

EJCE REPORT (September 2008)

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 Forli 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, have joined 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 issues (usually in June and in December) have been published annually since. In 2007 the second issue, a special number on "European regions" edited by Marcello Signorelli and Enrico Marelli, has been published in September. As we can see in *table 1*, 56 articles have already been published out of 166 papers received in the period January .2004- September 2008, while 39 papers are pending at the end of September 2008. 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 64000, more than 2600 per month, while in 2007 their total amount was over 121000 with a monthly average of more than 10000, and in January –Septmber 2008 the average monthly downloads were 9184. As we can see in *Table 2*, 18 articles of the Journal had each obtained more than 5000 downloads from the beginning of 2005 up to September 2008.

Table 1: Some indicators of EJCE

Years	Issues	Number of published articles	Number of received articles	Rejection rate (%)	Downloads of articles
2004	2	12	29	54	n.a *
2005	2	12	33	60	28,546
2006	2	13	35	62	35,868
2007	2	12	36	64	121,040
2008 (Jan.- Sept.)	1	7	33	---	82,658
Total	9	56	166	60	268,112

*The monitoring of downloads began in 2005

Chart 1. Monthly downloads of Ejce articles through the website of the Journal

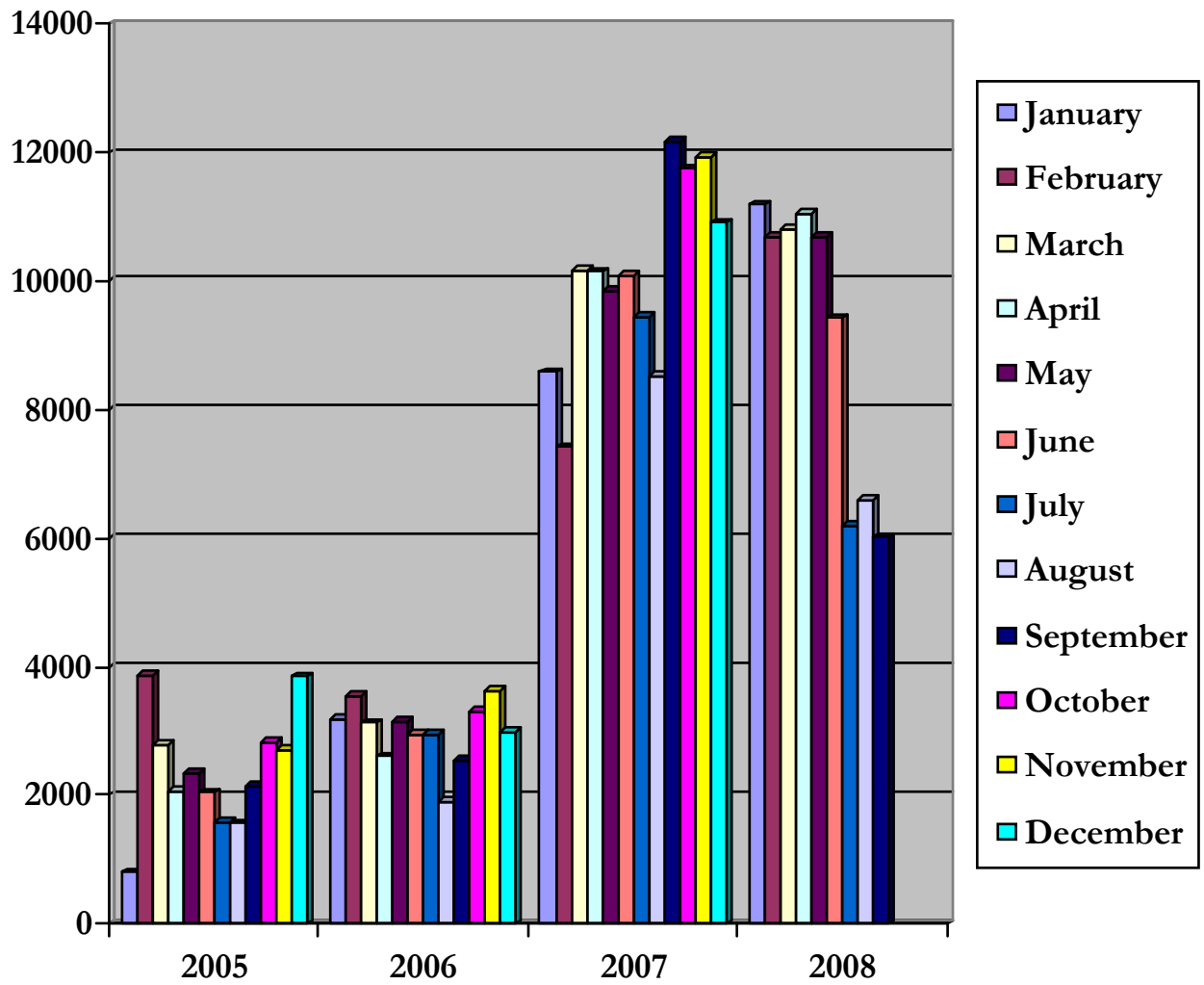


Table 2: Downloads of some EJCE articles through EJCE website (Jan. 2005- Sept. 2008)

	Ranking by author	Total downloads up to April 2008	Total downloads up to September 2008
1	Perugini, Signorelli (2004/2)	13 619	14 957
2	Galbraith, Krytynskaia, Wang (2004/1)	12 307	13 824
3	Acharya (2004/2)	11 227	12 246
4	Wagener (2004/1)	10 119	11 831
5	Algieri (2004/2)	9869	11,005
6	Staehr (2005/2)	9672	10,794
7	Simoneti, Grigoric (2004/2)	8154	8,652
8	Innocenti, Labory ((2004/1)	7544	7981
9	Galbraith, Garcilazo (2005/2)	7262	7915
10	Egert (2005/2)	6101	6847
11	Rosefelde (2005/1)	5944	6542
12	Amighini (2005/2)	5770	6436
13	Nivet (2004/2)	5494	5905
14	Dallago (2004/1)	5276	5794
15	Bino, Subash, Ramanathan (2005/2)	5207	5881
16	Algieri (2006/1)	4606	5421
17	Aghajanyan (2005/1)	4542	5265
18	Herd, Dougherty (2007/1)	3450	5104
19	Heshmati, Oh (2006/2)	4212	4987
20	Aumayr (2007/2)	3813	4924
21	Marelli (2007/2)	3128	4370
22	Andreff (2004/1)	3893	4353
22	Mkrtchyan Armenuhi (2005/1)	3912	4327
23	Huber (2007/2)	3306	4223
24	Puigcerver-Penalver	3131	4211
25	Zoryan (2005/1)	3592	4050

Table 3. Downloads through REPEC of some EJCE articles at the end of September 2008

	Articles (authors)	REPEC: downloads of full-text articles and abstracts from June 2006 to September 2008.	
		Full text	Abstracts
1	Algieri B. (2006/1)	132	323
2	Herd R., Dougherty S.	122	292
3	Staehr K.,	117	240
4	Dallago B.	89	235
5	De Benedictis L., De Santis R., Vicarelli C.	75	277
6	Mkrtchyan Armenuhi	74	186
7	Acharya S.	70	163
8	Ahrens, J. Mengerlinghaus P.	70	161
9	Galbraith J:K., Krytynskaia L., Wang Q.	65	196
10	Verme P.	65	184
11	Egert B.	62	188
12	Algieri B.(2004/2)	59	191
13	Rosefelde S.	59	181
14	Simoneti M; Gregoric A:	56	214
15	Galbraith J:K., Garcilazo E.	47	167
16	Bilotkach V.	44	175
17	Uvalic M.	44	112
18	Marelli E,	44	84
19	Innocenti, A., Labory S.	42	153
20	Heshmati, Oh	42	151
21	Perugini C., Signorelli M.	37	168
22	Tridico P.	36	89
23	Puigcerver-Penalver M:C.	31	59
24	Wagener H.J.	28	115
25	Amighini A:	26	90

The large number of downloads of articles from the EJCE website, over 268,000, shows that the e-journal has already obtained a fairly large and satisfactory circulation. Moreover, in the June 2006-September 2008 period, the total downloads of EJCE articles through REPEC for full text articles were 2016 while the abstracts views were 6266. The downloads per article were greater than the ones of two older and well established journals of the field: the *Journal of Comparative Economics* and *Economic System*. Finally, since EJCE it is a relatively new journal, its impact through citations is up to now rather limited. However an analysis based on "Google Scholar" shows that citations are growing rapidly. On October 10, 2008, total citations of articles in EJCE were 164, having grown from 85 on November 20, 2007.

Table 4. Citations from Google Scholar of EJCE's articles (October 10, 2008)

Perugini, Signorelli (2004/2)	22	Nivet	3
Amighini	18	Acharya	3
Andreff	10	Tridico	2
Wagener	9	Perugini, Signorelli (2007/2)	2
Dallago	8	A. Mkrtyan	2
Puigcerver-Penalver	8	De Benedictis, De Santis, Vicarelli	2
Galbraith, Krytynskaia, Wang	7	Ahrens	2
Algieri (2004/2)	7	Chilosi	2
Heshmati, Oh	6	Aumayr	2
Rosefelde	5	Amighiini	2
Galbraith, Garcilozo	5	Verme	2
Simoneti, Grigoric	5	Innocenti, Labory	1
Marelli	5		
Bino, Subash, Ramanathan.	5		
Huber	5		
Daianu, Lungu	4	Total	164
Egert	4		

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.