

AIMS AND SCOPE

Public Economics is one of the main areas of focus for both theoretical and applied economic research. Topics traditionally covered within public finance have become more wide-ranging as new issues have arisen relating to the behaviour of the public sector and its effects on the other economic agents. New areas of study have been generated. These include economic analysis of public management, environmental economics, public choice, economics of transport, regulation economics, health economics, institutional economics or the “new economic history”, among other areas. There have been important changes in relation to the methodology implemented in the analysis such as the use of mathematical formulation and statistical and quantitative techniques. The availability of new and better-designed databases (especially microeconomic databases) has also played an important role in this methodological development.

The consolidation in Spain of these changes has helped to bring about an improvement in the quality and international scope of our research on Public Economics, and indeed, on Economics in general. The active participation of Spanish economists in relevant scientific fora is being reflected in the publication of their results in prestigious economic journals, appearing increasingly in those with international impact.

In view of the foregoing, the Spanish Institute for Fiscal Studies (Instituto de Estudios Fiscales), as a benchmark for research into Public Economics, has encouraged a process of think tanks on the need for a periodical publication of a professional and academic nature. This journal, opened to all original papers designed with scientific rigour, should meet the demands of international quality and academic impact standards. This process has concluded with a new period for the journal *Hacienda Pública Española*, which has been a meeting point for many Spanish economists for over three decades. Modernisation of our publication has been driven by the need for the diffusion of results conforming to the usual standards required by both prestigious national and foreign journals.

With an emphasis on the excellence of the research on economics, *Hacienda Pública Española/Revista de Economía Pública* adopts an editorial guideline based on four major pillars.

First, acceptance of papers submitted under a rigorous process of assessment based on the reports of expert and independent referees.

The editorial management is the second pillar. This is carried out by the Board of Editors, made up of an executive editor and two associate editors. They will be responsible for keeping the editorial line of the journal and, assisted by the Editorial Committee and the Editorial Secretariat, for implementing the processes dealing with the selection of original con-

tributions. All the members in the Board and Committee are elected according to the following principles: research competence, proved and recognised by their active and regular participation in assessment processes of national and foreign first-class publications; experience in managing and editorial tasks of other professional journals; and their willingness to participate in this project. All these positions will be subject to periodic renewal.

The third is related to the structure of contents. The journal is introducing two new sections. Under the heading “Surveys”, the journal will publish original collaboration containing reviews of the literature in respect of issues of interest in Public Economics. In addition, the journal contains a section called “Policy Watch” which will include original studies aimed at showing the current contributions of Public Economics in relation to contemporary and relevant issues faced by public decision-makers in the real world. With regard to these two new sections, the Board of Editors will receive originals from authors and in addition will be able to commission papers on specific subjects. Nevertheless, in both cases the publication of originals is subject to the same assessment process as standard articles.

Lastly, the journal will face all these challenges with a more up-to-date format in keeping with the usual standards in publications of this type.

Following these principles *Hacienda Pública Española/Revista de Economía Pública* is willing to receive originals written in Spanish or English dealing with some of the many areas currently included under the heading “Public Economics”. Scientific rigour and search for academic excellence will be the only criteria when selecting papers as the board is aware that the appreciation of the readers will be earned in this way.

BOARD OF EDITORS