

## INTERDISCIPLINARY TEACHING FACING THE FUTURE CHALLENGES

Nora Lac Prugent and Elda Gallese,  
Escuela de Economía, Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y Estadística,  
Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina

*This paper tell the argentinian experience of the analysis and discussion of the Current Household Survey of Argentina, adressed to the study of the labour market, income distribution, poverty and to generate labor and living conditions statistics. In this context, a Update Seminar in Applied Econometrics was implemented, taking special account of the different background of the students of the University of Rosario, Argentina.*

### A BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE CAREERS WHICH ECONOMETRICS IS INCLUDED

It is important to describe the present situation, as well as the background development and current trends, in Econometrics teaching at the School of Economics and Statistics, in the University of Rosario, Argentina.

Before discussing specifically the position regarding the interdisciplinary teaching of Econometrics it is necessary to spell out a number of general matters about the two careers in which this subject is included in their curriculums: Bachelor of Science in Statistics and Bachelor of Science in Economics. As well as the analysis of the contents developed in each of the programmes of study.

Thinking about future needs and the consequences of the scientific and technological changes ahead one may ask, how the argentine statisticians and economists are going to accomplish these challenges.

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE UPDATE SEMINAR IN APPLIED ECONOMETRICS

A Update Seminar in Applied Econometrics was implemented, taking special account of the different backgrounds of the students. The event was organized with the aims of to present and discute papers describing the current situation of the household surveys, to generate labor and living conditions statistics that show the social realities of the country, in a more adjusted way.

Then, the tasks are:

- to study the national current economic situation involving the labour market, unemployment, poverty and income distribution;
- to improve interdisciplinary work between economists and statisticians;
- to promote the urgent need of cooperation between statistics producers in national statistical offices, researchers and teachers;
- to encourage the use of scientific magazines and technical reviews as a source of information additional;
- and finally to arrive to the econometric models.

The Seminar, planned for the 1997-98 academic years is distributed in units conforming a dynamic structure framed in the scientific research project “Study and measurement of the labour market and income distribution”, held in the Department of Economics of the School of Economics and Statistics in the University of Rosario.

The first unit, “Production, quality and confidentiality of statistical data”, developed in the first semester of 1997, included the following subjects: data production, reconciliation of date and handling databases of the statistical office. In the second and third units, “Income and unemployment” topics are discussed, involving different approaches like the exploratory and confirmatory analysis. Other topics are introduced such as “Social economic level”, “Population” and “Human Capital”.

At the end of the first unit, the students prepared four lectures presented in the 2nd. National Conference on Women in Economics and Statistics. The presentations regarded subjects like “Labour market exploratory analysis by task qualification and sex”, “Labour market exploratory analysis by education and sex”, “Professional labour market exploratory analysis by sex” and “Labour market exploratory analysis of the youth”.

It would be interesting at this point to emphasize the importance of carrying out an applied economic research taking into consideration theoretical update studies as well. It is also likely to point out the advantages of training students in the handling and the reconciliation of databases. The results of this first unit are satisfactory shown by the quality of the papers presented by the students.

## REFERENCES

Leunis, W. and Altena, J. (1996). Labour Accounts in the Netherlands, 1987-1993. How

to cope with fragmented macro data in official statistics. *International Statistical Review*, Vol. 64(1), 1-22.

Malinvaud, E. (1997). Effet des évolutions techniques et des changements de la spécialisation internationale sur les marchés du travail et les systèmes productifs: comment les statisticiens pourraient-ils relever les défis?. *International Statistical Review*, Vol. 65(1), 97-109.

Sundgren, B. (1996). Making statistical data more available. *International Statistical Review*, Vol.64(1), 23-38.