

Call for Papers

Special Issue on “Efficiency and Productivity Analysis of Public Services in Practice”

Guest Editors

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The need to improve the efficiency in the provision of public services in the context of tight budget constraints has become a growing challenge, particularly in developed economies with low growth rates and high inflation levels. Although the efficiency and productivity analysis of public services and institutions has gained increased attention of academics and policymakers for many decades, it is still challenging to translate the results into practice and policy, largely due to the empirical and methodological challenges related with modelling the production function of public service providers. At the same time, a better use of public resources can result in positive stimuli towards higher economic growth and increased quality of public services.

This special issue of the *International Transactions in Operational Research* (ITOR) focuses on specific challenges and ways forwards in the measurement of the performance, efficiency and productivity in public services in practice.

The deadline for submission is December 31st, 2023. This call for papers is open to the entire community of researchers and practitioners. We also encourage the potential authors to submit their work for presentation in the 9th International Workshop on “Efficiency in Education, Health and other Public Services” (to be held in Universidad Autónoma de Madrid from September 7 to 8, 2023) to receive feedback and comments on their papers. Submissions should focus, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Theoretical and empirical papers focusing on measuring, understanding, and improving the performance of education, health, and other public services’ providers.
- Empirical papers on productivity, production theory and efficiency measurement in the various sectors of public services.
- Theoretical developments in frontier estimation methods.

- Impact evaluations on performance, efficiency and/or productivity in the context of education, health, and other public services – including the integration of efficiency measurements and policy evaluation.
- Developments in quantitative methods for the improvement of the understanding (of the sources and determinants) of inefficiencies of public sector agents.

Each paper will be peer-reviewed according to the editorial policy of ITOR, published by the International Federation of Operational Research Societies – IFORS. Papers should be original, unpublished, and not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. They should be prepared according to the instructions to authors that can be found at the journal homepage (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/14753995/homepage/forauthors.html>).

Authors should upload their contributions using the submission site <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/itor>, indicating in their cover letter that the paper is intended for this special issue. Other inquiries should be sent directly to any of the Guest Editors in charge of this issue: Tommaso Agasisti (tommaso.agasisti@uam.es); Eva M. de la Torre (eva.torre@uam.es); Kristof De Witte (kristof.dewitte@kuleuven.be); Gabriela Sicilia (gscilia@ull.es).