

IARIW-HSE Conference on “Experiences and Challenges in Measuring Income and Wealth in Eastern Europe and CIS Countries,” September 17-18, 2019, Moscow, Russia

Background and Motivation

The International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW), established in 1947, organizes conferences on topics related to income and wealth throughout the world, generally in partnership with national statistical offices.¹ In addition to its biennial General Conference, the IARIW also organizes special or regional conferences in non-General Conference years.

On September 17-18, 2019, the IARIW will hold a special conference on experiences and challenges in measuring income, wealth, inequality, poverty and well-being in Eastern Europe and CIS Countries in Moscow in partnership with National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE) and with the support of the Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation (Rosstat) and the Interstate Statistics Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-Stat). This will be the first time in the 70 year history of the IARIW that a conference will be held on the territory of the former Soviet Union. This document presents an overview of the event.

The objective of this special IARIW-HSE conference is to advance our understanding on issues related to national accounts, prices, productivity, income and wealth distribution, poverty, and, economic well-being in the countries of Eastern Europe and of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) through an examination of past experiences related to the measurement of trends in these variables and the identification of future measurement challenges. Specific topics in which proposals for papers are invited include the following:

- Metrics for quantifying the impact of globalization on Eastern European and CIS countries;
- Supply and Use tables in understanding economic growth;

¹ For example, national statistical offices that have co-organized special conferences with the IARIW include the National Bureau of Statistics of China (2007), Statistics South Africa (2011), the Brazilian statistical office or IBGE (2013), and the Egyptian statistical office or CAPMAS (2015), and the Bank of Korea (2017). The IARIW has also co-organized two special conferences with the OECD (2011 and 2015), universities (University of New South Wales, 2013) and research institutes (Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations 2017). In 2019 in addition to a conference with HSE, a conference with the World Bank is planned. Since 2006, IARIW General Conferences have been co-organized with Statistics Finland (2006), Statistics Slovenia (2008), the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (2010), the US Bureau of Economic Analysis (2012), Statistics Netherlands (2014), the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (2016, and Statistics Denmark (2018). In 2020, the General Conference will be co-organized with Statistics Norway and in 2022 with the Economic and Social Research Institute of the Cabinet Office in Japan.

- Sub-national macroeconomic indicators and national accounts;
- PPP based comparisons across and within countries;
- Income and wealth inequality considerations and consequences in post-transition economies;
- Measuring and understanding long-run productivity and economic growth;
- Natural resources: implications for economic measurement and for well-being;
- Improving measurement of price indexes such as the CPI and PPI; and quality adjustment issues
- Effects of digitization on the measurement of growth, inflation and economic well-being
- Broader measures of wealth as sustainability indicators.

Papers may be on specific countries of the region, comparisons between two or more countries in the region, or comparisons between countries of the region and other parts of the world. Methodological papers on key economic measurement problems relevant to the region are also welcome.

Size, Date and Location

The conference will take place September 17-18, 2019 at National Research University Higher School of Economics (Moscow, Miasnitskaia 11 and Miasnitskaia st. 20). The number of delegates attending IARIW special conferences in the past has been between 100 and 150. A similar number is expected for this conference.

Conference Program

The conference will take place over a two day period. The first two days will be devoted to the program and the third day will feature an excursion to places of interest to the international delegates. There will be a reception the evening of the first day of the conference and a farewell dinner the evening of the second day.

The conference program will include paper sessions, keynote addresses, panels and a farewell dinner. It is expected that there will be 20-30 papers presented in plenary sessions. If there are a large number of high quality submissions, parallel sessions or a poster session may be organized.

Program Committee

A program committee of 5 to 7 persons composed of experts in measurement issues, specific for the region is being put together to oversee the development of the conference program. Marshal Reinsdorf (IMF) and Ilya Voskoboynikov (HSE) will co-chair the committee. The key activity of the committee will be to evaluate submissions for the program. Members of the program committee include

- Helen Boss Heslop (WIIW, retired)
- Maria Mantcheva (IMF)
- Mark de Haan (Statistics Netherlands), invited
- Józef Oleński (former head of the Central Statistics Office, Poland) invited.

An Advisory Committee and a Local Arrangements Committee will also be created.

Organizational Responsibilities

The organization of the conference will be divided between the IARIW secretariat and HSE. The IARIW secretariat will assume responsibility for communications with all conference paper givers and maintain the conference program on the IARIW website. The HSE will assume responsibility for the conference website, conference registration, and local arrangements.

The conferences expenses will be divided between the IARIW and HSE. The IARIW will cover the cost of the farewell dinner and special issue of the *Review of Income and Wealth* that will contain selected papers from the conference. The HSE will cover expenses of keynote speakers, coffee/lunches and the excursion.

While IARIW special conferences normally do not have a registration fee as all conference attendees from outside Russia or CIS countries must be or become a member of the IARIW, a registration fee may be charged by HSE for this conference to offset costs. Delegates are responsible for their own travel and hotel costs.

The IARIW and HSE will provide some financial assistance to paper givers on a needs basis. The IARIW Financial Assistance Committee will consist of the Chair and Treasurer of the Association.

Selected papers from IARIW special conferences are normally published in special issues of the *Review of Income and Wealth*, edited by a sub-set (one or two persons) of the members of the program committee. Marshal Reinsdorf and Ilya Voskoboynikov have agreed to serve as guest editors of the special issue.

Persons interested in presenting a paper at the conference are asked to submit a proposal of less than 1,000 words through the web tool posted at http://iariw.org/paper_submission2019russia.php . Proposals must be in English. The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2019.

Timelines

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| October 1, 2018 | Announcement of Call for Papers |
| January 15, 2019 | Deadline for Receipts of Paper Proposals |
| February 15, 2019 | Decisions on Proposals and Release of Preliminary Conference Program |
| March 15, 2019 | Deadline for Applications for Financial Assistance |
| April 1, 2019 | Decisions on Financial Assistance |
| August 31, 2019 | Deadline for Receipt of Papers for Posting on IARIW Website |
| September 17-18, 2019 | Conference |
| December 31, 2019 | Deadline for Submission of Papers for RIW Special Issue |
| Spring 2021 | Release of RIW Special Issue |

Additional information on the conference can be found at www.iariw.org/proposal2019russia.pdf or by contacting IARIW Executive Director Andrew Sharpe at info@iariw.org.