
Editorial

Six contributions make up this Issue 2 of the Journal of Local Public Economics, REPUL. The topics addressed, although they correspond to the journal's natural harvest, do have a certain visible hand in choosing and weighting works that can be considered of the moment when talking about pensions, when talking about the financing of public services in communities, and when introducing the political issue as central to economic and allocation decisions. The papers we bring together in this issue can be organised thematically under three headings.

First, the article on non-contributory pensions is part of a discussion that is not only taking place in Mexico, but also in many Latin American countries. Laura Juárez gives an analytical account of the intricacies and complexities of an economic analysis in order to be able to give an answer that will make the fair, equitable part of those who cannot contribute, but also taking into account those who do. It analyses the economic effects of procuring public goods and the impact in the medium term. Financing cannot be dissociated from at least a comparison with those who do contribute and the economic effects that these imply not only for income but also for understanding the behaviour of agents in the face of a benefit that is planned for the future without participating in its financing. Thus, the question could be asked whether it is better for those who do not contribute to remain as they are or whether the contribution is more onerous. Economic analysis requires information and this is an important feature of this contribution, because the details and precisions give the analysis its solidity. The author stresses that the issue will remain on the agenda of the economic and equity crossroads. The economic effects of taxpayers' decisions in shifting preferences between private and public goods is also a lesson for planning.

Another theme is the economy of local governments and their financing to satisfy the services of the local population, which brings together three contributions that look directly and indirectly at this aspect. André Luis Dantas Melo, Marco Antonio Jorge, Paulo Roberto Arvate and Paulo Roberto Arvate address the point of view of the economic unviability of municipalities as something that has happened and is happening, involving competition for resources and transfers that make many local economies economically unsustainable in their paper on the Existence of Economically Unviable Municipalities: the case of the State of Sergipe. Although the analysis shows the economic unviability and perhaps the urgency to increase the scale of the localities and with this the mergers, the authors not only show how costly it is to maintain the unviability, but also that the methodology to address the analysis of what the size should be implies an economic and political discussion at least, but with the caveat that through the lens of economic analysis this is resolved by considering economic alternatives, among them possible configurations of political division and financial innovation.

The above can be contrasted with the analysis of populations in regions of Spain where, as described by María Cadaval in her essay on Local Public Management in the 21st Century: e-Administration, the alternatives no longer for cleaning up but for covering needs have been surpassed because in many cases there are structural problems and exhausted solutions when referring to transfer formulas, exacerbated collaborations and where new scales of size resulting from mergers no longer provide the same performance and neither do they provide the solution. In view of this, other forms of management and administration are suggested, including the future role of e-administration, but without first assessing the true scope that can not only solve the

economic problem, but also transform the conventional way of looking at the relationship between rural and urban areas and the dimension of the entities in the space and political division.

The article *Securing Stable Public-Private Joint Ventures Through Bargaining Power, Governance and Partner Matching* by Martina Santandrea, Stephen J. Bailey and Marco Giorgino contributes to new, innovative forms of financing by improving and evolving the organisation of public and private entities under an institutional economics approach. How public-private co-investments can be improved and the challenges for both the public and private sector to gain from delivering public services are analysed. The authors discuss the stability and performance of each party and the conditions that determine this performance generated important outputs for the maintenance of public services.

In a third thematic group there are two contributions that introduce the influence of policy variables on allocations. On the one hand, Raúl Alberto Ponce Rodríguez, Juan Medina Guirado, Jesús Humberto Martínez Escobar, in their paper *Public Campaign Finance, Vote Buying and Parties' Policies on Government Spending*, analyse the question of how party and campaign financing affects spending and thus implicitly policy decisions in the allocation of resources in the economy. The approach is well framed within an institutional analysis, as it analyses the presence of parties when one is dominant and when the other is not, simulating a political concurrence of entities that demand resources and that, depending on their dominance, spending is reoriented towards different preferences with respect to redistributive effects.

The other contribution is that of Arnaldo Mauerberg Jr in his essay on *Political attractiveness of multiparty and one-party presidential cabinets: A comparative analysis of Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, and Mexico*, which analyses the effects of when cabinets and members of the current administration are formed and can achieve partnerships with other parties and consolidate these governing bodies to achieve better allocations. The author looks at four Latin American countries with differences in the way they are elected, and despite the differences in the information that could leave the comparison between the form and results of governments and their parties inconclusive, he provides elements to re-evaluate the operability of coalitions for governance in situations where not only is there no other option but partnership, but even if it is not required, it is a recommendation.