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Address:

80, M. Karaoli & A. Dimitriou Street
185 34 Piraeus, Greece
Tel.: +30 210 414 2296
Fax: +30 210 414 2336
e-mail: spoudai@unipi.gr

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Fax: 210 414 2336
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An innovative approach for estimating bank production function characteristics

Paraskevi V. Boufounou

Keywords: Cost Function, Banking Products, Economies of Scale, Economies of Scope, Efficiency.

JEL Classifications: C81, D20, G21, M11.

An innovative method for estimating bank production function characteristics is presented by means of a new approach for defining and measuring bank products. An econometric model of a Trans-logarithmic Cost Function is estimated using a major Greek Bank's branch cross-sectional data and its production characteristics are evaluated. Finally, policy implications suggested by the above model for improving bank's efficiency in terms of structural reforms on branch size and product mix are assessed.

Human resource education and concepts supported by the trainers of adult learners: A case study

Vassiliki Brinia

Konstantinos Roussakis

Keywords: Adults education, Adults educators, Vocational training.

JEL Classifications: I210, J240.

This paper aims presenting the concepts supported by the trainers of adult learners. These specific concepts will be reflecting the prevailing situation as far as the implementation of diverse programmes on the adult Learners Education are concerned, as well as the way in which this implementation is perceived, experienced and interpreted by the trainers themselves via their daily teaching practice. The research methodology used, was the qualitative one while the collection of the data was realised via the research technique of the interview which was applied to a

«convenient»/«available» sample, consisting of twelve both male and female trainers of a Continuous Vocational Training (CVT) Programme. Via the individual semi-structured interviews, the concepts of the CVT trainers were thoroughly investigated focusing on their role, the required knowledge they should dispose of, their skills and attitudes, so that they can effectively correspond to their role as well as the content of their educational work including the teaching techniques implemented. The analysis of content was used as an elaboration method of the interview data. The finds of the research revealed that the CVT trainers question the teacher-centred model of teaching and consider the student-centred model as the most appropriate in the context of which they assume a multi-dimensional role. The dimensions mentioned comprise the ones of the animator, the facilitator, the coordinator and the consultant. These concepts comply with the contemporary role of the adult learners' trainer, as the latter is described both by the greek and international bibliography.

Attitudes towards the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) at work: Findings from the health care sector in Greece

Athanassios Vozikis
Maria Ypofanti
Ioannis Papadopoulos

Keywords: Information and Commu-

nication Technologies (ICT), Health-care, Statistical Analysis.

JEL Classifications: I10, O32, C10.

The aim of our study is to investigate the relationship between several demographic factors and the attitudes of personnel towards the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) at work. Our random sample consisted of administrative, medical and nursing personnel from three Public Hospitals (total 223 employees), aged 39 (\pm 19). The data were collected using the following instruments: 1) Questionnaire of demographic elements and 2) Questionnaire «16-19 Computer Attitude's Scale» as they were adjusted to fit the needs of this study. The research findings indicate that the employees who use ICT show more positive attitudes towards new technologies, possibly due to the fact that they understand the benefits that will exist for their work through a computerized information system. The new employees are more familiar with ICT technologies, while the more complex specialties consider the use of computerized information systems important aid to make their work more effective, in contrast to older workers as well as employees who have received only primary education.

The role of crowding out pursuit of fiscal policy and the case of the Greek economic crisis

Sotirios Theodoropoulos

Keywords: Fiscal policy, Crowding out, Ricardian equivalence, Risk premium, Private investment.

JEL Classifications: E43, E62, E63, H63.

The issue of the crowding out of fiscal policy advises that an increase in government debt reaching high levels, reduces national saving, raises interest rates, crowds out private investment and reduces future output. On this issue is mainly centered the controversy between monetarists and Keynesians, debated for many years. Also, substantial empirical research has

been devoted to testing the crowding out of private economic activity by public economic activity, focusing on the validity of Ricardian equivalence hypothesis. By this paper we explore the channels and mechanisms through which this phenomenon takes place, also its arising consequences under EMU's environment and strongly affected fiscal policy framework. We also consider this as a proper theoretical instrument, suitable for investigation in the case of current Greek economic crisis, where the private sector faces a severe and multidimensional crowding out by public sector.

ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΩΣ – ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ
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Σκοπός του βραβείου είναι η ενίσχυση της ακαδημαϊκής έρευνας και η ποιοτική αναβάθμιση της αρθρογραφίας με απώτερο σκοπό την ενίσχυση και συμβολή στην ελληνική βιβλιογραφία (στην Ελληνική ή Αγγλική γλώσσα), αλλά και την προβολή του περιοδικού στην ελληνική και διεθνή ακαδημαϊκή κοινότητα.

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The Editor