

The Floor to the Experts

Guglielmo Barone (UniBo), Francesco Giovanardi (Prometeia),
Federico Maggio (UniBo), Veronica Rattini (UniBo), Stefania Tomasini
(Prometeia)

Bologna, Kick Off meeting Spoke 2

27th November 2023

Motivation

- ▶ Increasing importance of economic themes in public discourse (e.g. spread, riforma Fornero, 80 euro, reddito di cittadinanza, quota 100, riforma IRPEF, ...).
- ▶ Qualified opinions viewed as a public good: Notable scarcity of these qualified perspectives, often replaced by less qualified or sporadic opinions through the media.
- ▶ Fill the gap: collect and publish insights from a broad panel of experts in the Italian economy.

Similar Initiatives

- ▶ The Kent A. Clark Center for Global Markets
- ▶ Ifo and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung Economists Panel
- ▶ Osservatorio congiunturale dell'Associazione Italiana degli Economisti di Impresa (GEI)

The Floor to the Experts (Voce agli Esperti) - Project Overview

- ▶ Our project aims to conduct a survey addressing a current economic topic (e.g. budget deviation), selected for its economic relevance and media resonance. For each topic, we ask for:
 - Degree of Agreement with the Given Statement (5-point scale - "Totalmente in disaccordo/Totalmente d'accordo")
 - Level of Confidence in the Response.
 - It takes less than 1 minute
 - 2-3 aspects
- ▶ Frequency: every three weeks (around 15 waves per year).
- ▶ Sample: 350 invited experts, distributed across various economic themes, and representing academia, institutions, and private entities.
- ▶ Aggregate results publicly accessible to citizens, journalists, and policymakers through an online platform.

Project Progress

We have retrospectively analyzed 7 quarters (January 2022 - September 2023):

- ▶ **Topic Definition:** For each quarter, we've defined 4 topics (e.g. Flat Tax) by leveraging key economics media channels such as lavoce.it, ilsole24ore, reports from the Bank of Italy, or Liberi, Oltre Le Illusioni, etc...
- ▶ **Labeling System:** Each topic has been assigned up to 3 tags, with each tag identifying a specific economic theme. In the end, we have converged on 16 themes.
- ▶ **Experts Selection:** We have selected around 350 experts, attaching them up to 3 tags. We expect that around 50% of them will participate in the survey. Additionally, we have collected demographic information, including gender, work region (Italy, EU, non-EU), affiliation (academia, institutions, private sector), and h-index.
- ▶ **Question Formulation:** We crafted questions, identifying characteristics and challenges in question formulation.

Topics

▶ Q1 2022

- Tariffe importazioni gas russo
- Interventi caro energia
- Revisione IRPEF e progressività
- Riforma concessioni balneari

▶ Q2 2022

- Contrattazione salari e inflazione
- Salario minimo
- Tassa sugli extra-profitti energetici
- Scudo anti-spread

▶ Q3 2022

- Rigassificatori e fabbisogno gas
- Flat tax
- Introduzione obbligo del POS
- Price cap sul gas

▶ Q4 2022

- Inflazione e disuguaglianza
- Greedflation
- Reddito cittadinanza e ammortizzatori sociali
- Effetti di quota 103

▶ Q1 2023

- Riforma codice degli appalti
- Ponte sullo stretto
- Crisi bancarie in USA e EU
- Direttiva case-green

▶ Q2 2023

- Quote di genere nei board
- Riforma fiscale
- Discussione nuovo patto di stabilità
- Salario minimo

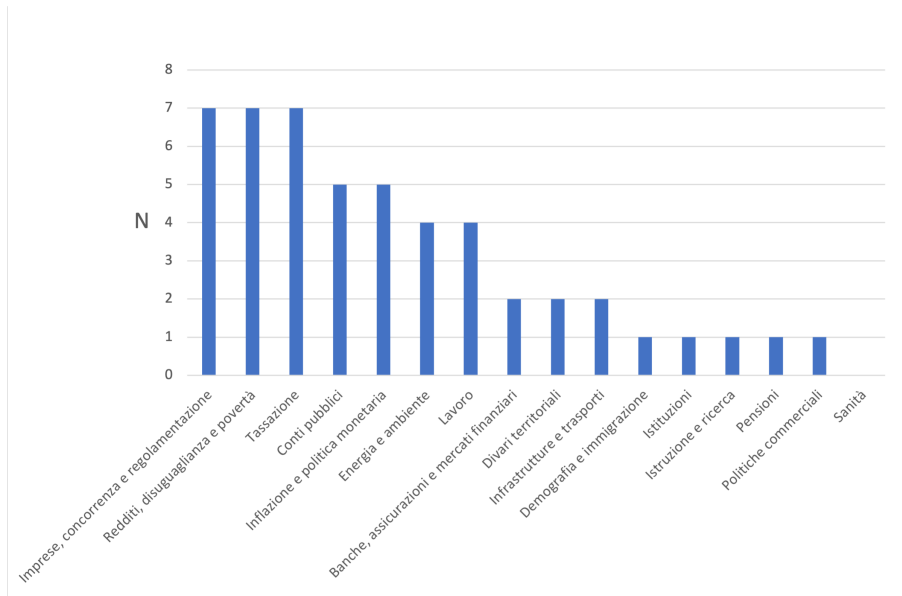
▶ Q3 2023

- Tassa extra-profitti bancari
- Revisione PNRR
- Nuovo record di sbarchi migranti
- Salari degli insegnanti

▶ Q4 2023

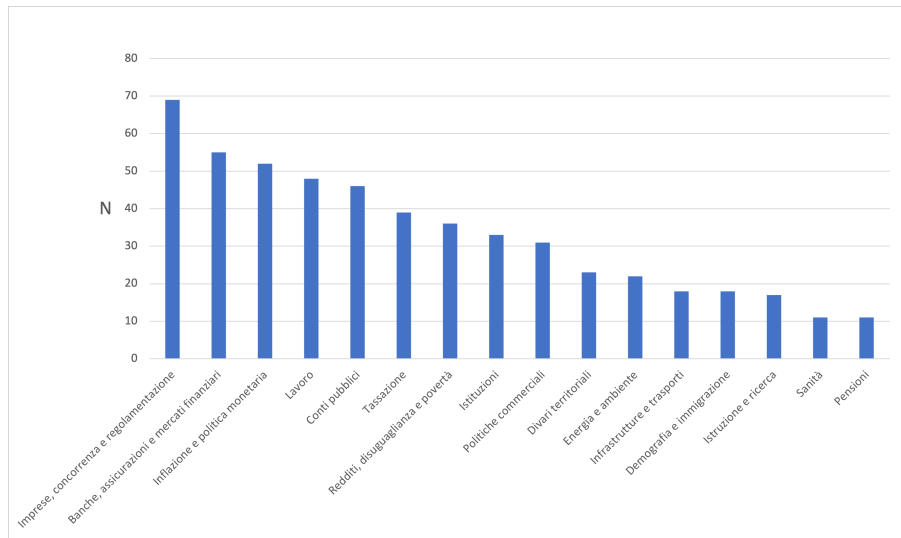
- Scostamento di bilancio

Themes (January 2022 - October 2023)



Expert Sample

- **Demographics:** In our expert sample, 70% are male, with 80% working in Italy. 78% of them work in academia.



Question Example

Pensi che un aumento del deficit maggiore di quello previsto dal DEF 2023 sia opportuno alla luce del rallentamento della crescita/congiuntura?

- Totalmente d'accordo
- D'accordo
- Incerto
- Disaccordo
- Totalmente in disaccordo
- Non risponde

Indica il grado di fiducia alla tua risposta. Dove 1 indica "Per niente sicuro" e 10 indica "Assolutamente sicuro"

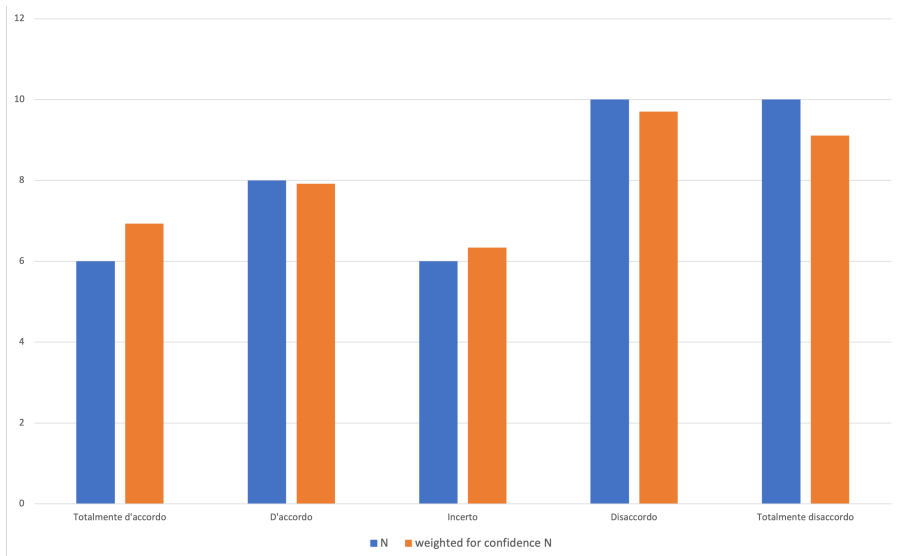
1 2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9 10

Grado di fiducia alla tua risposta precedente



Aggregate Results

- Pensi che un aumento del deficit maggiore di quello previsto dal DEF 2023 sia opportuno alla luce del rallentamento della crescita?



In progress...

- ▶ **Privacy Management:** We are currently addressing several aspects related to privacy:
 - Finalizing the consent forms for participating in the study and for personal data processing.
 - Writing a description of the research project to be submitted to the privacy group within GRINS.
- ▶ **Participant Invitation:** Preparing an invitation letter for all potential participants, including the selection of covariates to collect.
- ▶ **Survey Platform:** Finalizing and refining the survey format on the platform Qualtrics to maximize response and minimize mistakes.
- ▶ **Results Presentation:** Determining the best way to showcase results, considering user-friendly interfaces for accessibility (Grins website?).
- ▶ **Defining the governance** of the underline process (scientific committee, etc...)
- ▶ Analogous survey to households within GRINS(?)