

Editorial Note

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As the *Portuguese Economic Journal* is now publishing its decennial volume, it gives us great satisfaction to observe that, relative to realistic expectations, the journal is continuing on its successful path. The Impact Factor of the journal, as measured by the Journal Citation Reports of Thomson Reuters, has increased steadily since the journal was first included in JCR 2007. Another mark of success is that the journal's annual meetings have been properly established as an important academic event in Portugal with a consistent volume of high-quality submissions, from Portuguese as well as international authors.

The 1st Annual Meeting of the Portuguese Economic Journal was hosted by the University of Azores in 2007. In 2009 the first proceedings issue was published, with papers selected from the 2nd Annual Meeting hosted by the University of Madeira in 2008. We follow up this tradition by presenting in this special issue four papers selected from the 4th Annual Meeting held last year.

The 4th Annual Meeting of the Portuguese Economic Journal was hosted in 2010 by the Centre for Advanced Studies in Economics and Econometrics (CASEE) together with the Faculty of Economics of the University of Algarve in Faro, with financial support from the Bank of Portugal. The meeting turned out to be a success thanks to excellent collaboration from the local organizers (Adriano Pimpão, Jorge Andraz, Antónia Correia, Nazarii Salish and Paulo Rodrigues), who made sure that all the necessary facilities were in place; the scientific committee, whose members did an outstanding job in reviewing the submitted papers; and, of course, the participants themselves who ensured a high standard of papers and presentations. We would also like to thank the keynote speaker of the meeting, Professor Peter Neary, for his stimulating talk and his active participation in the contributed sessions of the meeting.

The final program of the meeting comprised more than 50 contributed papers. These constituted around 40% of the total number of submissions. Among the conference papers that were subsequently submitted for possible publication in this special issue, four papers have been selected after a thorough refereeing process. We would like to thank the referees that assisted us in this process for their willingness and dedication in ensuring a high scientific standard while adhering to a strict time schedule.

Although the four papers in this issue were selected purely according to quality criteria, they nevertheless offer a glimpse, not only of the generally high quality, but also of the diversity of the

conference program, in terms of topics, methodology (theoretical and empirical) and authorship (Portuguese and international).