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WORKSHOP OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS

On Using Econometric Approaches to Evaluate Business Support

March 1, 2018

Jean Talon Building

170 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa ON

PROGRAM

9:00 a.m.   **Welcoming Remarks**

Neil Bouwer, Treasury Board Secretariat

André Loranger, Statistics Canada

9:15 a.m.   **Session One: Setting the Stage**

The Treasury Board Secretariat worked with Statistics Canada (STC) to link program administrative data from business innovation and clean technology programs with STC's economy-wide micro-data. This data work created a first-of-its-kind dataset with ten years of annual data (2006-2016) on the complete population of Canadian recipients of all federal business innovation programs.

This session outlines how the program data were linked to STC micro-data, what data are available, and some initial descriptive results.

Chair: George Sciadas, Statistics Canada

Speakers:

Sarah Charette, Treasury Board Secretariat

Alessandro Alasia, Statistics Canada

IMPACT
ASSESSMENT

9:45 a.m.   **Session Two: International Examples to Assess Business Support Programs**

This session covers practical examples of different methodologies (e.g., "difference in difference" following changes in policy settings, instrumental variables, structural models, etc.) used to assess selected innovation support programs (e.g., innovation box in the Netherlands, European regional manufacturing subsidies, etc.)

Chair: Pierre Therrien
Speakers:
Pierre Mohnen, Maastricht University, UNI-MERIT
Chiara Criscuolo, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

10:45 a.m.   **Break**

11:15 a.m.   **Session Three: International Examples to Assess Business Support Programs**

The session covers two examples of a methodology comparing beneficiaries to robust counterfactual groups (i.e., propensity score matching). The first assesses science, research and innovation grants in the UK, and the second assesses innovation support programs in Canada (preliminary results from the Review).

Chair: Pierre Therrien
Speakers:
Stephen Roper, Warwick University
Alessandro Alasia, Statistics Canada

12:30 p.m.   **Lunch**

IMPACT
ASSESSMENT

1:30 p.m.   **Session Four: Lessons Learned from Econometric Program Assessments**

This session cover practitioners' experience on the use and misuse of such studies (e.g., How such studies are received by policy makers and program managers? What are the best practices to assess programs aimed to support not-for-profit and or intermediary organizations? How to encourage greater use of econometric program assessments? How to ensure program managers, policy makers and researchers work together to increase the efficiency of the government support program suite?)

Chair: Neil Bouwer
Speakers:
Joe Greenwood, MaRS Data Catalyst
Catherine Beaudry, École Polytechnique Montréal
Paulo Guilherme Correa, World Bank

2:30 p.m.   **Break**

2:45 p.m.   **Session Five: Panel Discussion – Next Steps: The Canadian Experiment**

The data is available, but the non-trivial question of "what now" remains. Panelists will provide their views on how to maximise the use of this new and rich program databases (e.g. potential policy relevant research projects, appropriate research designs, complementary data sources, and the potential for international comparisons.)

Chair: Pierre Therrien
Panelists:
Pierre Mohnen, Maastricht University, UNI-MERIT
Catherine Beaudry, École Polytechnique Montréal
Stephen Roper, Warwick University
Chiara Criscuolo, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
Joe Greenwood, MaRS Data Catalyst