bank (ECB). He joined the ECB in 2009 and has been working throughout the years on a wide range of topics related to public finances. These most notably cover fiscal forecasting, macroeconomic modelling as well as economic adjustment programmes. He studied Quantitative Methods in Economics and Information Systems at Warsaw School of Economics as well as Economics at Goethe University in Frankfurt.

Othman Bouabdallah is a Senior Economist in the ECB's Fiscal Policies Division. In his position, among others, he has contributed to the development of the ESCB tool on debt sustainability for euro area sovereigns, co-ordinated the ESCB team on the revision of the methodology underpinning the cyclically-adjusted balances (CAB) and is currently member of the Greece-monitoring team. He previously worked as Assistant Professor in Évreux University and as Economist in the French Treasury and Banque de France, where he mainly worked on topics of business cycle and public finances. His research interests are in the area of forecasting models, Markov-switching models and stochastic models, including stochastic DSA. He holds an Engineering degree from Tunisia Polytechnic School and a PhD from Sorbonne University.

Cristina Checherita-Westphal is a Principal Economist in the ECB's Fiscal Policies Division. Her main tasks have included the coordination of the ESCB team on debt sustainability for euro area sovereigns and forecast-related topics. Her research interests are in the area of government debt and its macroeconomic consequences, economic convergence, and other fiscal policy topics, such as fiscal reaction functions and fiscal fatigue. She holds a master's degree from Columbia University and a PhD from George Mason University in the United States. She previously worked in the Romanian Ministry of Finance.

Jacopo Cimadomo is Principal Economist in the Fiscal Policy Division of the ECB. He is at the ECB since 2008, where he has also worked in the Monetary Policy Strategy Division and in the Monetary Policy Research Division. Before joining the ECB, he worked as an economist at the CEPII in the period 2005-2007 and at the Italian Ministry of the Economy and Finance in the period 2003-2004. Between 2001 and 2003, he worked as a researcher for the Euro Area Business Cycle Network (EABCN). During 2003 he was also research fellow at the “Ente Luigi Einaudi”, a monetary and banking research institute linked to the Bank of Italy. He received his PhD in economics from the Free University of Brussels in 2008.

Mar Delgado Téllez holds a PhD in Economics from the University Complutense of Madrid, from 2019, in the subfield of Public Economics. She has been working since 2011 as an Economist in Bank of Spain, within the General Directorate of Economics, Research and Statistics. Since 2013 she has been working in the Public Finance Unit where she is involved with the public deficit forecast exercises and contributes to several studies relating to the evolution of debt and deficit. She produced several policy and research papers, in the field of regional government finance and public debt, and was member of the Ageing Working Group of the European Commission for two years.

Jeanne Pavot is Principal Economist in the ECB’s Fiscal Policies Division. She is in charge of Italy’s surveillance, coordinates the non-euro-area related topic in the Division and performs analytical work relies on flow-of-funds analysis. Previously she was head of the Financial Accounts Division (production of financial accounts and the realization of studies on the investment and financing behaviour of all economic agents) in Banque de France. From 2012 to 2014 she was responsible of the monitoring of Portugal fiscal developments and member of the ECB Lisbon team (participation to quarterly Troika reviews in the context of the EU-IMF assistance programme) and contributed to modelling work on interest payments.

Noel Rapa is a Senior Research Economist in the Research Office of the Central Bank of Malta. He was previously responsible for producing the Bank’s macroeconomic forecasts. In his current role, Noel has conducted and published research in a range of macro-economic topics and contributes regularly to both internal and external publications. He is part of the ECB’s Working Group on Econometric Modelling and has participated in a number of research teams and task forces such as the Exchange Rate Pass-Through team and the Task Force on Structural Reforms. He is also responsible for the development of structural and econometric models at the Bank and was previously part of the Expert Group on Financial Assumptions of the ECB. His main research interests lie in time-series and DSGE modelling, macro-financial linkages, macro-prudential policies and international competitiveness. He holds economics degrees from the University of Malta and the University of Warwick and is a member of the European Economic Association.

Marta Rodríguez-Vives is a Senior Economist at the ECB (since 2003). She holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Economic Policy and a PhD in Business Administration. Her research interests include fiscal policies, the quality of public finances, and the balance sheet approach to macroeconomic imbalances. Her research has featured in ECB and IMF publications and also in the *European Journal of Government and Economics*, the *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking* and in *Hacienda Pública Española*.

Discussants

Matija Lozej is a Senior Economist at the Central Bank of Ireland. His research interests cover DSGE models with frictions, in particular labour market frictions and financial frictions, in combination with macroeconomic policies, such as monetary and fiscal policy. On the empirical side, his research interests include time series investigation of the effects of financial shocks.

José Ramón Martínez-Resano is currently Head of the country risk unit at Bank of Spain. Previously, he has served in the funding unit of the Spanish Treasury, has been member of the Working Party of Sovereign Debt Managers and has been part of the steering committee of the OECD Working Party on debt management. He has also been a member of the Eurosystem Risk Management Committee and has written pieces on a diverse range of topics ranging from debt management and microstructure, to capital market issues and central bank financial independence, inter alia.

Godwin Mifsud has completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Malta before proceeding with post-graduate degrees in Economics and Public Policy from the University of Essex (UK) and the University of Malta, respectively. He has served in the Maltese Public Service since 2002. After serving as Director responsible for Structural Economic Research at the Economic Policy Department within the Ministry for Finance since 2011, he was appointed as Director General in November 2015. He is the Chair of the EPC Ageing Working Group and also Malta's delegate on the Economic Policy Committee (EPC). Prior to that, he was a member of the EPC Ageing Working Group (2006-2013), contributing to its keynote publication, the Ageing Report, particularly through the coordination of the pensions projections for Malta. Since 2005, he has provided technical input to the pension reform process in Malta and more recently he has been reappointed as member of the Pensions Strategy Group tasked with preparing the strategic review due in 2020. He is also a visiting academic at the University of Malta.

Haroon Mumtaz is a Professor of Economics at Queen Mary University of London. His research interests are applied Bayesian econometrics, monetary policy and international macroeconomics. Previously, he was an economist at the Centre for Central Banking Studies in the Bank of England.