



MIEPP International Day 2012

Idea and Concept

An important goal of the Master's program in International Economics and Public Policy (MIEPP) is to bring together students from many different countries, cultures and histories. We hope and believe that our program allows students to broaden their horizon not just by participating in discussions during lectures and seminars, but also through the many informal conversations and debates that take place outside the classroom.

To enhance this process, we want to give students the chance to learn more about their colleagues' countries and to present key economic and social parameters of their own country – or a country that they are knowledgeable about. The MIEPP International Day will offer a sequence of such presentations as a starting point for a (hopefully) productive discussion. If all goes well, we will eventually know more about economies and societies that we do not know very well, and we will learn to see the familiar rules and circumstances of our own countries in a new light.

Rules:

- Participation in the MIEPP International Day is voluntary. There are *no* ECTS awarded for this event.
- Participants should present their country (or a country that they know very well) by giving a presentation that follows the structure given below.
- Presentations should last no longer than 45 minutes.
- Presentations can be given by individual students or by groups.
- Non-presenting students are also invited to attend.
- Presentations will be stored in ReaderPlus and made available to all participants

Organization:

- Date: December 14, 2012. Start: 12.00 p.m. End: Depending on number of presentations (no later than 8.00 p.m.). Room: RW 2
- If you would like to present a country, please register by sending an email with your contact details and the country's name to LsHarms@uni-mainz.de.
- Deadline for registration: November 23, 2012.
- If the number of countries presented does not exceed the critical number of three, the event will be cancelled.

Structure of Presentations:

To enhance the comparability across countries, you should design your presentation according to the structure given below. There are questions that can (and should) be answered by using standard data sources (WDI, IFS), and others that you should answer based on your personal knowledge of the country you present.

Note: To get access to the World Bank's World Development Indicators (WDI) or the International Monetary Fund's International Financial Statistics (IFS), please press the "DATA" button on the International Economics homepage and follow further instructions.

General information:

- Geographical location, size (multiple of Germany), name of capital
- Population size since 1991; urbanization in 2008 (WDI);
- Government (democracy, monarchy, etc.)
- Who is the most famous resident of your country?

Economy: General information and International Trade:

- GDP and GNI per capita since 1991 in constant US dollars (WDI)
- Sectoral structure of output since 1991 (agriculture/industry/services) (WDI)
- Composition of GDP since 1991 (consumption, investment, government, net exports) (IFS)
- Trade openness since 1991: (Exports + Imports)/GDP (WDI)
- Five main export and import goods in 2008 (or services)
- Five main trading partner(s) in 2010 or 2011 (IMF: Direction of Trade Statistics)
- International migrant stock (% of population) since 1991 (WDI), net migration since 1991 (WDI).

Monetary Policy and Financial Markets:

- Name of currency
- Constitutional status of Central Bank (Part of the government? independent?)
- Inflation rates since 1991 (IFS)
- Exchange rate regime in 2008
- Evolution of nominal and real (CPI-based) *effective* exchange rate since 1991 (IFS)
- Market share of five main banks and their ownership (privately owned or state owned) in 2008
- Size of financial markets: domestic credit to private sector/GDP since 1991 (WDI)
- Financial openness measure in 2008 (Chinn/Ito Financial openness measure excel file and an explanation of the data "A new measure of financial openness" available on <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~mchinn/research.html>)
- Level and composition of foreign assets and liabilities relative to GDP since 1991 (Lane/Milesi-Ferretti: <http://www.philiplane.org/EWN.html>)
- Savings rate (WDI)
- How do people store their wealth (cash, savings accounts, etc.)?
- If your country's government suggested to default on its foreign debt, would it find a majority in the population? Who would support such an idea, who would object?

Labor Market, Education, and Social Security:

- Participation rate (male, female, total) since 1991 (WDI)
- Unemployment rate since 1991 (WDI)
- What happens if you get unemployed? Is there a public unemployment insurance system?
- Unionization since 1991 (WDI)
- Evolution of labor's share since 1991 (WDI)
- Gini index since 1991 (WDI)
- Evolution of unit-labor-cost-based real effective exchange rate since 1991 (IFS)
- Public spending on education (% of GDP)
- Primary/secondary/tertiary school gross enrollment rates (WDI)
- Demographics: old-age and young-age dependency ratios since 1991 (WDI)
- What happens if you get sick? Is there health insurance? How does it work?
- What is the average retirement age in 2008
- What are the income sources of retired people?

Goods markets and relative prices

- Where do people purchase groceries (markets/small-scale convenience stores/large-scale stores à la WalMart)?
- What share of the population has access to the internet? (WDI)
- Relative prices (Note: You don't have to be precise. A rough estimate is okay):
 - o Price of 30 liters of Coca cola as % of average monthly salary
 - o Price of 30 BigMacs as % of average monthly salary
 - o Price of a pair of blue jeans as % of average monthly salary
 - o Price of an average washing machine as % of average monthly salary
 - o Rent of 100 m2 apartment in capital as % of average monthly salary
 - o Price of one night in a *** hotel room as % of average monthly salary
 - o Price of a 5 km taxi ride in a major city as % of average monthly salary

Government, institutions and society

- Profit tax rate in % (WDI)
- Top marginal tax rate on income
- Evolution of central government debt (in % of GDP) since 1991 (WDI)
- How does your country currently rank on the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index? Do you consider this assessment justified?
- What is perceived as the bigger economic risk in your country: inflation or unemployment?