

Call for papers for a Special Issue “Cost-Benefit Analysis and Policy Evaluation for the Next Generation”

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Themes and contents of the Special Issue

The multifaceted long run challenges facing Europe and the world today, and in the years to come, require new and ambitious public policies. At the same time, it is crucial to identify, develop and use sound methods to assess the impact, efficiency and success of these policies. Both theoretical and empirical analysis are needed, to provide sound advice for the development of Cost-Benefit Analysis (henceforth, CBA) models that can be applied in different sectors and used to inform policy-making.

Against this backdrop, papers for the Special Issue should focus particularly (but not exclusively) on CBA for policy design and impact evaluation in the following broad areas:

- **Science and knowledge creation:** knowledge creation is probably the single most important ingredient of economic growth, and innovation policies aim at counteracting existing market failures or fostering the development and diffusion of new ideas. However, the socio-economic impacts of science, technology and innovation are not yet fully understood nor measured. How can we evaluate the benefits of knowledge creation? How can we understand their spatial and temporal diffusion?
- **Climate change adaptation:** in order to address climate change adaptation/mitigation and natural environment protection, bold actions are needed now, but the related consequences will be felt in the decades, if not centuries, to come. How can economic analysis help model, project and forecast the very long run effects of these actions and the associated high levels of uncertainty?
- **Health policies:** what are the lessons learned after the Covid-19 pandemic? Any Covid-related decision, from prevention to cure, from surveillance to data management, involves both benefits and costs. What are the methods to assess ex-ante and evaluate ex-post such health policy decisions?
- **Social and territorial cohesion:** during and after economic and social crises, cohesion is at risk, with increasing inequalities and adverse economic effects, unevenly distributed across space and groups. To what extent do public investment and other public policies deal with the different dimensions of inequality and the consequences of an uneven spatial distribution of economic phenomena?
- **Methodological advances in CBA and policy evaluation:** We also welcome both theoretical and empirical papers on topics such as the social discount rate, stated preferences, risk analysis, behavioral and experimental economics, data science and econometrics of Big Data with potential applications to CBA, and any other topic relevant for CBA and policy evaluation in various fields.
- **Sector-specific CBA,** both in terms of methodology and applications, in the fields of transport infrastructure, tourism and energy, with particular attention to environmental sustainability issues.
- The role of CBA in the context of **regulation**, with contributions from orthodox and pluralistic approaches.

Practical instructions: submission and deadline

All papers should be submitted through the Annals of Public and Cooperative Economy online platform (mc.manuscriptcentral.com/apce). Some papers considered for the Special Issue will have been presented at the Fourth European Conference of Social Benefit Cost Analysis (September 11 and 12, 2023) organized by the Department of Economics, Management and Quantitative Methods, Università degli Studi di Milano. All papers, either presented at the Conference or directly submitted to the journal, will be subject to anonymous review in line with APCE guidelines for submission.

The deadline for all submissions for the Special Issue is **June 1st, 2024**.

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