

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INFRASTRUCTURE ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT

Jointly organized by the IDEI – Toulouse School of Economics, the World Bank, the PPIAF, and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

**UNIVERSITY OF TOULOUSE,
TOULOUSE, FRANCE, JANUARY 14-15, 2010**

Keynotes speeches by Jean Tirole (Toulouse School of Economics) and Eduardo Engel (Yale University).

Infrastructure—understood to include water supply and sanitation, roads and transport, energy and telecommunications—has major implications for a variety of development outcomes, both at the household level (health, education and social mobility), at the firm level (productivity, industrial development) and at the global level (climate change). Investment in infrastructure is therefore high on the agenda of politicians and development practitioners that endow it with many virtues. For example, for three decades it has represented on average 40 percent of World Bank lending.

It is fair to say that the knowledge accumulated on many topics of infrastructure economics still lags behind their policy relevance. There are many important topics on the research agenda. What are the best methodologies to evaluate, especially at the microeconomic level, the impact of various infrastructure investments on development outcomes? How do infrastructure investments shape outcomes at the household level? Is it efficient to implement social redistribution through infrastructure policies and, if so, how do they rank compared to social policies? How does infrastructure development, and its interactions with other policies and constraints, affect the performance of firms? Could it be considered a new way to do industrial policy? Another important area of research includes governance and regulation issues in infrastructure sectors, as well as the increasingly complex relationship between infrastructure (regulation) and climate change mitigation and adaptation policies. Finally, given the current situation of international financial markets, a topic of great concern is how the financial crisis and its impact on major institutions and players such as capital markets, banks, hedge funds and sovereign wealth funds will affect funding for infrastructure.

In the context of a wider collaboration, the Institut d'Economie Industrielle (IDEI) in Toulouse and the Development Economics Vice Presidency (DEC) and Sustainable Development Network (SDN) of the World Bank are organizing, with the Public Private Infrastructure Initiative (PPIAF) and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the first annual International Conference on Infrastructure Economics and Development to stimulate research on these issues. This conference aims at taking stock of recent advances and research challenges. To do so, we plan to gather the best researchers in the field, both from the academic world and from more policy-oriented backgrounds, to exchange ideas and insights in a two-day conference organized at IDEI-Toulouse.

An indicative list of topics that could be addressed by the conference, both at the theoretical and empirical level, includes:

- Impact evaluation of infrastructure at the household and the firm level
- Infrastructure and social policies
- Infrastructure and industrial policies
- Infrastructure and economic geography
- Governance and capacity issues
- Regulation issues
- Public versus private ownership of infrastructure
- Political economy issues
- Climate change and infrastructure, including infrastructure regulation
- Financial issues as they relate to infrastructure

Deadline for Submissions: A preliminary version of the paper must be sent, in PDF format, to jdethier@worldbank.org before September 15, 2009. Detailed abstracts will be considered but preference will be given to completed papers. Decisions will be taken by a scientific committee and authors will be informed before October 30, 2009. For details on scientific matters please feel free to contact Jean-Jacques Dethier (jdethier@worldbank.org) or Stéphane Straub (stephane.straub@univ-tlse1.fr).

Scientific Committee :

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