



INCONECSS Community Meeting 14th June 2021

**COVID ECONOMICS**  
VETTED AND REAL-TIME PAPERS

**Experimenting a new way to  
disseminate research results  
in times of COVID**

## 1. The context:

- COVID pandemics – Researchers reflecting on this crisis period and trying to understand its consequences
- Unusually important number of submissions to VoxEU, CEPR's portal for brief contributions (research-based policy analysis and commentaries by leading economists), – suggesting a need to find a vehicle for quick dissemination of research
- Creation of « Covid Economics Vetted and Real-Time Papers » by CEPR in March 2020

## 2. The principle: somewhere between a journal and a preprint series

- Inspired by the system of preprint dissemination in physics or medical sciences, lightly refereed and quickly disseminated
- COVID Economics along the same lines: submission reviewed in 48h, accept/reject basis (no extensive refereeing process)

### 3. A experiment in openness

- Open access: improving the speed of dissemination and the accessibility. The CEPR brand insures the quality of what is published.
- Open authorship: Discussion papers hitherto published are authored by insiders; some very good contributions from outsiders may be lost or not given the attention they deserve.
- Rights retainment / non-exclusive dissemination: authors keep their copyright and may publish their paper in journals

- A successful experiment:

3 issues/week, 8 papers in each issue.

Contributions from 47 countries, mostly academic researchers.

#### **4. New fields of research**

- Economic models applied to the standard epidemiological model
- Evaluation of economic impacts of policies designed to manage the sanitary crisis (lockdown, work at home ...), inequalities and their deepening during the crisis
- Economic impact on people
- Impact on financial markets

Empirical evaluations linked to collected data

#### **5. The end**

Final submissions deadline: June 23rd.

80 issues to date.

A decrease from 11 issues in April 2020, to 4 in January 2021, 2 in May 2021

References:

These slides rely heavily on this article : Charles Wyplosz, [« Covid Economics »: A new kind of publication](#) (dec 2020), which has become a chapter of this book :

Sebastian Galiani, Ugo Panizza, [Publishing and evaluating success in economics: A new eBook](#), CEPR, 2020

## Introducing more openness in the scholarly communication in economics: complementary elements

- Long delays on reviewing: Covid Economics has proved that quick reviewing is possible
- The « tyranny of the Top Five » is being questioned: which alternatives based on the quality of research?
- In the 2019 INCONECSS Conference, Mikael Laakso assessed that economics, econometrics and finance have a very low uptake of open access and specifically pointed the problem of predatory journals
- Some predatory journals are included in RePEc (no quality assessment)

What can libraries do to achieve a better uptake of open access in economics?

# THANK YOU!

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