



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE

## **Report on the 64<sup>th</sup> IIPF Congress, Maastricht, The Netherlands**

The 64<sup>th</sup> IIPF Congress was held at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of Maastricht University, The Netherlands, between 22-25 August 2008, and was attended by 370 scholars and 28 accompanying persons from a wide range of countries.

The theme of the plenary session was *Demography and Pensions*. Plenary speakers were Lans Bovenberg (“Frontiers in Pension Finance and Reform: The case of the Netherlands”), Firouz Gahvari (“Pensions and Fertility: Doing more Good with Less”), Peter Diamond (“Taxes and Pensions”), Axel Börsch-Supan (“Myths and Misconceptions about aging in Old Europe”) and Richard Blundell (“Earned Income Tax-Credit Reform: Impact and Optimality”). The slides of the presentations are available on the Congress’s website <http://www.fdewb.unimaas.nl/iipf>. At the Congress, Hans-Werner Sinn was awarded the Europe prize of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of Maastricht University to honour his contributions to the scientific and public debate about the future of Europe.

The main body of the Congress consisted of 282 contributed papers (out of 356 submissions), accompanied by the corresponding number of formal discussions, covering together virtually all topics within public economics, but with *Demography and Pensions* as a major area. To accommodate the large number of papers delivered, 12 to 14 parallel sessions were necessary. In total, 94 sessions were organised. The papers are available on the conference-maker site of the 64<sup>th</sup> IIPF Congress (<http://editorialexpress.com/conference/iipf64>). As usual, a selection of contributed papers and plenary presentations will appear in a special issue of *International Tax and Public Finance* in 2009.

The Peggy and Richard Musgrave Prize for the best paper contributed by authors(s) under the age of 40 went to Mikael Elinder, Henrik Jordahl and Panu Poutvaara for their paper “Selfish and Prospective: Theory and Evidence of Pocketbook Voting”. The newly introduced IIPF Young Economists Award 2008 (three awards) went to Johannes Becker and Nadine Riedel for their paper “Corporate Taxation and Multinational Firms - Empirical Evidence on Welfare Implications”, T. Scott Findley and Frank N. Caliendo for their paper “Short Horizons, Time Inconsistency, and Optimal Social Security”, and Gabrielle Fack and Camille Landais for their paper “Are Fiscal Incentives Towards Charitable Giving Efficient?: Evidence from France”. Robin Boadway, Helmuth Cremer, Pierre Pestieau and John Wilson served as the award committee, assisted by other members of the Scientific Committee.

The city of Maastricht offered the delegates a welcome reception at the old Town Hall in Maastricht. The main social event of the congress was a city walk through the old inner city of Maastricht and a visit to the local vineyards and the marl caves. On Saturday evening a barbeque in the garden of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration was organised and on

Sunday the conference dinner was held in Fort St. Pieter, overlooking the city of Maastricht. The food, the music and the drinks contributed to turning these events into an excellent opportunity to meet colleagues and chat in an informal atmosphere, and to strengthen relations between IIPF members.

The local organising committee was chaired by Tom van Veen (Maastricht University). The scientific committee was chaired by Helmuth Cremer (Université de Toulouse) and Pierre Pestieau (Université de Liège). Its members included Torben Andersen (University of Aarhus), Robin Boadway (Queens University), Massimo Bordignon (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore), Georges Casamatta (Université de Toulouse), Richard Disney (Nottingham University), Vincenzo Galasso (Università Bocconi), Firouz Gahvari (University of Illinois), Jon Hamilton (University of Florida), Bas Jacobs (Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam), Sergi Jimenez (Universitat Pompeu Fabra), Nicolas Marceau (Université de Québec a Montréal), Joan Muysken (Maastricht University), Efraim Sadka (Tel Aviv University), Motohiro Sato (Hitotsubashi University), Erik Schokkaert (KU Leuven), Peter Sørensen (Københavns Universitet), Emmanuel Thibault (Université de Toulouse), and Matti Tuomala (University of Tampere).

Photos of the Congress are available on the Photo Gallery posted on [http://www.iipf.org/iipf64\\_pp1.htm](http://www.iipf.org/iipf64_pp1.htm).

We would like to thank the sponsors of the Congress for their kind contributions: APG Pension group, METEOR research school, Maastricht University, Dept of Economics, Holland Financial Centre, Loyalis Insurances, City of Maastricht and the Province of Limburg.

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Helmuth Cremer

Pierre Pestieau

Tom van Veen