



Economic  
Research  
Southern  
Africa

## Economic Research Southern Africa

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## MEETING OF THE ERSA PUBLIC ECONOMICS WORKGROUP

Economic Research Southern Africa invites you to attend the meeting of the ERSA public economics workgroup.

**Date: 8 and 9 March 2012**  
**Venue: TBC (Pretoria or Johannesburg)**

This workshop will provide an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to meet, present research, and discuss policy options. Each session will allow for presentations on recently completed research, work in progress as well as 'lead-in' discussions providing an overview of new ideas.

Increasingly the National Treasury is thinking about the long-term and sustainability implications of government's policy choices. It also aims to produce its first long-term fiscal report by October 2012. The National Planning Commission and the Department of Economic Development have also published long-term plans. During February 2012 the Minister of Finance will also present the first budget after the announcement of the NPC plan. Although the NPC plan has not yet been accepted by government (it is still in a consultation phase), it might be possible to assess the extent to which the budget is aligned with both the NPC plan and the New Growth Plan. In addition, the proposed National Health Plan may also hold long-term implication for the fiscus.

Thus, there are several long-term policy developments that may affect the long-term fiscal position of government. What the implications, strengths and weaknesses of, as well as perhaps the contradictions between these developments are, and to what extent the objectives of the various policy developments are aligned, have not yet been fully debated. This workshop sets out to do so.

The workshop might also include a session on the global economic outlook and implications for South Africa. Europe possibly faces another recession, and the possibility exists of a 'lost decade' in both Europe and the US. This has major implications for countercyclical policy and fiscal sustainability.

Should you wish to attend, please send confirmation to Yoemna Mosaval ([Yoemna.Mosaval@econrsa.org](mailto:Yoemna.Mosaval@econrsa.org)) by 10 February 2012. For those who wish to present, please submit a title and an abstract of approximately 150 words by 10 February 2012 (please email your abstract to either [BurgerP@ufs.ac.za](mailto:BurgerP@ufs.ac.za) or [Ian.Stuart@treasury.gov.za](mailto:Ian.Stuart@treasury.gov.za)). Also indicate whether you will present completed research, work in progress or a short 'lead-in' presentation on new ideas – all are welcome.

We look forward to your attendance.

Yours faithfully

Philippe Burger  
Workgroup coordinator  
University of the Free State

Ian Stuart  
National Treasury