

CALL FOR PAPERS

22nd Conference of the International Association for the Economics of Participation (IAFEP) University of Naples Federico II, Department of Political Sciences 10-12 July 2024

The **International Association for the Economics of Participation (IAFEP)** gathers scholars dedicated to exploring the economics of democratic and participatory organizations, such as labor-managed firms, cooperatives and firms with broad-based employee share-ownership, profit sharing and worker participation schemes, as well as democratic nonprofit, community and social enterprises. The IAFEP Conferences, which take place every two years, provide an international forum for presentations and discussions of current research on the economics of participation. The **2024 IAFEP Conference** will be held in **Naples** (Italy).

Submissions for the 2024 conference, are invited from all relevant fields of study, including comparative economics, labor economics, industrial organization, organizational economics, social economics, management studies, institutional economics, evolutionary economics, development economics, sociology, psychology, political science, geography, law, and philosophy. Interdisciplinary approaches are welcomed. We are also interested in proposals for complete sessions.

Papers are invited on the following key themes:

1. Governance and effects of participation on firms' and workers' outcomes

We invite communications on the impact of workers' participation on firms' economic performance (productivity, profitability, investment, and employment), as well as other outcomes – such as wages, working conditions, human resource practices, corporate social responsibility practices, etc.

2. Dynamics of financial and decision-making participation

The range of organizations implementing financial and decision-making participation is broad and growing, from profit sharing to employee ownership, flat-organizations, employee involvement, employees on the board, works councils, trade-unions, etc. The drivers of the different types of participation can be very diverse. We are interested in research about the evolution and implications of participation in these organizations in industrialized, post-industrial, transition, and developing economies and the social and economic history of financial and decision-making participation in different countries, industries, regions, and periods.

3. Socio-economic and political environment

The creation, growth and stability of participatory firms are influenced by the economic and social environment as well as the public policies and laws surrounding firms and participation. Can political decisions favor or limit the development of participatory economic organizations and how? What future choices could have an impact, positive or negative, on the expansion of this phenomenon? We welcome communications about the incidence of this broad environment on participation, including historical and international comparative approaches.

4. Economic participation and political democracy

Participation in firms raises the question of the relationship between economic participation and political democracy. On one hand, can economic participation affect political involvement of workers-citizens? On the other hand, is economic participation more likely to thrive in a democratic and more egalitarian environment? We welcome communications on this topic, including comparative approaches.

5. A special session will also be organized on Sustainability issues.

Over the past few decades, the world has faced many socioeconomic and environmental challenges entailed by different drivers including industrialization, fast urbanization, and exponential population rise. These rapid changes have caused an increase in demand for finite world resources namely land, energy, and water. This, in turn, led to an urgent need to face negative environmental impacts in pursuing the main goal of Sustainable Development in many parts of the world. This special session aims to address actions toward achieving Sustainable Development through innovative and solution-oriented research articles, review articles, graphical reviews, and perspectives that elaborate on the linkages between sustainable development and the implications for human well-being. We are interested in research about the similarities and differences between traditional companies and democratic cooperatives, identifying how participatory organizations can address issues such as ecological collapse, wealth inequality and all the other topics related to Sustainable Development Goals. We also invite communications on the role of financial and decision-making participation in emerging industries such as biotech, alternative energy, and environmentally-friendly 'green' technologies.

Extended Abstracts (max. 1000 words) in English should be sent by e-mail to Marina Albanese at albanese@unina.it **by March 31, 2024**. Abstracts should include full details of institutional affiliations and e-mail addresses. Proposals for complete sessions should include a brief description of the theme of the session and an abstract for each paper.

Authors will be notified **by May 15, 2024** whether their papers are accepted for presentation. Complete drafts should reach us by **15 June 2024** in order to be handed out to Conference participants.

Conference Dates

The conference will consist of two full day sessions on July 11 and 12. A welcoming reception will take place on July 10.

Registration and Accommodations

Detailed information on registration (including fees) and local accommodations will be available on the conference website by April 2024.

Participants from Developing and Transition Economies and Students

A small amount of funding is available for participants from developing and transition economies and students. In order to be considered for the funding, researchers should clarify it in the abstract submission.

Horvat-Vanek Prize

The Horvat-Vanek prize is awarded every two years for a research paper of exceptional quality written by a young scholar in one of the areas of interest to IAFEP. The prize, of a value of US\$ 1,000, will be awarded during the conference. In order to be considered for the prize, researchers and doctoral students aged 35 or under should submit one research paper in English (maximum length 10,000 words) by **15 May** to nathalie.magne@univ-montp3.fr. Please, include your institutional affiliation and an abstract, and indicate clearly on the paper that you wish it to be considered for the Horvat-Vanek prize (the recipient will be requested to provide a passport or other official evidence of their date of birth in order to receive the prize).