



# ISTITUTO BRUNO LEONI

*in 2017, looking at 2018*

# RESEARCH

In a country where every issue is dealt with by asking for a new law or a new subsidy, Istituto Bruno Leoni strives to challenge this mindset. The Institute publishes economic policy studies, as well as in-depth analysis of current events.



Among our policy proposals in 2017, the most notable was 25xtutti, a flat tax plan devised by IBL under the guide of economist Nicola Rossi. Our proposal brought the issue of a comprehensive tax reform at the center of the pre-electoral public debate in Italy and was carefully taken into consideration by political parties, professional organizations and unions in Italy. The current Minister of Economic Affairs Pier Carlo Padoan referred to our proposal in positive terms too.

Our flat tax proposal was **widely and visibly discussed in the media**: in July Italy's foremost economic daily, *Il Sole 24 Ore*, hosted a multiple-article debate on its pages. Three former Prime Ministers (Silvio Berlusconi, Lamberto Dini, and Romano Prodi) have also commented on 25xtutti.

Our proposal was very visible on social media: between July and September IBL's plan generated five times the comments of a similar flat tax proposal by the Lega Nord party. At the end of the summer, when the debate on the flat tax was tailing off, the attention to 25xtutti on social networks (as measured by the number of mentions) was still 25% higher than in early July.

This media visibility was paralleled by an intense program of presentations and public debates: between September and December 2017 25xtutti was presented in **23 locations** in Italy.

Again under Nicola Rossi's leadership, our Osservatorio Minghetti published—in partnership with Corriere della sera, the foremost Italian daily newspaper—two updates of the IBL **SuperIndex**, a macroeconomic synthetic indicator which gauges the gap of the Italian economy with the average of the European Union and the Eurozone countries.

Europe was likewise the focus of two papers on investments, one dealing with the issue of FDI in the case of Italian exit from the Eurozone, the other analyzing the investments financed by the Juncker Plan.

As in previous years, the liberalization of the economy was one of the most important issues studied by IBL. Towards the end of the year we published the 2017 edition of our well-established **Index of Liberalizations** (anticipated on the pages of *Corriere della sera*), while during the year we published a number of papers on professional services, telecommunications, copyright, transports (Uber, Alitalia, again Alitalia, and Flixbus).

We did not neglect issues dear to our Institute, such as healthcare and property rights: in this case, we produced two studies on the lenient treatment of the illegal occupation of private buildings, which were also referred to in a query in Parliament. We also analyzed new issues at the center of the political debate, such as the digital economy (here, here, and here) and the temptations of "food paternalism."

In 2017 IBL also devised a new index, the Index of Globalization. Moreover we published, in partnership with the e-Media Institute, our yearly report on the Italian audio-visual system (PDF).

# IBL LIBRI

In 2017 our publishing house issued 15 books.

Besides two new books adding up to the *Complete Works of Bruno Leoni*, other notable publications were a new edition of Sergio Ricossa's *I fuochisti della vaporiera* (a witty and polemical take on the Italian "establishment" economists in the 1970s and 1980s), as well as the translation of two contemporary classics: Anthony de Jasay's *The State* and Murray N. Rothbard's *Power and Market*.



## EVENTS

IBL's team participates on a virtually daily basis to national-level conferences and events, as well as to meetings organized by grass-roots organizations.

In 2017 we have organized some **60 public events**: this amounts to more than one per week. They were seminars, "policy breakfasts," and book launches, both in Italian and in English.



This year we organized the first Discorso Sergio Ricossa, ([video here](#)) named after the foremost Italian free-market economist, who passed away in 2016. The Discorso was given by Nobel Laureate **Vernon L. Smith**.

The Lectio Marco Minghetti—our yearly conference on the issues surrounding the sustainability of **public finances**—was held in Rome. The main speaker was **Richard E. Wagner**, professor of Economics at George Mason University, and the proceedings were later published by IBL Libri.

In the occasion of our annual dinner we assigned the Bruno Leoni Award to **Leopoldo López**, founder of the Voluntad Popular party and leading opponent of the regimes of Hugo Chávez and Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela.

IBL edited and translated Leopoldo López' prison diaries, which were published by Marsilio Editore.



## INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

In 2017 we strengthened our partnership with **EPICENTER**, the Europe-wide network of free-market think tanks. In February IBL hosted a 2-days conference of representatives of the EPICENTER's think tanks.

Together with Formiche, in November IBL organized a conference on the **digital market** which was held in the European Parliament building in Brussels. In July, we organized in partnership with ECIPE a seminar of the **mobile telephone market** in Europe.

Bruno Leoni passed away 50 years ago. In the occasion of this sad anniversary IBL created a programme of international events in partnership with Indianapolis' **Liberty Fund**, among the foremost classical liberal organizations in the world. We held a first conference in Milan which saw the participation of Tom **Palmer** (Cato Institute) and Nicolò **Zanon** (Italian Constitutional Court). Two further international seminars were later organised in **Washington, DC**, and **Ciudad del Guatemala**, at the George Mason University and Universidad Francisco Marroquin, respectively.

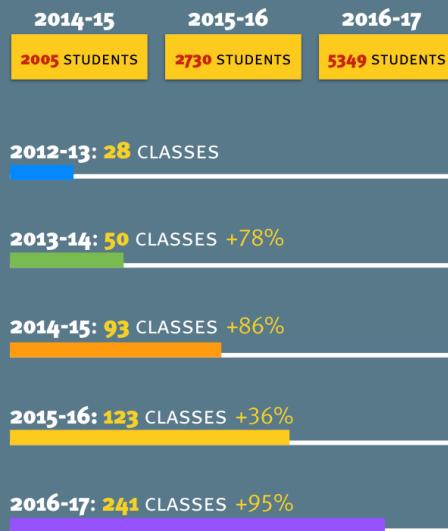
Friends of IBL, a 503(c)3 organization, is active in the USA in its efforts in support of Istituto Bruno Leoni and contributing to promote in the world the works of Bruno Leoni.



# FORMAZIONE

During the school year 2016-17 IBL kept presenting **basic economic education** lectures within the frame of its “IBL nelle scuole” program, with a fledging partnership with **Fondazione CRT** (limited to Piedmont and Valle d’Aosta) and the Italian Banking Association’s **Fondazione per l’Educazione Finanziaria e al Risparmio**.

A total of **241 classes** were reached (for an **increase of 95%** relative to the previous school year), which amounted to an audience of **5,349 high school students** in **9 Italian regions**.



On the basis of the achievements of “IBL nelle scuole,” our Institute was invited by the national network of social-economic high schools to participate to the **Ministry of Education’s Panel on Social and Economic High Schools**.

To enhance the offer of instructional materials for teachers and students, IBL Libri has published a dedicated edition of the Italian translation of *Homer Economicus: The Simpsons and Economics*, edited by Joshua Hall and originally published in Italian by IBL Libri in 2016.

Our educational and training efforts are not limited to high schools, but reach university students, too.

In 2017 six students from Italian and foreign universities (London, Milan, Palermo and Pisa) were chosen for an **internship** at Istituto Bruno Leoni.

A significant number of students participated to **seminars and events** organized by IBL in several universities, with the help of the many professors and teachers close to our Institute and of a number of students associations.



## MEDIA



As in the past years, the research and the efforts of IBL found a remarkable echo on the media.

IBL's team has written some **215 op-eds** which appeared on the leading national daily newspapers—*La Stampa*, *Il Sole 24 Ore*, *Corriere della sera*, *Il Foglio*—as well as on the foremost local newspapers (*Il Messaggero*, *Il Mattino*).

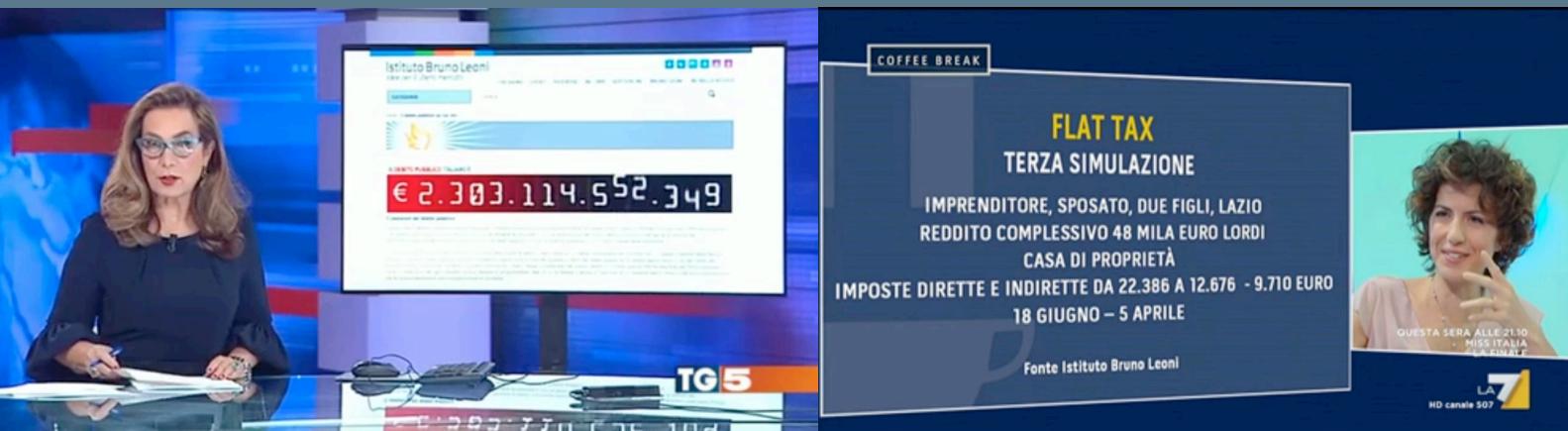
An average of almost **two articles per day** on the national press mentioned IBL's studies and positions, for a total of some **710** articles.

Istituto Bruno Leoni was quoted or signed some **1,071** articles on the web.

The image shows a white rectangular area containing several newspaper logos and their corresponding headlines. In the top left is the logo for '24 ORE'. To its right is a large headline: 'Una «flat tax» equa al 25%' with the subtitle 'Aliquota unica, abolizione di Irap e Imu, introduzione del minimo vitale'. In the center is the logo for 'LIBERALIZZAZIONI' with the subtitle 'IL MERCATO ITALIANO È PIÙ APERTO (MA LA STRADA È LUNGA...)'. To the right of this is the logo for 'CORRIERE DELLA SERA'. In the bottom left is the logo for 'CORRIERE DELLA SERA'. To its right is a headline: 'ITALIA-UE QUANTO SIAMO DIVERGENTI'. In the bottom center is the logo for 'L'ORACOLO delle TASSE'. To its right is the logo for 'QN'.

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Radio and TV did not neglect IBL, either: members of our team regularly appear on the **leading political and current events radio and TV shows** on national public and private networks.



# IBL IN NUMBERS

In 2017 IBL was:

**24**  
papers

**15**  
books

**60**  
events

**215**  
articles in the press

**710**  
mentions and quotations in the press

**5.349**  
students met with the "IBL nelle scuole" program

**14.989**  
followers on Facebook

**20.831**  
followers on Twitter

**1.038**  
subscribers of IBL's YouTube channel

**97**  
new videos

**138**  
posts on [leoniblog.com](#)

**140.054**  
unique visitors on [www.brunoleoni.it](#)