

Name: PAOLO SCKOKAI

Age: 58

Nationality: ITALIAN

Current position:

- ➔ Full Professor – Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Piacenza, Italy
- ➔ Chair of the Department of agricultural and food economics, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Piacenza, Italy



Research areas:

- ➔ Agricultural production and supply analysis
- ➔ Agricultural and Food Policies
- ➔ Consumer choices and food demand analysis
- ➔ Risk management and farmers' behaviour under risk

Education:

- ➔ Ph.D. in Agricultural and Food Economics, University of Padua, Italy (1994)
- ➔ Master of Science in Economics (Major Agricultural Economics), Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA (1992)
- ➔ Bachelor Degree in Agricultural Sciences, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Piacenza (1990)

Other responsibilities and positions:

- ➔ Editor of the *European Review of Agricultural Economics* from 2007 to 2012 and Associate editor from 2003 to 2007
- ➔ Associate editor of *Agribusiness: An International Journal* (since 2012)
- ➔ Associate editor of *Bio-based and Applied Economics* (since 2012)
- ➔ Member of the Board of the *EAAEP Foundation*, the Publication Committee of the EAAE (since 2014)
- ➔ President of AIEAA (*Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics*) from 2016 to 2018
- ➔ EAAE member since 1993, participating in all EAAE Congresses since then
- ➔ Member of the Scientific committee in many EAAE Seminars and EAAE PhD Workshops. Plenary speaker at the 122th EAAE Seminar (Ancona, 2013) and at the 7th EAAE PhD Workshop (Barcelona, 2017)
- ➔ Member of the Consortium Management Board of the International Master Programme AFEPA (*Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis*) funded by Erasmus Mundus
- ➔ Coordinator of the *M.Sc. in Agricultural and Food Economics* at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy (with around 50 students per year)

Personal home page:

<https://docenti.unicatt.it/ppd2/en/docenti/03985/paolo-sckokai/profilo>

Selected publications (max 5):

1. Varacca, A. - Arata, L. - Castellari, E. - Sckokai, P. (2023): "Does CAP greening affect farms' economic and environmental performances? A Regression Discontinuity Design analysis". *European Review of Agricultural Economics*, 50(2): 272-303.
2. Varacca, A. - Guastella, G. - Pareglio, S. - Sckokai, P. (2022): "A meta-analysis of the capitalization of CAP direct payments into land prices". *European Review of Agricultural Economics*, 49(2): 359-382.
3. Sckokai, P. - Soregaroli, C. - Moro, D. (2013): "Estimating market power by retailers in a dynamic framework: the Italian PDO cheese market". *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 64(1): 33-53.
4. Sckokai, P. - Moro, D. (2009): "Modelling the Impact of the CAP Single Farm Payment on Farm Investment and Output". *European Review of Agricultural Economics*, 36(3), 395-423.
5. Sckokai, P. - Moro, D. (2006): "Modeling the Reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy for Arable Crops under Uncertainty". *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 88(1), 43-56.

Challenges facing the EAAE:

The main objective of a scientific association is that of promoting excellence in research in its own field. In social sciences, excellence in research implies also providing relevant contributions to address societal needs. In its almost 50 years of history, the EAAE has reached remarkable results in this respect, through a variety of tools: its scientific journals (the *European Review of Agricultural Economics (ERAE)*, *Eurochoice* and more recently *Q-Open*), its triennial *Congresses*, in which an increasing space has been dedicated to the interaction with stakeholders and policy-makers, and its *Seminars*, an extraordinary opportunity for exchanging ideas and results among colleagues working on specific research topics. Although I have not served in the EAAE Board, I know the association is also in good financial shape with a stable membership. These are very good starting points for the future of the EAAE, but at the same time the association will face significant challenges in the next years:

- ➔ Addressing the problems facing world and European agri-food systems, such as global food security or the impact of climate change, increasingly require an interdisciplinary research approach. For agricultural economists, interdisciplinarity implies working with colleagues studying the technical issues facing agricultural and food production (agronomists, animal scientists, food technologists, agricultural and food engineers,...), but at the same time working with social scientists of some "sister disciplines" (environmental and resource economists, development economists, industrial economists, rural sociologists, consumer psychologists,...). In this respect, the EAAE should actively promote the relationships with scientists of these disciplines, as well as with agricultural economists working in other areas of the world (for example, geographical vicinity implies a sort of natural relationship between European and African economists).
- ➔ The large majority of the EAAE members work in European universities and face the challenge of teaching social sciences, and particularly agricultural and food economics, to the new generations of students. These challenges do not refer only to the contents of our courses, but they increasingly refer to our educational approaches and teaching methods. For example, after the pandemic, and with the rising role of artificial intelligence, our teaching will be increasingly faced with the challenges of the management of new technologies and their languages. In this respect, the EAAE should promote an active debate among its members, with a special focus on resources and strategies for PhD education, through which we prepare the economists of the future.

- ➔ Without specific policies, there is a serious risk that the demography of the EAAE will follow the demography of the agricultural economics profession in Europe, which is shrinking in several countries, with little generation renewal. The EAAE has already implemented several valuable initiatives toward young members, such as the well-established PhD workshop and the more recent PhD Network, AgEcon Meet and Mentoring Programmes. The EAAE should increasingly invest in these initiatives, with a special focus on creating the best environment for enhancing the background of the new generations, which will likely work in an increasingly interdisciplinary environment, in which the traditional boundaries of our discipline will become more flexible, both in research and in teaching.
- ➔ As we all know, for EU member states policy making in agricultural and food takes place at the EU level. While many EAAE members are individually involved in consultancy/policy evaluation/policy support with the EU Commission services, I think the voice of the association may give a stronger contribution to what we call "science-based policy making". I think many of our research results can be very valuable in this respect, and the EAAE should try to find the best interaction channels for providing its contribution.
- ➔ Finally, a more practical challenge. The cost of the EAAE events has become very high. The 2023 Congress participation cost is likely to go well beyond 1,000€ for many members, which may become a serious participation barrier. Thus, the EAAE should try to implement proper policies for reducing the cost of all the EAAE events (not just the Congress, but also the Seminars and the PhD workshops).

What I would like to see achieved in the next Board period (September 2023 – August 2026):

Based on the challenges identified above, and also considering the large number of initiatives already planned by the EAAE Board for the next three years, I think it is realistic to try to achieve the following practical results:

- ➔ Organise at least one EAAE seminar in collaboration with one European Association of our sister disciplines (i.e. the European Association of Environmental and Resource economists <https://www.eaere.org/>) or with the Agricultural economics association of another continent (i.e. Africa), possibly hosting its results in a special issue of one of our journals (ERAE or Q-Open). As an alternative, we may try to organise some joint sessions with these scientific associations in the next EAAE Congress;
- ➔ Organise one online forum on teaching methods in applied economics during the triennial Board period;
- ➔ Maintain and enhance all programmes targeted to young members (PhD workshop, AgEcon Meet, PhD network and Mentoring Programme);
- ➔ Organise one forum in Brussels bringing together EAAE members, EU policy makers and Stakeholders' representatives from the agri-business supply chain, choosing one specific topic (i.e. the application of the EU Farm-to-Fork strategy). This event may become the way of celebrating the 50th EAAE anniversary (2025);
- ➔ Revise the format of the next congress with the aim of reducing its costs (for example, we may think to reduce its length from 4 to 3 days, eliminating the excursions). At the same time, implement a permanent policy of reduced Congress and Seminar fees for PhD students and young post-docs, as well as for participants from developing countries, searching for appropriate funding strategies.