THEMATIC ISSUE ON "LABOUR MARKET: ANALYSIS, TRENDS AND NEW SCENARIOS - EDITORIAL"

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The analysis of the Labour Market has always assumed an important role in the international scientific debate because of its economic relevance, and its social effects and significance.

In particular, in the last two decades, in Italy there has been an increasing concern for the Labour Market and all its correlated aspects, driven by three main side topics:

- the new labour market regulations that started occurring since the end of the twentieth century to change its functioning and introduce flexibility in the Italian labour market;

- the financial-economic crises, which are occurring still nowadays and deeply affect the EU and Italian labour market because of the subsequent long economic recessions and/or widespread unemployment in most regions;

- the technological and digital revolution, together with globalization and environmental issues, which produces a constant evolution in the labour market with new forms of employment and emerging companies, and an increasingly widespread use of online recruiting methods.

In this panorama, as expected, the analysis of the Labour Market is not easy and many issues arise out of statistical and economic issues, both methodological and data-driven, and variegated social aspects, both ethical and educational.

This thematic issue, therefore, aims to contribute to the scientific discussion by proposing original papers that embrace many of the issues related to the Labour Market that range from the statistical methods for the labour force analysis to the job demand and supply matching, from the employment, unemployment, and transitions as driven by the labour force policies to the education, training and human capital.

This thematic issue collects nine original papers. It is divided in two volumes.

The first volume includes four papers, summarised as follows:

- the first paper, by Varriale R., Filipponi D., Garnier-Villarreal M., and Pavlopoulos D., analyses the effect of measurement error on mobility between different employment types in Italy and, for this purpose, the authors apply a hidden Markov model with two independent indicators for the employment categories they consider, i.e. permanent, temporary, self-employed, not employed;

- the second paper, by Menini T., focuses on the manager's professional work and, in particular, the author detects a possible new approach in the managerial behaviour able to define this professional figure and a first idea of an 'open manager' that leads to a horizontal and participatory organization of power;

- the third paper, by Ciaschini C. and Salvati L., investigates spatial regimes and short-term changes of a gross unemployment rate, taken as a representative proxy of the overall performance of 610 local job markets in Italy, and the authors identify the socioeconomic factors that have characterised the job market dynamics more effectively over the period considered through a purely exploratory approach;

- the fourth paper, by Vassallo E., analyses the labour performance in the 610 Italian local labour systems with reference to the activity rate, employment rate and unemployment rate by applying a Benefit-od-Doubt approach in a DEA-type model to obtain a score of "labour performance" and, in particular, the author proposes a composite indicator to synthesise the three rates above, based on a robust non-parametric approach of the order-m DEA frontiers.

The second volume includes five papers, briefly summarised as follows:
- the first paper, by Kahlawi A., Grassini L., and Buzzigoli L., analyses the more recent dynamics in skills demand in Italy for the ICT professionals by using the Online Job Advertisements through a skill change index at the regional level;

- the second paper, by Marini C. and Nicolardi V., underlines the difficulties deriving from the unsatisfactory availability of dynamic databases to analyse the Italian workforce dynamics as a result of the long labour market reform phase that started at the beginning of the 21st century and, through a graphical-matrix approach, the authors show how undisclosed administrative data alongside the official statistical data could sustain the analysis;

- the third paper, by Leombruni R., proposes a conceptual map of what data are in the field of empirical economic research to clarify what are the conditions and possible strategies to fully grasp their opportunities, particularly in the case of big data of administrative origin and, in particular, the author discusses the case of labour market research based on social security data;

- the fourth paper, by Barzizza E., Biasetton N., Ceccato R., Fedeli M., and Tino C., investigates the engineering student perception of labour market and career planning, where data were collected through a questionnaire directed to engineering students, and the authors apply suitable machine learning models to investigate the relationship between the student perception of the labour market and the career planning, and several factors;

- finally, the paper of Maiorino S., Rappelli F, and Giubileo F. investigates the employment of people with disabilities through

targeted placement services in the Lombardy region, and the authors, through administrative data, prove that there was an improvement in the probability of finding employment for the individuals registered on the targeted placement lists and in their chance of being hired with permanent contracts over the period considered.

We are indebted to the Association for Applied Statistics (www.sa-ijas.org) for hosting these researches in its official journal, along with the authors and the referees for making this double thematic number possible.

The Guest Editors

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