PRESS RELEASE
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The Paris School of Economics announces the creation of the “Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab – Europe” (J-PAL Europe).

The Paris School of Economics announced the creation of the “Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab – Europe” (J-PAL Europe) at a Conference on Randomized Evaluations of Social Programs organized by the DARES (the research department of the French Ministry of Labor).

J-PAL Europe runs evaluations of public policy using a rigorous experimental approach based on that used in scientific disciplines such as pharmacology and agricultural engineering. This approach compares one group of individuals that are participating in an economic or social program with a control group, which does not participate in the program. Assignment of an individual to one of the two groups is randomized. J-PAL Europe carries out evaluations of anti-poverty programs in Europe and in low and middle income countries – programs that are seeking to help out of school children in Africa or the unemployed in Europe. J-PAL Europe has eleven members from four countries in Europe, and eleven evaluation projects underway in eight countries throughout the world.

During the conference, the French High Commissioner for Solidarity Against Poverty announced the selection of five projects carried out by J-PAL Europe members to analyze the impact of anti-poverty programs in France. Specialists in public policy experiments participated in the conference by giving academic and operational presentations.

In 2003, Esther Duflo, Abhijit Banerjee, and Sendhil Mullainathan formed the Poverty Action Lab network based at MIT (the Massachusetts Institute of Technology). The network has grown rapidly thanks to the generosity of Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel, and in 2005 J-PAL was re-named in honor of Mr. Jameel’s father. The establishment of J-PAL Europe at the Paris School of Economics opens the J-PAL network to European researchers. J-PAL Europe is the second regional office of J-PAL, along with an office in Chennai, India.

The launch of J-PAL Europe will be followed by a one-week training on “Evaluating Social Policy” which will take place at the Paris School of Economics. The participants, from governments, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and research institutions, come from France and Francophone Africa.