From 18 July to 25 July 2004, CESifo will host its fifth Summer Institute in Venice, Italy. The CESifo Summer Institute 2004 will bring together international economists working on economic policy topics for workshops, panel meetings and discussion. The conference venue is San Servolo, an island across the water from San Marco in the bay of Venice.

Economic analysis now plays a crucial role in formulating competition policy across the Atlantic and courts have endorsed a central role for economics in rendering their decisions. As recent antitrust cases concern increasingly with firms operating in industries where innovation is central to a firm’s success, however, there has been a question of whether antitrust analysis is up to the challenge. More specifically, with the emergence of the “new economy”, it is unclear that traditional antitrust analysis – which was developed to address concerns about price practices in the railroad and smokestack industries and has typically ignored almost entirely issues of innovation – is appropriate in the context of the rapidly evolving technology based industries like computing and the Internet.

The workshop will bring together a panel of specialists to discuss the conceptual and empirical issues involved in the formulation and enforcement of competition policy in innovative industries. The conference will include invited papers from leading researchers on the topic, as well as contributed papers. Keynote lectures will be given by Timothy Bresnahan, Stanford University, and Michael Waldman, Cornell University.

A selection of the conference papers will be published in a conference volume by MIT Press, following a refereeing process, and pre-published as CESifo working papers. Some of the papers will also be invited from leading researchers who have contributed to the issues of competition policy. It is understood that all submissions to the conference imply submission to these publication outlets.

Submitted papers may deal with theoretical and empirical issues in competition policy and should have a clear policy-focus. Case studies dealing with recent antitrust cases are also welcome. Potential topics of interest include, but are not limited to, anti-competitive/pro-competitive effects of tying arrangements, vertical merger and foreclosure, harmonisation of competition policy in the global economy, intellectual property rights and antitrust, and competition policy in high-tech R&D intensive industries.

The conference is organised by Jay Pil Choi (Michigan State University). Papers should be submitted to

Jay Pil Choi
Department of Economics
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824
USA
choijay@msu.edu

Submission of papers by e-mail (in pdf format) is welcome. The deadline for submission is 31 March 2004. Authors of submitted papers will be informed of the acceptance decision by the end of April.

CESifo will provide accommodation and will reimburse economy travel costs for all participants with accepted papers or other active roles in the conference. Other CESifo network members and doctoral students of VIU partner Universities are invited to participate in the conference, but are expected to provide their own funding for travel and accommodation.

For more information on this and the other workshops at the CESifo Venice Summer Institute please consult the web site: www.cesifo.de/venice