

Foreword

In 2005 and 2007, ISAE and Rivista di Politica Economica organized the Conference «Monitoring Italy», with the goal of closely examining the position of the Italian economy in the world scenario. A selection of the papers presented at the two conferences have already been published in two special issues of Rivista di Politica Economica.

Discussing strengths and weaknesses of a country is particularly important in times characterized by such severe economic crises as those we are in today: this is in fact the moment to appropriately design policies intended to pave the way for the next recovery. With these considerations in mind, ISAE, OECD and Rivista di Politica Economica organized the Monitoring Italy 2009 Conference on «Measuring the Progress of Italian Society». As also testified by the OECD Global Project, in the last few years research on the correct measurement of societal well-being intensified, as well as the policy debate on these issues. Rivista di Politica Economica is now happy to host in this issue a selection of the papers presented at the conference, together with the invited lecture given by Antonio Schizzerotto and Sonia Marzadro.

The research presented here stresses the importance of developing a new set of indicators, measuring aspects of well-being that are not considered in standard National Accounts: in this respect, the first section is especially devoted to the identification of the level of progress reached by the Italian society across different indicators; the second concentrates on life satisfaction and inequality, whilst the final section deals with the issue of the correct measurement of the impact of public intervention. All the papers are previously unpublished.

