



Conference on

## Schooling and Human Capital Formation in the Global Economy: Revisiting the Equity-Efficiency Quandary

– Call for Papers –

More than 30 years ago, Theodore W. Schultz edited an issue of the *Journal of Political Economy* entitled “Investment in Education: The Equity-Efficiency Quandary.” In today’s global economy, concerns about international competitiveness have intensified the discussion as to whether and to what extent the one educational objective must be sacrificed in order to achieve the other, making issues surrounding the provision of education more pressing and unresolved than ever. While the focus of the debate in the early 1970s was on higher education, the roots of the educational quandary lie in the early years of schooling – both because early learning is a requisite for successful later learning, and because rapid structural changes in modern global economies may require a solid foundation of general knowledge as distinct from specific knowledge that may become obsolete.

To revisit the question of the educational equity-efficiency quandary, with a special focus on the role of school systems for human capital formation in the global economy, **CESifo** Munich and **PEPG** of Harvard University will jointly organize a conference in Munich on September 3-4, 2004. By bringing scholarly perspectives together from both sides of the Atlantic, the scientific organizers, **Paul E. Peterson** (Harvard) and **Ludger Woessmann** (Munich), hope to elicit new international perspectives on this pressing research question.

Invited papers will be presented by **Eric Hanushek** (Stanford), **Stephen Machin** (London School of Economics), **Thomas Nechyba** (Duke), and **Hessel Oosterbeek** (Amsterdam).

Researchers working in the field are invited to submit proposed (draft) papers electronically by **January 31, 2004** to [pepg\\_administrator@ksg.harvard.edu](mailto:pepg_administrator@ksg.harvard.edu) or [woessmann@ifo.de](mailto:woessmann@ifo.de). In particular, both theoretical and empirical policy-oriented papers in the following areas will be given serious consideration for inclusion in the conference proceedings:

- Is there a trade-off between efficiency and equal opportunity in human capital formation?
- What effects do equality-enhancing interventions have on human capital production and growth?
- Do tracked or segregated schooling systems increase the equity-efficiency quandary?
- What are the productivity and equity effects of choice-based educational systems?
- Can schooling systems mitigate the inequality-enhancing impact of skill-biased technological change, and can they facilitate intergenerational mobility?
- How does the relative emphasis on general versus specific knowledge affect the equity-efficiency quandary in times of rapid structural change?

Accepted papers will be published in a conference volume in the CESifo Seminar Series with **MIT Press**, subject to a refereeing process. Submission of papers for the conference implies their submission for initial publication in the conference proceedings. The organizers will provide accommodation and will reimburse economy travel costs for authors of accepted papers; honoraria will be provided upon receipt of final papers accepted for publication. Further questions regarding the organization and scientific content of the conference should be addressed to the conference organizers:

Paul E. Peterson: [ppeterso@latte.harvard.edu](mailto:ppeterso@latte.harvard.edu)

Ludger Woessmann: [woessmann@ifo.de](mailto:woessmann@ifo.de)