

The importance of Economic History and History of Economics (EHHE, including theories, facts, and economic policies) is, as it has always been, evident to anyone wishing to delve into the not only technical nature of economic phenomena.

In recent years, EHHE has received widespread recognition for its ability to enrich knowledge and contribute to addressing the key challenges of the present moment: financial crises; the fight against poverty and inequality; processes of integration and development. One need only consider the recent Nobel Prizes awarded to Ben Bernanke, Esther Duflo, or Claudia Goldin.

In Italy, there are significant traditions, communities of scholars, research centers, and university departments that support, often with courage and scarce resources, the growth and internationalization of studies in EHHE.

However, for many years now, Italy has lacked advanced educational offerings capable of ensuring a solid foundation for the future of EHHE in its various branches, despite the continued appeal it holds for young researchers. All PhD programs specifically dedicated to EHHE have been closed.

Scientific associations, however, have not resigned themselves and continue to develop projects aimed at reopening these programs. Many of these are close to being realized. Our concern is that these initiatives may be frustrated or further delayed by the announcement of new cuts to research and university funding.

As long-established scholars who have previously held various institutional roles and who appreciate and share the significance of the historical dimension of economic phenomena, we thus make an appeal to all political and academic forces to ensure that new PhD programs are established to once again enrich the landscape of Italian higher education.

Piero Barucci

Endorsers:

Giuliano Amato  
Pierluigi Ciocca  
Claudio De Vincenti  
Elsa Fornero  
Giorgio La Malfa  
Romano Prodi  
Alberto Quadrio Curzio  
Paolo Savona  
Ignazio Visco