

# EJCE's REPORT (2004- Nov. 2007)

## 1. A brief history of the Journal

The European Journal of Comparative Economics (EJCE) is an on-line refereed journal in the field of comparative economic studies. The idea to start a new e-journal freely downloadable on the web was advanced in 2002 at the Forlì Conference of EACES (the European Association for Comparative Economic Studies) by Vittorio Valli, first president of EACES, on the basis of a proposal of Giovanbattista Ramello and LIUC University. The idea was approved by the General Assembly of EACES. Michael Keren and Vittorio Valli were appointed editors of the Journal, while Giovanbattista Ramello has acted as general secretary and then managing editor and Piero Cavaleri of LIUC University as technical editor. In 2004 a formal agreement was signed between EACES and LIUC University. On the basis of this agreement LIUC University publishes the Journal and takes care of the preparation and the maintenance of the Journal's software and of the Journal's site at a very reasonable cost, while EACES edits the Journal and is responsible for all scientific aspects. An essential feature of the agreement between LIUC University and EACES is that the Journal is freely accessible and downloadable on the web, so that it can be easily disseminated among the scholars and the general public. As will be seen below, open access is critical to the success of the Journal. Well known economists, such as Andreff, Bartlett, Daianu, Dallago, Dabrowski, Grossman, Helg, Kemme, Kornai, Maddison, Nuti and Uvalic, accepted to enter the Scientific Committee of the Journal. More than 100 colleagues provide a precious support to the editorial board actively cooperating as referees of the Journal.

## 2. The Journal

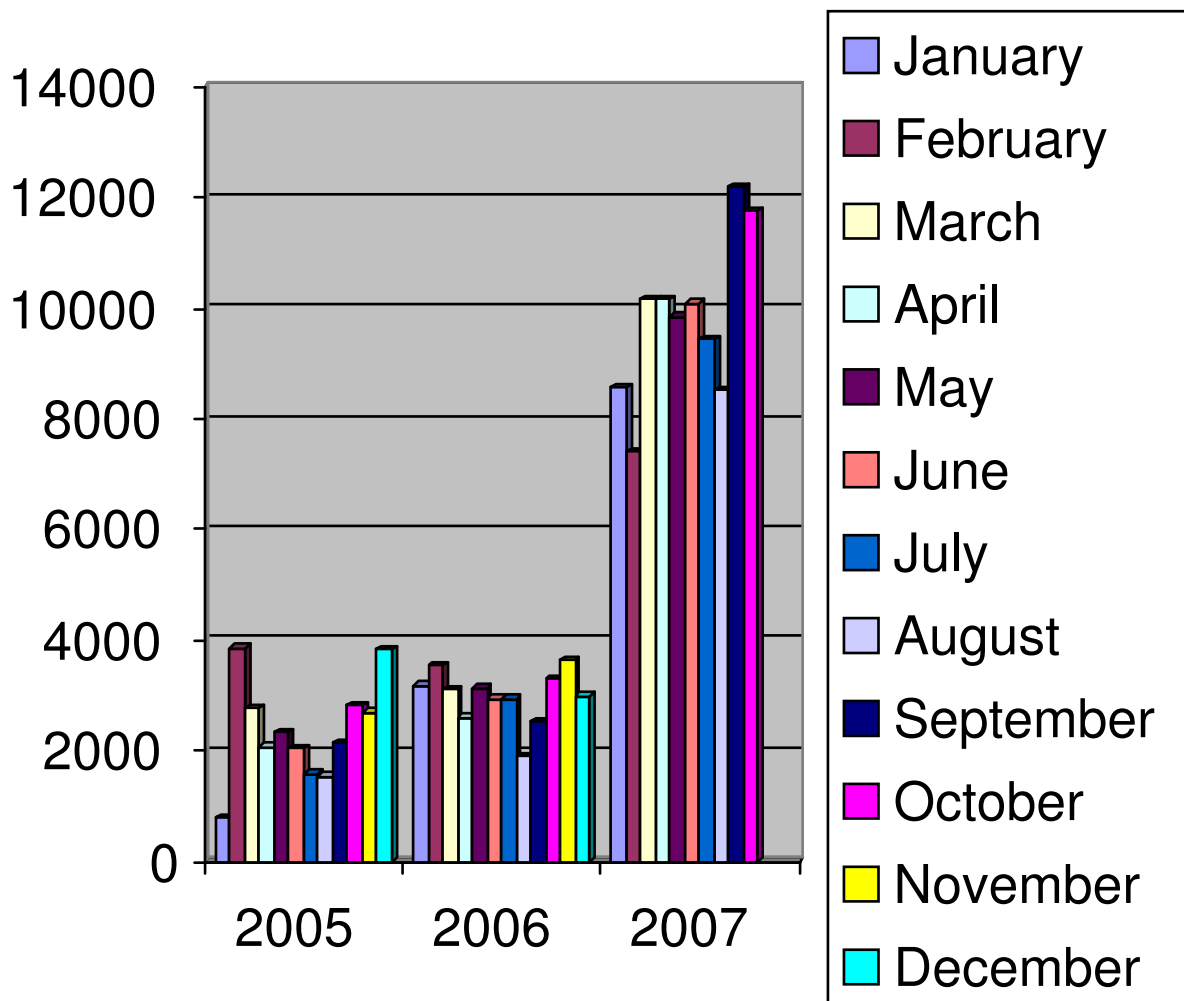
The first issue of the Journal appeared on the web in June 2004. Two annual issues (usually in June and in December) have been published annually since. In September 2007 a special number on "European regions" edited by Marcello Signorelli and Enrico Marelli, has been published. As we can see in *table 1*, 49 articles have already been published out of 121 papers received in the years 2004-2007, while 12 papers are pending at the end of October 2007. In 2005 and 2006 the Journal obtained full indexing in JEL on CD and e-JEL, Econlit, IBSS, EBSCO, DOAJ and REPEC. At the beginning of 2005 the Journal introduced a close monitoring of the downloads of its articles, whose data appear on the EJCE website (see "Statistics"). As we can see in the last column of *Table 1* and in *Chart 1* the total downloads for 2004-2006 were over 64,000, more than 2600 per month, while in the first ten months of 2007 their total amount was over 98,000 with a monthly average of 9808. As we can see in *Table 2*, nine articles of the Journal had more than 5000 downloads from the beginning of 2005 up to October 2007.

**Table 1: Some indicators of EJCE**

Years	Issues	Number of published articles	Number of received articles	Rejection rate (%)	Downloadsof articles
2004-06	6	35	97	54 %	64,250*
2007**	2	12	24**	58 %	98,078**
Total	8	49	121	55 %	162,328

\*2005-2006; \*\* January- October 2007.

Chart 1: Downloads of Ejce articles through the website of the Journal



**Table 2: Downloads of some EJCE articles through EJCE website and REPEC**

Articles (authors)	Downloads in EJCE website*	Articles (authors)	REPEC: downloads of full-text articles and abstracts views**	
			Full text	Abstracts
Perugini, Signorelli	10860	Staehr	90	177
Galbraith, Krytynkaia, Wang	9766	Verme	59	152
Acharya	8872	Dallago	66	160
Algieri (2004/2)	7969	Algieri (2006)	62	179
Wagener	7483	Ahrens, Mengerlinghaus	45	99
Staehr	7364	Egert	47	139
Simoneti, Grigoric	6461	Algieri (2004)	41	117
Innocenti, Labory	6210	Mkrtchyan	57	134
Galbraith, Garcilazo	5702	Rosefelde	35	105
Rosefelde	4572	De Benedictis, De Santis, Vicarelli	39	158
Nivet	4419	Galbraith, Garcilazo	36	111
Amighini	4145	Perugini, Signorelli	19	113
Dallago	3996	Andreff	18	98
Bino, Subash, Ramanathan.	3907	Heshmati, Oh	17	73
Algieri (2006/1)	3166	Uvalic	16	36
Aghajanyan	3139	Tamberi	12	36
Heshmati, Oh	3100	Mkrtchyan Aghassi	9	50
Andreff	2949	Libman	7	28
Mkrtchyan	2887	Daianu, Lungu	7	16
Altavilla, Marani	2594	Smith	6	16

\* Jan. 2005-October 2007, \*\* June 2006- October.2007

**Table 3: monthly average downloads for some article through Ejce website**

Authors	Average monthly downloads	n. months
Aumayr (2007/2)	596	2
Huber (2007/2)	544	2
Marelli (2007/2)	523	2
Puigcerver-Penalver (2007/2)	492	2
Perugini, Signorelli (2004/2)	329	33
Staehr (2005/2)	320	23
Heshmati, Oh (2006/2)	310	9
Perugini, Signorelli (2007/2)	300	2
Galbraith, Krytynkaia, Wang (2004/1)	287	34
Herd, Dougherty (2007/1)	253	5
Acharya (2004/2)	269	33
Galbraith, Garcilazo (2005/2)	248	23
Algieri (2004/2)	241	33

The over 162,000 downloads of articles from the EJCE website show that the e-journal has already obtained a fairly large and satisfactory circulation. Moreover, in the June 2006-October 2007 period, the total downloads of EJCE articles through REPEC for full text articles were 1078, while the abstracts views were 3296. As a comparison, for the same period the REPEC statistics of a well established journal as *Economic Systems* were: downloads for full text articles 2631, abstracts views 7207, but this on a much larger stock of papers (5.5 times larger than EJCE), while the *Journal of Comparative Economics* had the following figures: downloads for full text articles 12.381, abstracts views 37.254, but with a number of articles 41.6. times greater than EJCE. Therefore the diffusion rate *per article* of EJCE through REPEC was consistently higher than the ones of the other two comparative journals, thanks also to the open access policy of EJCE. Since it is a new journal, the impact of the journal through citations is up to now rather limited. However an analysis based on “Google Scholar” shows that citations are very rapidly growing: On November 20, 2007, total citations of the articles in EJCE were 85 (see Table 4), while six months ago they were less than twenty.

**Table 4: citations from Google Scholar of EJCE’s articles (20th November, 2007)**

Perugini, Signorelli	10	Galbraith, Garcilozo	3
Wagener	8	De Benedictis, De Santis, Vicarelli	2
Andreff	8	A. Mkrtyan	2
Amighini	7	Tridico	2
Galbraith, Krytynkaia, Wang	6	Marelli	1
Puigcerver-Penalver	5	Bino, Subash, Ramanathan.	1
Dallago	5	Verme	1
Simoneti, Grigoric	4	Innocenti, Labory	1
Daianu, Lungu	4	Huber	1
Nivet	3	Chilosi	1
Acharya	3	Egert	1
Algieri (2004)	3		
Rosefelde	3	<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>

### 3. The future of the Journal

The aims of the Journal were to diffuse scientific knowledge on comparative economics and to attract in particular the contributions of young and gifted students from Western and Eastern Europe, but also from any other developing or industrialized country. The idea was to have a mixed content: to attract both strictly academic papers and methodologically robust, but controversial papers on the most relevant problems of the world economy, to be, in other words, for comparative studies a mixture between something like *AER* and the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. However, the overall quality of the journal depends largely on the quantity and quality of the papers received, which in turn depends on the Journal’s reputation and diffusion. Reputation is hard and slow to build, but some good steps in this direction have already been made. The diffusion of the journal is already quite good, thanks also to the rich indexing, the open access to the Journal and the variety of topics considered. We intend to further improve the Journal- through special issues on relevant themes and a books review section. But in

order to achieve our goals we need more contributions from the Scientific Committee, from the EACES board and from all EACES members, especially from younger members. They can send us their best papers, and also ask their colleagues to send us their papers. They can act as referees (we badly need a larger number of efficient and dynamic referees) or as authors of book reviews, or they can propose special issues on important monographic themes. Anybody who is ready to be a referee or to contribute to our coming book reviews section, is requested to contact the editors (see <http://eaces.liuc.it/>) A close and constant collaboration with the Journal might help to be considered for entrance in its scientific committee. There are other problems, such as the financial problems (at present the Journal is sustained mainly by the voluntary efforts of its editorial board and of its referees), but we are confident that we shall be able to overcome these difficulties. The important task of the Journal is to strengthen the efforts of EACES to disseminate ideas and knowledge on comparative economic issues, helping also to better understand, using comparative methods, economic realities which are little known or utterly obscure.