Presentation of the Hispanic-American Input-Output Society (SHAIO)
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Abstract

The First Constitutional Assembly of the Hispanic-American Input-Output Society (SHAIO) will take place at the next Intermediate Input-Output Conference at the Pablo de Olavide University at Seville. SHAIO was founded in 2007 with the aim to support, disseminate and promote input-output research, national and regional accounting and other related socio-economic oriented tools to address issues that are currently at the front of worldwide human's concerns: climate change, sustainable economic development, productivity trends, international trade and income distribution, to mention various examples. SHAIO also aims to create a scientific network in order to participate in research projects where these tools might be used for applied research and policy making. The Spanish-speaking IO community is growing fast and one of the main issues will be to promote and disseminate statistical and applied international IO research among Spanish-speaking researchers, universities and other research institutions. Hopefully, this may contribute to strength the links between Europe and part of the other side of the pond.

Therefore, SHAIO envisages to: (1) promote scientific projects through the associate members; (2) organise (biannual) scientific meetings and (biannual) workshops on specific matters; (3) publish the Working Paper Series; and (4) set up a website as the main communication link between the Society and its members.

SHAIO was founded from a multi-country research group called Input-Output Group (IOG), which was set up in Oviedo (Spain) in 2003. Currently, the Society consists of three institutional members (Institute of Statistics of Andalusia, the Galician Institute of Statistics and the Statistical Institute of Catalonia) and around 50 researchers from several countries like México, Colombia, Chile, Australia and Spain. The SHAIO invites all interested people to join the Society.

Carmen Ramos from the University of Oviedo (Spain) presides over the provisional Council until the First Constitutional Assembly. José M. Rueda-Cantuche (Joint Research Centre's IPTS of the European Commission) acts as vice-president, Monica Serrano (University of Barcelona) as secretary, Ana S. García (University of Oviedo) as treasurer, Esteban Fernández (University of Oviedo) as vocal for the organization of meetings and events, and Miguel A. Tarancón (University of Castilla La Mancha) as webmaster.

To date, SHAIO has organised two editions of the Spanish Conference on Input-Output Analysis. The first edition took place in Oviedo in 2005 and the second in Zaragoza in 2007. These conferences are bilingual (Spanish-English) and had a remarkable success of attendance of researchers from Spain, rest of Europe and American Spanish speaking countries. The next edition will take place in Albacete in 2009.

You can access the SHAIO website at www.shaio.es, where you can find all the information about us, how you can be a member of the Society as well as interesting data on input-output analysis research.

The Working Papers Series of the Hispanic-American IO Society (SHAIO) is edited by Rosa Duarte (University of Zaragoza) and José M. Rueda-Cantuche (JRC-IPTS). The WP Series aims to cover the following needs of the present IO scientific community:

(1) There is currently no relevant, fruitful and stable presence of national statistical institutes and other IO data producers in the academic literature. The absence of new theory and empirical contributions in most of the outcomes of NSIs and other related research institutions make them deserve only a modest place in the IO arena. Needless to say, the work done by these institutions are extremely useful for the scientific community in the sense that the accuracy and reliability of their data outcomes will affect highly to applied research.

(2) Young IO researchers hardly can access IO experts to benefit from their comments and suggestions. To that purpose, they are compelled to submit their papers to international journals that will rarely accept them for publication. Frequently, they will only receive a rejection letter without any useful indication. Hence, the WP series aims neither to compete in the international journal market nor to struggle against impact factor indices. They only pursue that young researchers could have somewhere to publish their early works after they have been evaluated by a top level group of IO expert referees.

(3) In line with one of the main objectives of the SHAIO, the WP series aims to promote and disseminate statistical and applied IO research among Spanish-speaking researchers, universities and other research institutions. The Society expects this may contribute to stretch the links between Europe and part of the other side of the pond.

The WP consists of a set of two series: (1) Input-Output Analysis; and (2) National and Regional Accounting. While the former is self justified, the latter could give national and regional statistical offices and, generally speaking, data producers the opportunity to discuss their research (no need to be an original contribution) by appropriate referees and an outstanding editorial board. The WP may also serve to improve the already few existing links between data users and data producers by including not only methodological research but estimation techniques of missing data, data modeling, etc. Fidel Aroche (Autonomous University of Mexico) and Álex Costa (Statistical Institute of Catalonia) have been appointed to coordinate, respectively, the two WP series.