

## Call for Papers – Special issue on “Performance Measurement and Efficiency Analysis - Theory and Practice”

New public management theories and austerity measures increase the necessity for public organisations to work in an efficient way. Similarly, the increasing competition for goods and services urges private companies to benchmark their performances and increase efficiency in the production process. Efficiency is a relative concept which considers how resources are transformed in outputs. Earlier literature focused on the productive efficiency of public services (e.g. libraries, drinking water utilities, education) and private companies (e.g., airlines, bus companies, banks). All studies point out that significant efficiency gains can be obtained by learning from the best in class. Simultaneously, earlier literature suggests potential theoretical contributions to the efficiency literature, such as accounting for the operational environment, bias correction, dealing with endogeneity issues, etc.

To foster both theoretical contributions and innovative applications, a special issue of *Decisions in Economics and Finance* is devoted to “Performance Measurement and Efficiency Analysis – Theory and Practice”. Above all, we welcome papers presenting new theoretical results, models and innovative empirical applications as well as new computational techniques on performance measurement and on broader issues related to measuring, improving and boosting the performance and productivity of firms, industries and public services.

Contributions are welcome from all areas of the study of performance measurement methods in the context of efficiency in education, health or other public services, banking and finance, agriculture and food, energy, sustainability and development, including (but not limited to):

- theoretical developments in frontier estimation methods;
- innovative applications of frontier estimation techniques.

*Decisions in Economics and Finance*, serving as the official publication vehicle of the (Italian) Association for Mathematics Applied to Social and Economic Sciences (AMASES), provides a specialized forum for the publication of research in all areas of mathematics that are applied to economics, finance, insurance, management, and the social sciences. The focus is especially on original research exploring topics in mathematics or computational techniques that are explicitly motivated by or contribute to the analysis of economic or financial problems.

*Decisions in Economics and Finance* is abstracted and indexed in the following databases:

WOS, SCOPUS, Zentralblatt Math, EconLit, Google Scholar, EBSCO, ProQuest, Academic OneFile, CSA Environmental Sciences, ECONIS, Expanded Academic, Mathematical Reviews, OCLC, Research Papers in Economics (RePEc), SCImago, STMA-Z, and Summon by ProQuest.

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**Important Dates:** Submission deadline for full papers: December 1, 2019

## **Manuscript Submission**

Submitted papers should be original works and should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. The manuscripts should be prepared in keeping with the Instructions for Authors provided on the Decisions in Economics and Finance homepage:

<http://www.springer.com/economics/economic+theory/journal/10203>

The length of the paper should not exceed 25 pages, when compiled in accordance with the Instructions for Authors. Longer papers will be considered only in exceptional situations.

All manuscripts should be submitted electronically using the journal's online manuscript submission system at:

<https://www.editorialmanager.com/deaf/default.aspx>.

Authors: please select "Special issue on Performance Measurement and Efficiency Analysis - Theory and Practice." when you reach the "Select Article Type" step in the submission process.

## **Refereeing Process**

Papers will be subject to a strict review process managed by the Guest Editors. The major acceptance criteria for a submission are the quality and originality of the contribution as well as the analytical contributions behind the paper.

Early submission is encouraged. The referee process will start upon submission of the paper. Accepted papers will be published individually online as they are accepted, before print publication. All inquiries concerning the submission to the special issue will be addressed directly by the Guest Editors.