

Letter from the Chair



Welcome to the first Newsletter of the Spanish Committee for the Situation of Women in Economics (COSME). It's a real pleasure to have headed this Committee during these two years, with people who generously dedicate their valuable time to ensure that the Committee initiatives are carried out.

Let me start by mentioning what you will find in this Newsletter. First, there is a very interesting report by Manuel Bagues about the representation of women in Spanish Economics Departments. Manuel looks at this issue for all academic levels, from PhD students to Full Professors. Manuel Arellano adds a fantastic article where he advises recent PhD graduates how to proceed with their research career. Finally, I am sure that most of you will enjoy the interesting interview with our COSME invited speaker 2012, Stefania Albanesi, now economist at the New York Fed.

Before describing the initiatives that COSME proposes, let me thank the outgoing members of the COSME Executive Committee for their generous dedication, enthusiasm and effort in this project. COSME was created in December 2006 as an initiative proposed from the Spanish Economic Association. Its mission was to evaluate and promote the situation of women in the economics profession. Among previous members we must mention Carmen Herrero, the former COSME director and Antonio Cabrales, as well as Miguel Angel Ballester and Manuel Bagues as outgoing board members. We started this project together and I am sure that we all agree that seven years later we can consider COSME as a successful project where initiatives turn into facts as a result of the generosity of all of us.

I also want to welcome the incumbent members of the Committee. Last fall, COSME run elections to renovate part of the executive committee and from January 2013 on, Caterina Casamiglia and Matilde Machado entered the executive committee. Welcome to the club. And I also want to mention and thank the time and enthusiasm of the remaining current members of the Committee - Libertad González, Nagore Iriberry and Pedro Rey.

The main activities that COSME develops since its creation in order to promote the situation of women in economics are the following:

1. First of all, in order to improve the quality of research in Gender Economics, COSME organizes an annual workshop together with the Foundation of Studies in Applied Economics (FEDEA). After the usual refereeing process, ten works are selected to be presented in one and a half days. This workshop takes place around the end of May in FEDEA (Madrid). The quantity and quality of the papers we are receiving is improving notably – in the last two editions we received around 80 papers. These works are discussed by experts in the field, and I must recognize the extraordinary effort that discussants exert in these discussions, which allow authors to receive important feedback to improve the quality of their papers. I am sure that the quality of discussants has been key for the notable increase in submissions. I want to thank very sincerely all workshop discussants for their extraordinary job.

2. Second, at the annual Simposio of the Spanish Economics Association, COSME invites a keynote speaker to give a talk related to gender economics. Last year, Stefanía Albanesi offered us a superb talk about gender wage gaps titled *Gender gaps in participation and unemployment: Aggregate implications for trends and cycles*. This coming year, the keynote lecturer will be Lena Edlund, from Columbia University.

3. Finally, and also at the Annual Simposio, COSME provides child care to those researchers who apply for this service. Until now, we must admit that very few people have used the service, but we will continue providing it as we think that utilization may increase in the near future.

I leave my task of director of this Committee with the great satisfaction of having worked with a group of people of enormous human and professional quality and with the very positive feeling that initiatives finally go through when the attitude is the right one.

But I would not be fair if I did not thank from here the enormous work and enthusiasm that the alma mater of the Committee, Laura Hospido, has transmitted to all of us. Fortunately, she will be the next chair of the Committee.

Sara de la Rica