



Counterfactual Thinking, Complex Realities

Practical Tools for Policy Impact Evaluation

- Venue:** NH Milano Machiavelli, Via Lazzaretto 5, 20124 Milan
(Centrally located, next to the Central Station, well connected by metro and train.)
- Dates:** 11–13 May 2026
- Format:** 2.5 days | English | In-person event
- Target audience:** policymakers, evaluation practitioners, researchers, and doctoral students.
- Maximum Capacity:** 30 Participants (admission confirmed upon payment)

PROGRAMME

Day 1	
9:00 - 9:30	Welcome and registration
9:30 - 9:45	Opening remarks
9:45 - 10:30	Introduction to CIE: <i>The role of CIE in the evaluation of public policy; Approaching the CIE with the policy theory of change in mind</i> Prof Franco Peracchi (CSIL Advisor), Dr Giulia Canzian (CSIL)
10:30 - 11:30	Matching techniques* Dr Giulia Canzian (CSIL), Dr Erica Delugas (CSIL)
11:30 - 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 - 13:00	Regression Discontinuity Design* Dr Erica Delugas (CSIL), Dr Alessandra Caputo (CSIL)
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	Difference-in-Differences model* Dr Alessandra Caputo (CSIL), Dr Erica Delugas (CSIL)
15:30 - 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 - 17:30	Synthetic Control Method* Dr Gabriele Piazza (LSE), Dr Francesco Giffoni (CSIL)

Each session will cover: a brief **introduction to the method, when **apply** it, necessary **conditions and data**, **practical examples**, and a **step-by-step guide for implementation***

Day 2	
9:15 - 9:30	Arrival and Registration
9:30 - 9:45	Division into groups (<i>plenary session</i>)
9:45 - 10:30	Hands-on group activity - Part 1
10:30 - 11:00	Wrap-up and discussion
11:00 - 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 - 12:30	Hands-on group activity - Part 2
12:30 - 13:00	Wrap up and discussion
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 16:00	Hands-on group activity - Part 3
16:00 - 16:15	Coffee break
16:15 - 17:30	Presentation and interactive group discussion (<i>plenary session</i>)

Day 3	
9:15 - 9:30	Arrival and Registration
9:30 - 9:45	Opening Remarks
9:45 - 11:00	Roundtable 1: Use of CIE evaluation findings for policymaking
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 12:30	Roundtable 2: Balancing administrative burden and data quality
12:30 - 13:00	Concluding remarks and pictures



WORKSHOP SPEAKERS – 11 & 12 May 2026

Prof Franco Peracchi (CSIL Advisor) – Professor Emeritus at Tor Vergata University, and Fellow of the Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (EIEF). Prof. Peracchi's research focuses on the methodologies used to measure the impact of public interventions.

Dr Giulia Canzian (CSIL) – Applied economist with ~15 years of experience in quantitative analysis and counterfactual evaluations, with work spanning industrial economics, microdata management, survey design, and advisory roles for EU services. PhD in Economics and Management (University of Trento).

Dr Alessandra Caputo (CSIL) – Senior researcher and partner specialising in econometrics and big-data analytics. Experience across counterfactual analysis, network & cluster analysis, patent/company datasets, and indicators for EU studies and evaluations. PhD in Quantitative Methods for Policy Evaluation (University of Macerata); MSc Economics (Bocconi).

Dr Erica Delugas (CSIL) – Researcher in welfare and labour economics specialising in applied microeconometrics. Experience in quantitative analysis, counterfactual methods, and non-market valuation. Contributions to evaluations on SME support, open science, and energy poverty and well-being. PhD in Economics (University of Cagliari); MSc in Public Economics.

Dr Francesco Giffoni (CSIL) – Partner and senior economist specialising in quantitative analysis for innovation, research and industrial policy. Expert in counterfactual evaluations, scenario and risk modelling and non-market valuation techniques. PhD in Economics; MSc in Public Economics and Public Administration (La Sapienza, Rome).

Dr Gabriele Piazza (London School of Economics) - Applied economist with expertise in counterfactual methods. His research focuses on the economics of innovation, economic geography, and policy evaluation. PhD in Economic Geography from the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow.

Roundtable speakers - 13 May 2026

- **Massimo Florio**, Emeritus Professor of Public Economics at the University of Milan, Founder and Senior Advisor at CSIL.
- **Massimiliano Ferraresi**, Head of Monitoring and Evaluation Unit at Emilia Romagna Region (Italy). Former Evaluator at the European Innovation Bank and Economist at the European Commission.
- **Carlo Fiorio**, Full Professor of Public Economics at the University of Milan. Senior Advisor at CSIL and Senior Researcher at FBK-IRVAPP.
- **Aron Gereben**, Evaluation Expert/Team Leader at the Evaluation Division of the European Investment Bank.
- **Alessio Mitra**, Economist and Policy Officer at the European Commission, DG RTD (A.5 - Innovation Policy and Access to Finance).
- **Paolo Paruolo**, Head of Competence Centre on Microeconomic Evaluation at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.
- **Simone Signore**, Head of Unit | Impact Strategy at the European Investment Fund.
- **Mirco Tonin**, Full Professor of Economics at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano. Director of the Research Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies at the Bruno Kessler Foundation.

Other speakers from European Institutions and Managing Authorities will be confirmed soon.