Il Centro di Portici
Centro per la Formazione in Economia e Politica dello Sviluppo Rurale
2008
The Centre for Advanced Training and Research in Agricultural Economics (Centro di Specializzazione e Ricerche Economico-Agrarie per il Mezzogiorno) was founded in 1959 by Manlio Rossi-Doria, as the result of an agreement between the University of Naples and the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno (a state fund for the development of southern Italy), with limited participation of the Italian Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policy and the Ford Foundation. The Centre has been part of the University of Naples until 1984, when it acquired independent legal status. Relations with the University of Naples Federico II are currently regulated by an agreement that aims to ensure continuation of the close cooperation that the two institutions have enjoyed since the Centre’s inception. Legislative Decree No. 454 of 29 October 1999, relating to the reorganisation of public research in agriculture, confirmed the Centre’s legal status and changed its name to the Centre for Advanced Training in Economics and Policy for Rural Development (Centro per la Formazione in Economia e Politica dello Sviluppo Rurale).

From the beginning, the Centre was intended to be both an institute for postgraduate education and a modern research centre focusing on the issues of economic growth of agriculture and regional and local economic systems. Its hallmark is still its interdisciplinary approach: the study of agricultural matters calls for contributions from experts in economics and other social sciences, as well as statistical analysis; at the same time, independent lines of analysis and research have been developed in a number of major fields.

Since its foundation, the scientific production of the Centre has been extensive and diverse. In addition to a large number of research monographs, the Centre publishes the “Manlio Rossi-Doria” series on theory, methodology and research on various topics. Volumes are published after approval by the Series Editor and the Technical Committee, subject to peer review. It also publishes the journal Quaderni di statistica on an annual basis. The journal, listed by the Current Index to Statistics of the American Statistical Association and the International Institute of Mathematical Statistics, features studies and research in statistics and econometrics.
Activities

Research
Since its inception the research activity of the Centre has been mainly oriented towards analysing development problems in southern Italy, with particular attention to empirical questions and methodology.

In the field of agricultural economics the Centre, which can be considered at the forefront of this type of study in Italy, has recently been active in both the more traditional areas of research, such as farm economics, the economics of agricultural markets, land use analysis, and agricultural and food policy, and the more modern areas of natural resources and environmental economics, marketing of agro-industrial products, and food quality and safety.

In the field of general and development economics, the Centre's research has focused on the situation in southern Italy, and the Italian economy in general, and has contributed to a radical revision in interpreting current events and trends. From the beginning the Centre has been recognized as an influential Study Centre, specialising in statistics and econometrics and their rigorous application to the study of current issues. Particular attention is given to experimental analyses, econometric models, forecasting models and resampling techniques.

Aside from independently selected lines of research, the Centre’s relationship with economic reality and especially that in southern Italy has been ensured by its continuing collaboration with administrative and political institutions responsible for defining and enacting public intervention in development at a local, national and international level. Important project partners in the past have included the Southern Italy Development Fund-Special Research Project, the European Union (for studies relating to plans for the EU enlargement and assessing the regional impact of the Common Agricultural Policy), the FAO (for the organisation of the Marrama course on economic development), as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, numerous regional bodies and institutions, and FORMEZ. Recent work has been carried out with the European Commission and the European Parliament concerning risk and crisis management in agriculture, and with the Italian Ministry for Agricultural and Forestry Policy (MIPAAF) on issues concerning the competitiveness of several food production chains in Italy (fruit, organic farming).

The Centre possesses a library containing approximately 50,000 volumes and 475 periodicals, of which 353 are current subscriptions. The periodicals include all the most
imported journals on statistics, econometrics, economics, agricultural economics, agriculture and food economics from both Italy and abroad. All publications by ISTAT, the Bank of Italy, OECD, FAO and the United Nations are also available. The Centre’s library also houses the European Documentation Centre, which is connected to the European Community’s EDC network, coordinated directly by the Directorate-General Press and Communication of the European Commission. The network enables users to access official publications of the European Union, ranging from legislation to statistics and reports. To date, the Centre’s EDC is the only one of its kind in all the universities in the Naples area.

Training
Every year the Centre offers on site the Master’s programme in Agricultural Economics and Policy, which currently constitutes its main initiative in the field of higher education and which continues the solid tradition – duly updated and revamped – of the two-year postgraduate course offered for almost 50 years.

Thanks to this activity the Centre has also acted as an important launching pad for potential researchers and officers of public and private agencies both in Italy (Government and regional departments, INEA, ISMEA, the Southern Italy Development Fund, FORMEZ, ISTAT, Bank of Italy, professional organisations, corporations, financial institutions) and abroad (EU, OECD, FAO, World Bank), as well as for university lecturers and academics, who have enjoyed successful university careers in Italy and elsewhere. We are particularly proud that the postgraduate programme at Portici was set up more than 20 years before the first research doctorate programmes in Italy. Long-lasting collaborations with foreign universities that have contributed to the Centre’s activities include those with the University of California at Berkeley and Davis, the University of Arizona at Tucson and with the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro for the organisation of a two-year Master’s course in Rural Development Planning.
The current Advanced Master's Course is designed for young graduates, PhD students and young researchers seeking a modern specialisation in Agricultural Economics and Policy. Starting from in-depth treatment of the basic instruments of Economics and Statistics, the course focuses on the agricultural sector both within the context of a broader economy open to international trade, whose main aspects are highlighted, and in the framework of economic policy, to highlight its main supranational and regional dimensions.

In recent years, the number of participants on the Master's course has varied around a mean of 7 student, with peaks of 10–11 students (fig. 1). The high teacher/student ratio allows the progress of each participant to be constantly monitored. Learning efficiency is further enhanced by the availability of lecturers for one-to-one tutorials, also outside lecture times.

As may be noted in Tab. 2, participants come from the main universities in central and southern Italy. More than one-third is from universities in the Naples area, while Viterbo, Bari and Catania are the universities with which the Centre has well-consolidated relations. Apart from the universities listed in table 2, the Portici Master's course has had students from the universities of Turin, Bologna, Pisa, Chieti, Cagliari, Salerno, Politecnica delle Marche, Sannio, Molise, Basilicata, Calabria and Tirana University (Albania).

In keeping with its basic aim, namely advanced training in the fields of modern Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Policy, the Portici Master's course has seen a steady increase over time in its capacity to attract PhD students which, since the 2003 edition have made up more than 50% of participants, reaching a peak of 80% in the year 2007/2008.

Given the growing importance of the advanced training of young PhD students and researchers, the Portici Centre is expanding its relations with several prestigious universities overseas. As part of its
internationalisation process, the Centre periodically includes in its own teaching programme special-interest single-theme courses held by lecturers from abroad. The Centre also offers some of its top students the chance to complete their training on Master's programmes or PhDs abroad.

The Master’s course in Agricultural Economics and Policy

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Tab. 2 Student origin
The Master’s course in Agricultural Economics and Policy

The new Master’s Course

The continued broadening and differentiation of the advanced training offered, induced by the reforms of the University education, has caused a constant upgrading of the organization of our Master’s course which, over the years, has gradually modified its structure, whilst keeping its fundamental objective, that is, to promote advanced training in the field of modern agricultural economics and policy, and by becoming akin to the first year of an advanced Italian, European or American doctorate programme.

As part of these updates, since 2007 the Portici Master’s course has introduced some major changes:

- Exclusion of the mathematics course and its reintroduction as an optional pre-course;
- Institution of a course tutor;
- Subdivision of the Master’s course into terms;
- Compression of lectures into the period from November to July;
- Re-organisation of teaching input with more emphasis on practical work. This includes use of the computer laboratory, practical work in the strict sense (for foundation courses and those with a strong quantification content), seminars and group discussions, case studies, etc.

A short research project to be carried out in the August-October term. The topic is chosen by participants, and the final dissertation (search, research project, review…) is to be handed in and discussed at the end of the Master’s course.

Teaching is organised in four terms: the first and second are wholly

<table>
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<th>COURSE</th>
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The Master’s course in Agricultural Economics and Policy

devoted to general economics and statistics and econometrics, while the last two terms cover agricultural economics and policy, policy instruments and advanced topics. The academic changes we have made seek to preserve the nature of the course traditionally geared to training young graduates and PhD students, yet make it less of a “generalist” course. We have selected topics of particular importance that merit exploration. In the table below we report the general organisation of the courses subdivided by term.

Overall the course consists of 600 hours of lectures, subdivided into theory and practice. Finally, training is completed by cycles of seminars organised by the Portici Centre and the Department of Agricultural Economic and Policy, which all participants are required to attend.
The Master’s course in Agricultural Economics and Policy

Admission requirements and procedures
The programme lasts 12 months. The commencement date is normally set at the end of October and is established by the Centre’s Technical Committee. Students who have attended the whole course, profitably completed the study programme and passed the exams will be awarded a Master’s degree.

A maximum of 10 graduates will be enrolled on the course. Admission to the course is subject to meeting the prerequisites as set out in the entrance examination notice and passing the entrance exams. Students who have a five year bachelor degree or equivalent qualification may apply for admission. Candidates who are admitted initially on the basis of their qualifications are invited to take the entrance examinations, usually conducted in the first half of October.

Students on PhD courses whose respective coordinators make an explicit application on their behalf, testifying to their qualities and experience, may be admitted to the Master’s course, subject to the favourable opinion of the Technical Committee, without taking the entrance examinations. They are nonetheless obliged to pay the enrolment fees. Successful candidates have to pay an enrolment fee. The top candidates, according to the list drawn up by the Examination Board, may qualify for a scholarship. In addition to candidates admitted after passing the entrance exams, applicants from Italy or abroad, subject to the final decision of the Scientific Board, may be admitted to individual sections of the programme upon payment of a specified enrolment fee.

Daily attendance is required with an obligation to attend all lectures, practical sessions, study groups and seminars. Each enrolled student will be allocated a suitably equipped workplace, and has the right to use all Centre services, on conditions set by the Technical Committee and the Administration.

The lectures on the Master’s course shall be preceded by an intensive three-week pre-course in mathematical analysis and linear algebra, whose commencement date is set for the first half of September. This pre-course is open and free of charge to all who wish to apply for the Master’s course and seek to reach the starting level required in terms of mathematical analysis and linear algebra.
In 2008 the Italian Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policy (MIPAAF) assigned to the Centre for Advanced Training in Economics and Policy for Rural Development the task of running one annual full-time postgraduate Master’s course in entrepreneurship in agriculture and two part-time courses in entrepreneurship in agriculture for those with highschool diplomas.

The annual Master’s course consists of 472 hours of lectures and field work that consists in two successive stages, one in Italy and the other abroad, for three months each. While the part-time courses last about five months and consist of both lectures and FADs amounting to 181 hours, the second phase consists in a field trip in Italy or abroad, lasting about two weeks.

Admission to the annual Master’s course and the part-time courses is reserved for farm entrepreneurs, and farmer’s assistants or family members.
Since the year 2000 the Centre has further increased its commitment in the field of postgraduate education. In 2000 the new Master’s Course in Agribusiness was established. This course was designed to be primarily applicative. Specific objectives were: economic and entrepreneurial training studies in the agriculture and food sector, with a broad and mature vision of the business world; the continuing updating of the professional skills most in demand; offering the most appropriate instruments and practical solutions in order to meet, in terms of integrated management, the competitive challenges created by a constantly changing world.

In 2004 the Centre initiated a new graduate course intended to train experts in the management of the Mediterranean rural landscape. The specific objective of the course was to provide the trainees with both the fundamental theoretical background and the operational skills for an integrated approach to modern land use management. The Master’s course in Mediterranean Landscape Conservation, Management and Planning was organised by the Centre in cooperation with the Advanced Training School for Public Administration of Protected Areas (HISPA), the The Lambro and Mingardo Upland Community, and the Cilento and Vallo di Diano National Park Authority.

Finally, the Centre carried out an experimental project called TEC Online – an integrated system of professional training through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) – devoted to professional communities of agricultural extension workers.

The system has been tested on extension specialists responsible for rural development and those responsible for organic farming in Campania, and on similar professionals in Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna.
Professors and lecturers
on the last master’s course
in agricultural economics
and policy (2007)
Docenti del corso master 2007

Laura Baraldi
Ricercatore
Seconda Università di Napoli

Carlo Cafiero
Ricercatore
Università di Napoli Federico II

Maria Rosaria Carillo
Professore ordinario
Università di Napoli Parthenope

Luigi Cembalo
Ricercatore
Università di Napoli Federico II

Gianni Cicia
Professore associato
Università di Napoli Federico II

Antonio Cioffi
Professore ordinario
Università di Napoli Federico II

Adele Coppola
Professore associato
Università di Napoli Federico II

Paolo Cupo
Professore ordinario
Università di Napoli Federico II

Francesco de Stefano
Professore ordinario
Università di Napoli Federico II

Francesca Di Iorio
Ricercatore
Università di Napoli Federico II

Giuseppe Freni
Professore ordinario
Università di Napoli Parthenope

Melanie Fritz
Professore
Università di Bonn

Ornella Wanda Maietta
Ricercatore
Università di Napoli Federico II

Gaetano Marenco
Professore ordinario
Università di Napoli Federico II

Franca Meloni
Professore associato
Università di Napoli Federico II

Cira Perna
Professore ordinario
Università di Salerno

Domenico Scala
Professore ordinario
Università del Sannio

Valeria Sodano
Professore associato
Università di Napoli Federico II

Franco Tuccillo
Assistente ordinario
Università di Napoli Federico II

Cosimo Vitale
Professore ordinario
Università di Salerno

Alberto Zazzaro
Professore ordinario
Università di Ancona
Others who have taught courses at the Centre during its 50 years of activity
Altri docenti che hanno tenuto corsi al Centro durante i suoi 50 anni di attività

Giovanni Anania
A. Aquino
J. M. Attonaty
Giovanni Balestrieri
Giuseppe Barbero
Massimo Bartolelli
Elisabetta Basile
Amit Bhaduri
Ettore Bove
Raymond G. Bressler
James Brown
Franco Bruni
Frederick H. Buttel
Pedro Caldentey
F. Caroleo
Leonardo Casini
Julie Caswell
Agostino Cembalo
Gian Paolo Cesaretti
Bruno Chiandotto
G. Coda-Nunziante
Norman R. Collins
Marcella Corduas
Dennis Cory
Vincenzo Cosentino
Lilia Costabile
Mariano D’Antonio
Gerald W. Dean
Lucio de Angelis
Michele De Benedictis
Marcello De Cecco
Fabrizio De Filippis
Alain de Janvry
Teresa Del Giudice
Angela D’Elia
Raul de Luzenberger
Alfredo Del Monte
Pasquale De Muro
M. R. D’Esposito
Guido Fabiani
Roberto Fanfani
Kenneth T. Farrell
Maria Fara Favia
Gastone Ferrara
Angerio Filangieri
Maria Fonte
Giuseppe Fotia
Alfredo Franchetta
Linda Fulponi
Mena Furnari
Adriano Giannola
Anna Giunta
M. T. Gorgitano
Marcello Gorgoni
Maurizio Grassini
Augusto Graziani
Klaus Gruner
Michael Hanemann
Hennig Hanf
Hanne Harmsen
Andrew C. Harvey
Trimble R. Hedges
W. Heinrichsmeyer
Sidney S. Hoos
Tim Josling
John Kourmantarakis
Hadjila Krifa
George M. Kutznets
Giorgio La Malva
Olaf Larson
Carlo Natale Lauro
Daniela Lecaldano
Ivan M. Lee
P. Leroy
Pasquale Lombardi
Antonio Lopes
Margareth Loseby
Edmond Malinvaud
Ugo Marani
Angela Carla Mariani
Giuseppe Marotta
Massimo Marrelli
G. A. Marselli
John Marsh
Flavia Martinelli
P. Mastrogiacomo
Luciano Matrone
Marcel Mazoyer
Giuseppe Metto
Eric A. Monke
Anna Clara Monti
Giovanni Mottura
Frank Moulaut
Rudolph Nayga
Claudio Napoleoni
Neil O’Higgins
Frank Orazem
Giuseppe Orlando
Quirino Paris
Scott Pearson
Antonio Pedone
Daniel pena
Carlo Perone Pacífico
Biagio Perretti
Domenico Piccolo
Luciano Pieraccini
Francesco Polverini
Joseph Polizzi
Eugenio Pomarici
Giuseppe Pompei
Giovanni Porzio
Enrico Pugliese
Claudio Quintano
Pietro Reichlin
Cristopher Ritson
Alessandro Romagnoli
Manlio Rossi-Doria
Emma Sarno
Richard J. Sexton
Patrizia Sbrigla
Riccardo Scarpa
Roberta Siciliano
Alessandro Sorrentino
Elisabeth Sadourelet
Massimo Squillante
David Storey
Marinella Terrasi
Gary Thompson
Domenico Tosato
Bruno Trezza
Wilson Tunnicliffe
Albert Ulman
Lorenzo Venzi
Fabio Verneau
Jean-Noel Vieille
Elena Viganò
Salvatore Vinci
E. Volpe di Prignano
K. F. Wallis
Annalisa Zezza
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