



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL Joint Research Centre
Institute for the Protection and the Security of the Citizen
Unit for Applied Statistics and Econometrics



CRELL
Centre for Research
on Lifelong Learning

Thursday, December 22, 2005

To whom it may concern,

the Centre for Research on Lifelong Learning (CRELL), a recently established research institute of the European Commission, is organizing an international symposium on:

“Methodological tools for accountability systems in education”

to be held in Ispra, northern Italy, on the 6-9 February 2006.

CRELL is hosted by the Unit for Applied Statistics and Econometrics of the European Commission's **Joint Research Centre** in Ispra. We currently comprise six researchers, but will number ten when fully operational. Our research programme is based on the development of statistical indicators to support the Commission in its monitoring and evaluation of education and training systems. (Please see our website for more information on CRELL: <http://farmweb.jrc.cec.eu.int/crell/>)

We are organising the above-mentioned conference as a contribution to the European Union's objective of increasing the quality and effectiveness of education and training systems. The event aims to stimulate debate among researchers using particular methodologies to evaluate and improve the quality of education and training provision. The availability of longitudinal data, reliable measures of student achievement, and the analysis of the hierarchical structure of educational systems are three factors in the creation of reliable accountability systems in education. Multilevel modelling and Rasch analysis are the two statistical methodologies that provide most insight with respect to this objective, and thus will be a main focus of discussion at the workshop. The working language will be English, a draft programme is attached.

Participants are expected to arrive on February 6th. Travel and accommodation expenses will be borne by the participants. We will provide transportation to/from the airport and we may help with booking hotels. I do hope that you will be able to participate in the conference and look forward to hearing from you.

Please do register your interest to Sarah Moore (sarah.moore@jrc.it) by January 15 in order to be able to arrange for all the necessary administrative procedures.

We would also be happy in the meantime to provide you with any other information you might need.

Best regards,

Andrea Saltelli