

Newsletter 2

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InGRID in brief

InGRID is a network of distributed, but integrating European research infrastructures. A research infrastructure (RI) is a facility or platform that provides the scientific community with resources and services to conduct top-level research in their respective fields.

InGRID research infrastructures serve the social sciences community, that wants to make an evidence-based contribution to a European policy strategy of inclusive growth. This research community focuses on social in/exclusion, vulnerability-at-work and related social and labour market policies from a European comparative perspective. Key tools in this social science research are all types of data: statistics on earnings, administrative social data, labour market data, surveys of quality of life or working conditions, and policy indicators.

The InGRID research infrastructure wants to support this social science community in ways otherwise impossible by integrating:

- data archives/collections that have already been specialising in integrating national data;
- existing EU-wide databases and indicator collections of relevant national institutions and policies;
- new data efforts or projects especially in the field of working conditions and job quality;
- innovative ways to order and analyse data collected by official data providers;
- standards for harmonisation of questionnaires, classifications and policy indicators;
- simulation facilities to enhance statistical quality and to model impacts of policies.

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 <http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/>



Editorial: Moments of truth



Our European economies are now definitely entering again a period of economic growth, leaving a period of harsh austerity measures behind. These more favourable economic conditions are of course a key moment to develop truly inclusive growth. The EU needs to step up its efforts to develop, along with Member States, long-term solutions to improve its social dimension by fighting poverty, increasing quality employment, tackling job precariousness and strengthening social cohesion and inclusion. Policymakers will have to tackle this issue at all geographical levels - regional, national, and European. Feelings of deprivation, fear and support of populism are looming. Meanwhile our welfare states have lost performance and new employment challenges are triggered by increased digitalisation and other technological changes.

The InGRID infrastructure wants to help social scientists and other experts to make valuable evidence-based contributions to tackle these policy challenges of inclusive growth within Europe.

The current newsletter informs you among others about a series of networking events and visiting opportunities that can help the targeted comparative research community. In addition, I want to stress in this editorial, the improvement and innovations of the research infrastructure that we are working on in the current InGRID-2 project:

Activities to improve the infrastructure 'Poverty living conditions and social policies'	Activities to improve the infrastructure 'Working conditions, vulnerability and labour policies'
<p><i>Data integration/harmonisation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extension of Integrated Poverty and Living Conditions Indicators System (IPOLIS) in scope and coverage - Exploration of harmonisation longitudinal data on educational careers - Data linkages (and small area estimation) from statistical standards perspective - Combining data tools for dynamic microsimulation <p><i>Improvement of analytical tools</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conceptualisation and measurement of out-of-work benefits - Extending EUROMOD (new policies and new tools) - Integrating data on welfare services - Small area estimation techniques for regional poverty measurement <p><i>Valorisation tools and new indicators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Household hypothetical tool and representing policy relevant indicators - Indicator protocols on migrants' social rights - Demographic factors and poverty indicators 	<p><i>Data integration/harmonisation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmonisation/integration data on collective bargaining and minimum wages - Harmonisation/integration working conditions data on vulnerable groups - Integrated micro series of working conditions surveys and international surveys on employers' behaviour - New types of (web)data and its use - Historical data of the EU-LFS: feasible to compile? <p><i>Improvement of analytical tools</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New methods to examine employers hiring practices and skill transferability - New methods to measure new occupations and new forms of work - New methods to measure working conditions using administrative databases: availability - feasibility - Exploration of microsimulations approaches in comparative working conditions research <p><i>Valorisation tools and new indicators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing multidimensional vulnerable group indicators - Developing policy indicators on OSHA management - Developing indicators to assess progress in working conditions

Guy Van Gyes, InGRID project coordinator

InGRID-2 events

InGRID creates opportunities for networking, dialogue and knowledge exchange through five types of events. The partners are organising **summer schools** for early-stage researchers, **expert workshops** for senior researchers and other experts, **special interest groups** for a specific community within the InGRID community-of-interest, **data forums** to reach out to data providers and research users, and **stakeholder platform conferences**. Calls for these events are frequently launched on the project website and announced in the InGRID newsflashes. Candidates can apply via the website. Accepted participants can receive travel and subsistence reimbursement. Participation to some events can be on invitation only.

Past events

EUROMOD-HHoT winter school 'Using EUROMOD for model family simulations (with optional module on microsimulation and variance estimation)'

Organised by ISER – University of Essex (UK) from 25 October to 27 October 2017



The twenty participants who attended originated from a variety of institutions across the European Union including universities, financial institutions and ministries and included academics, policy practitioners and other interested users.

EUROMOD is a state-of-the-art multi-country tax-benefit microsimulation model for the European Union, led by ISER and funded by DG Employment. EUROMOD links microdata from household surveys and policy legislation in a single user interface, enabling the effects of policy and other changes on the income distribution to be analysed in a comparative perspective.

Dr. Xavier Jara, a member of the EUROMOD team, led the event with the support of colleagues Iva Tasseva, Katrin Gasior and Pasquale Recchia. The course covered the basics of tax-benefit microsimulation, the logic and structure behind EUROMOD, working with EUROMOD's user interface, input data, EUROMOD

'language' and using existing documentation. The bulk of the course was dedicated to teaching EUROMOD functions, which form the building blocks of the EUROMOD 'language'.

Time was allocated throughout the three days for practical hands-on exercises, allowing time to get used to the tool. Participants were also provided with the opportunity to present their projects to the group, explaining how they would be using EUROMOD to push these forward.

Initial feedback following the course has been very positive, with participants expressing satisfaction both with the lecture sessions and especially with the practical hands-on component.

More information

<http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/summer-schools>

Data forum on 'Harmonisation and uses of European microdata'

Organised by CED in collaboration with IPUMS International, Barcelona (Spain) from 18 January to 19 January 2018

The meeting brought together representatives from European statistical institutes and researchers with strong experience in cross-national comparative data to discuss innovation and solutions to integrate Labour Force Survey microdata for the study of poverty, work and living conditions.

IPUMS, based in Minneapolis (USA), and CED propose to harmonise Labour Force Surveys of co-operating European national statistics offices in a global, scientific use, extract management system. The IPUMS/CED initiative complements conventional, whole-file dissemination with a 21st century system offering open access to interactive metadata and restricted access to harmonised microdata via be-spoke,

pooled extracts - for selected countries, years, variables, and even subpopulations - tailored precisely to the needs of each individual researcher or research team.

IPUMS/CED extends the highly successfully Census Microdata Series, currently encompassing 85 countries, with a worldwide Labour Force/Household Series piloted for three countries: India, Nigeria and the USA.

Co-operating national statistical offices entrust data directly to IPUMS/CED under the terms of a uniform 'Memorandum of understanding' endorsed by more than 100 national statistical offices worldwide.

The IPUMS/CED initiative adds value in many ways. For example:

- pooled, custom data sets: users can create extracts that pool data into a single file containing only their desired variables and including as many samples and countries as they wish. They do not need to download potentially hundreds of files to conduct large-scale comparative research;
- easy exploration of metadata: integrated variable documentation provide descriptions, comparability information, codes and frequencies in one place for all samples. Users may easily assess whether particular categories have sufficient cases for their research or identify major complicating factors due to some peculiarity of a particular sample or country. Questionnaire wording is associated via metadata to the relevant variables, so users can easily see how different wordings might affect the data in specific time periods or countries;
- user-defined variables: the extract system allows users to create new variables using the sequence number variables for parents and spouses. Thus, a researcher can make a variable for co-resident mother's occupation or spouse's educational attainment as part of their data extract;
- exploratory online data analysis: the website offers a full-featured online data analysis system to registered users using the SDA software that has been applied to numerous IPUMS collections. The system is more than a tabulator. It allows multiple cross-tabulations; multivariate regression analysis; has many statistical features such as calculating confidence intervals and it allows users to leverage the full detail of the microdata by recoding variables and applying case selection.



More information

<http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/data-forums>

Setup meeting EU Platform on reference budgets

Organised by University of Antwerp (Belgium) from 22 February to 23 February 2018



Reference budgets are illustrative priced baskets of goods and services that represent a given living standard. Often they refer to the minimum required resources that people need in order to participate adequately in society.

Academic research on the development of reference budgets demonstrates high valorisation potentials, both in the field of fundamental and applied research. Practice highlights the added value of reference budgets for policymakers, public authorities, NGOs and citizens.

Examples of academic applications include the development of policy indicators (e.g. on the accessibility of publicly provided or subsidised services), the contextualisation of existing poverty indicators, and the assessment of the adequacy of social protection and minimum incomes. Reference budgets respond also to important societal and policy needs, and are used by NGOs, citizens and policymakers, for instance as a tool for setting minimum income levels, defining policy priorities, providing additional income support, debt re-scheduling and financial education.

As part of InGRID-2, a Special Interest Group is organised on the topic of reference budgets. Participation to this event is always on invitation, however, if you have valuable expertise in this field and wish to be part of this Special Interest Group, please contact Tim Goedemé or Bérénice Storms.

In the first meeting producers of reference budgets in 13 EU Member States were brought together. It was decided to setup an EU Platform on reference budgets (EU-RBP). During the meeting, a mission and vision for the platform were agreed upon and an agenda for the coming years was defined. Several working groups were launched, including on developing a questionnaire to collect essential information for higher quality reference budgets, on the consultation of citizens and on practical applications of reference budgets. Tim Goedemé and Bérénice Storms (University of Antwerp) will chair the Platform.

More information

🌐 <http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/special-interest-groups>

EUROMOD HHoT winter school 'Using EUROMOD for model family simulations (with optional module on microsimulation and variance estimation)'

Organised by University of Antwerp (Belgium) from 16 January to 19 January 2018

The EUROMOD HHoT winter school was very successful and welcomed many participants. The aim of the winter school was to provide academics, policy practitioners and other interested users with an introduction to the concepts, structure and functioning of HHoT and EUROMOD. EUROMOD is a state-of-the-art tax-benefit microsimulation model linking microdata

from household surveys and policy legislation in a single user interface. HHoT or the Hypothetical Household Tool is a tool for the simulation of hypothetical families, based on EUROMOD. EUROMOD simulates the different components of a households disposable income for a given year and country. HHoT generates a data set that EUROMOD will apply for policy simulations, instead of using a regular microdata file.

EUROMOD allows for complex policy impact analysis, such as evaluations of policy reforms in terms of poverty, inequality, work incentives and government budgets, assessments of EU-wide policies or estimation the impact of changing population characteristics on the redistributive effect of existing policies. HHoT on the other hand does not allow for redistributive effects but it allows to better understand changes in tax benefit policies, cross-national differences in social outcomes and evaluate the adequacy, fairness and labour market incentives.

The course dealt with the basics of tax-benefit microsimulation and model family simulation. It covered the logic and structure behind EUROMOD, working with EUROMOD's user interface, input data, EUROMOD 'language' and using existing documentation.



More information

🌐 <http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/summer-schools>

Upcoming events

Expert workshop 'Measuring the platform economy: size and impact'

9-10 April 2018, CEPS, Brussels (Belgium)

This expert workshop discussed the topic of platform economy with a focus on its size and impact as well as the fast transformation that the sector has inflicted in the traditional economy and its own fast developing pace. The workshop's aim is to bring together a group of experts who have been working on different research

aspects of the platform economy, discuss findings and challenges, and understand methodologies and data available. The topics to be covered in the workshop include: measuring the platform economy, discussing related legal and policy concerns, organisation and social dialogue, and specific issues connected with the vulnerability and working conditions of those offering labour through platforms.

Speakers are encouraged to present their own work, as well as practical next steps for future topical

research. All presentations will focus on the methodologies and challenges encountered by the speakers on their own research, and show concrete findings on the size and impact of the platform economy.

Deadline for applications: call is closed

More information

<http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/expert-workshops>

Expert workshop 'Methods and data infrastructure to measure the quality of life of various vulnerable groups: extending IPOLIS'

25-27 April 2018, TÁRKI, Budapest (Hungary)

This expert workshop treats the extension of IPOLIS. The aim is to examine the methods and data infrastructure in order to measure the quality of life of various vulnerable groups. The Integrated Poverty and Living Conditions Indicator System (IPOLIS) database was developed within the InGRID-1 project, with the aim to improve the infrastructure for analysing and monitoring the situation of most vulnerable groups. In the first stage of IPOLIS, quality of life indicators were defined and collected for three easy-to-reach groups (a) children (0-17 years), (b) youth (15-30 years), and (c) older people (+65 years).

In the second, forthcoming stage of the InGRID-2 project, an extension of IPOLIS towards other vulnerable groups is planned. Migrants and migrant background people, as well as people living with disabilities will be considered to be included as additional modules in IPOLIS, while further research to develop protocols for the Roma and people living in institutions will be carried out.

The aim of the expert workshop is to discuss the main conceptual and methodological issues related to the measurement of quality of life and to the underlying data infrastructure for four vulnerable groups in Europe: (a) disabled people, (b) institutionalised people, (c) the Roma, and (d) migrant people and people with migrant background.

Deadline for applications: call is closed

More information

<http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/expert-workshops>

Summer school 'Advanced measurement of quality of working life'

4-8 June 2018, CEET, Paris (France)

This summer school on advanced measurement of quality of working life will be organised in different sessions covering theoretical and empirical aspects of the quality of working life (QWL) assessment to provide both a multidisciplinary perspective and a comprehensive understanding of the concept. It will put a special emphasis on methodological issues related to QWL measurement with an application, through a PC Lab dedicated to the analysis of the European Working Conditions Survey. A session dedicated to the results of several European projects addressing this topic will discuss other available data sources covering dimensions of QWL. Leading experts and scholars in this field will present the results from their research. The objective of the courses is to provide participants with a sufficient knowledge to apprehend the issue of QWL with the relevant methods and analytical tools.

The summer school aims at training doctoral students or early-career researchers. It is also open to academics, policy practitioners and other interested users, providing participants with opportunities to discuss their projects and to network with leading international experts and other colleagues in the field.

Deadline for applications: 15 April 2018

More information

<http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/summer-schools>

EUROMOD-HHoT summer school 'Using EUROMOD for model family simulations'

13-15 June 2018, CSB - University of Antwerp, Antwerp (Belgium)

The aim of the summer school is to provide academics, policy practitioners and other interested users with an introduction to the concepts, structure and functioning of HHoT and EUROMOD. EUROMOD is a state-of-the-art tax-benefit microsimulation model linking microdata from household surveys and policy legislation in a single user interface. HHoT or the Hypothetical Household Tool is a tool for the simulation of hypothetical families, based on EUROMOD. EUROMOD simulates the different components of a households disposable income for a given year and country. HHoT generates a data set that EUROMOD will apply for policy simulations, instead of using a regular microdata file.

The course will deal with the basics of tax-benefit microsimulation and model family simulation. It will cover the logic and structure behind EUROMOD, working with EUROMOD's user interface, input data, EUROMOD 'language' and using existing documentation. The use and functions of the HHoT are taught, additionally also basic EUROMOD functions form an important part of the course. By a variety of lectures, live demonstrations of the model and hands-on exercises, participants learn how to use the model and refine their understanding of the HHoT.

Deadline for applications: 15 April 2018

More information

🌐 <http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/summer-schools>

Expert workshop 'Rights of migrants'

12-13 July 2018, HIVA-KU Leuven, Leuven (Belgium)

This workshop aims to convene established scholars and practitioners with senior experts to discuss the state of rights of migrants in the EU. A specific data set will be developed prior to the workshop to compare the rights of different categories of migrants (intra- and non-EU migrant workers, working and non-working, asylum seekers, refugees, undocumented immigrants, ...) in the context of human rights, legal rights, social protection, right to work and social services. The expected contributions could cover the following research themes within the context of rights of migrants:

- national and EU legislation on migrants' rights;
- state of rights of migrants in the EU countries (comparative or case studies);
- good practices concerning fundamental rights;
- rights of specific vulnerable migrant groups: refugees, asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors, Roma, ...;
- effectiveness of rights: coverage, adequacy, take-up, conditionality, appeal, ...

Deadline for applications: 29 April 2018

More information

🌐 <http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/expert-workshops>

Summer school 'Advanced research on integration of migrants and refugees'

22-26 October 2018, DIW, Berlin (Germany)

The issue of how immigrants and refugees integrate in their host countries, especially in terms of their labour force participation, is a key issue in many European countries and at EU level. On the one hand immigration tops the list of challenges of greatest concerns to European Union citizens, but at the same time there are numerous economic and political reasons to allow and to facilitate immigration in aging European countries. The provision of humanitarian assistance to forced migrants (refugees) is a key issue in Europe, but the uneven distribution of asylum seekers across the EU countries is a challenge.

The summer school will be organised in different sessions covering various topics of relevance for immigration research. Theoretical and empirical issues related to the processes by which immigrants gain social membership and develop the ability to participate in the destination country will be discussed. Senior researchers will present their work in this field, whereas participants will be encouraged to present their own research and receive feedback

The curriculum will include quantitative assessment to provide both a multidisciplinary perspective and a comprehensive understanding of the concept of integration. It will furthermore put a special emphasis on methodological issues related to the measurement of concepts of integration within EU countries.

More information

🌐 <http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/summer-schools>

More information on InGRID-2 events:

<http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/events>

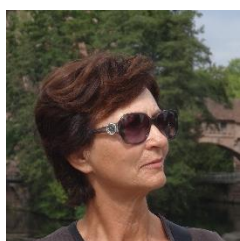
Members of the Advisory Board in the picture

The Advisory Board Members

Members of the Board are selected from the different stakeholder groups of the InGRID project (academics, policy experts and data providers). Kea Tijdens (University of Amsterdam), Nada Stropnik (Institute for Economic Research), Panos Tsakloglou (Athens University of Economics and Business), Maria Lado, Petru Sorin Dandea (European Economic and Social Committee), Maria Jepsen (European Trade Union Institute), Donald Storrie (Eurofound), Roxane Silberman (Paris School of Economics), Heinz-Herbert Noll (GESIS-Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences) and Nicoletta Panuzzi (Istituto Nazionale di Statistica) are thanked for their engagement towards the InGRID-2 project.

For this newsletter, Nada Stropnik, Kea Tijdens, Heinz-Herbert Noll and Nicoletta Panuzzi took the time to answer the questions of our interview to present their views on the InGRID-2 project and the role of the Advisory Board.

Who is who



N. Stropnik: I have been engaged in national and international research in poverty and income inequality related research for three decades. In that period, I was also active in shaping the Slovenian legislation in the fields of social policy and

social services. I was a member of the National Board for Fight against Poverty and Social Exclusion, president and member of the national Expert Council for Family, member of the national Expert Council for Strategic Analyses, etc. In 2010-2014, I was the Slovenian member of the EU Network of Independent Experts on Social Inclusion, and since 2014 I have been the Slovenian member of the European Social Policy Network (ESPN). Since 2005, I have volunteered as a member of the international Leave Policy and Research Network.



H. Noll: My major fields of expertise are social indicators and quality of life research as well as social inequality and social structure in a broader sense. My feeling is that my long standing research on social indicators and

social monitoring and reporting in Germany and Europe, which I did for a large part at the Gesis-Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, one of the largest infrastructure institutes in Europe, was crucial for being asked to join the Advisory Boards of InGRID-1 and now also InGRID-2.



K. Tijdens: I am a research co-ordinator at AIAS/University of Amsterdam. Since 2000, I have been the scientific co-ordinator of the worldwide WageIndicator, web survey on work and wages. For WageIndicator I was responsible for multilingual databases, such as

the databases of occupational titles and sectors of industry, and I designed databases for coding minimum wages and collective agreements worldwide. I have co-ordinated a number of international projects and currently I am a work package leader in the H2020 project SERISS. I was involved in the first InGRID project as a work package leader, but for age-related reasons I am not involved in InGRID-2.



N. Panuzzi: From 2000 to 2011, I was the head of units responsible for Poverty, Income and Consumption expenditures statistics and since November 2011, I am the head of the Households Economic Condition Division at the Italian

National Institute of Statistics. Currently, I also am a member of the Istat Scientific Committee on the Measurement of Well-Being (since 2011), a member of the Istat Interinstitutional Group on Poverty (since 2015), an Italian representative in the Eurostat Working Group on Living Condition and Social Protection Statistics (since 2013), in the UNECE Task Force on Poverty Measurement (since 2013) and in the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Working Group Roma Integration Indicators (since 2013).

The interview

Q: What are, to your opinion, the main tasks of an Advisory Board? Can you explain how the InGRID-2 Advisory Board works?

N. Stropnik: I see the main contributions of an Advisory Board in brainstorming on the project's research contents and methods, achievement of the project's objectives, and in an independent evaluation of applications for visiting grants. The project co-ordinator organises the Advisory Board's work efficiently and effectively, trying to distribute workload evenly across its members and gain timely feedback on issues where the Board members can add value to the project.

K. Tijdens: In my view, the InGRID-2 Advisory Board should oversee if the overall objectives of InGRID-2 are reached in the four years of the project, and whether the InGRID-2 activities result in a stronger research infrastructure at the end of the project.

H. Noll: From my experience with and involvement in many EU-funded projects of different sizes and sorts, I know that Advisory Boards, which are nowadays more or less obligatory for such projects, are given rather different roles. We actually find quite a large spectrum ranging from projects, which just fulfil minimum requirements, to projects trying to really make the most of the competences and experience gathered in the Board by involving it in various ways into the decision making processes during the lifetime of the project. In my opinion the main tasks of an Advisory Board include to give advice when it comes to strategic decisions, to monitor and assess major activities and outcomes, but also to represent expectations of different potential user or stakeholder groups (if there are not special Boards for these purposes), and not least to support the project in the scientific community or in policy making circles and bodies. In the context of the InGRID-2 project it is also an important task to oversee and help with the selection of visiting grant candidates.

N. Panuzzi: The main tasks of the Advisory Board consist of providing independent advice and feedback on the project role and infrastructure strategy, participating in the selection panel of the transnational access grants procedure and participating to series of networking events, focusing on the innovation and deepening of the infrastructure. In my opinion the main task and the

more important role of the Advisory Board is the preserving and strengthening of the links between different and numerous stakeholders involved, in order to extend access, organise mutual learning and discussions of innovations, and improve data services and facilities of comparative research. The Advisory Board meetings, of course, represent a fundamental occasion to share opinions, experiences and proposals, but also the continuous exchange of mails and, among other, the participation to different networking events allow us to understand and monitor the activity in order to be able to give an "external point of view" on some core aspects of the project as the scientific development and their consequences.

"It is also an important task to oversee and help with the selection of visiting grant candidates."

Q: What are your expectations for the second InGRID project?

N. Stropnik: The second InGRID project continues good practice of the first one in providing access to research infrastructure and support to (young) researchers, as well as in conducting in-depth research of challenging topics. This will result in a higher number of qualified researchers and valuable new knowledge for the scientific community that can also be transferred into practice.

K. Tijdens: I so much hope that InGRID-2 is able to contribute to harmonising country-level data collections, specifically the national Working Conditions Surveys, and to stimulate a truly European-wide and sound research infrastructure in the field of inclusive growth. InGRID-1 has provided a floor for a building that could be erected in InGRID-2. This is urgently needed in the light of European policies.

H. Noll: In my opinion, the first InGRID project did a very good job already, but my expectations for InGRID-2 are even going beyond the previous achievements. The whole team - researchers as well as the managing team - appears to be well-rehearsed and able to start working without any preparatory period right from the beginning. So, I am expecting a very productive second project period resulting in many quality outcomes from

'I am looking forward to InGRID-3.'

the different work packages and important contributions to integrate and improve research infrastructures in the social sciences across Europe.

N. Panuzzi: I think the InGRID-2 project will provide new evidence for European policy innovations and sustainable inclusive growth. Taking into account users' needs, the joint research activities will be very focused on the interest areas and even very concentrated on extending data integrations, exploring new data linkage and sources, innovating microsimulation tools, improving comparative policy data, and investigating new high-quality indicators.

Q: What do you like the most about this project and its research infrastructure?

N. Stropnik: I admire the kind willingness of experienced and overburdened researchers to invest their time and knowledge into the raising of young researchers' ability to continue their scientific mission.

K. Tijdens: Most of all, I like the European co-operation, and I like the societal urgency of the topic.

H. Noll: InGRID-2 is a very lively European project, in which some of the top European research infrastructures are collaborating with a view to integrate and enhance their infrastructures and services for the scientific community in fields, which are key for European policy making. This policy-oriented combination of infrastructures, services and research is unique in my perception and something I like and appreciate very much.

N. Panuzzi: The aspect I like the most is the idea that 'things' exist because of collaboration. The project is trying to build and enlarge a real scientific community, by sharing data, instruments, experiences, in other words, by creating synergies to really provide evidence-based contribution to the European policy challenge of inclusive growth. The focus of InGRID-2

on 'only' two pillars instead of four will strengthen this aspect by improving the interdisciplinary work through the natural presence of several partners in both pillars. Also the idea of doing something more structural will be very important for bringing together a broad network. In particular the e-portal will be a very useful instrument, representing a space where users can find information on data, analytical tools, indicators and statistics in the fields of interest.

'The focus of InGRID-2 on "only" two pillars instead of four will strengthen the multidisciplinary collaboration within the project.'

Q: Is there something you would like to add at the end of this interview?

N. Stropnik: I am looking forward to InGRID-3.

K. Tijdens: I wish all InGRID teams good luck and courage in their research work for the project, and of course also some fun.

H. Noll: I am grateful for the opportunity to accompany InGRID-2 for the coming 3.5 years and express my very best wishes to the whole team. Good luck for another successful project period!

N. Panuzzi: I am really honoured and happy for being part of the project because I think this is the way to take the best from the international research activity. I am one of the new members and I am studying all the incredible work already done and to be done, in order to be able to enjoy and contribute to the best of my ability to this very interesting project.

'InGRID-1 has provided a floor for a building that could be erected in InGRID-2.'

More information on InGRID-2 Advisory Board:

<http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/advisory-board>

Partners in the picture

In each newsletter, we present some of our partner institutes and their main research infrastructure(s). This time, InGRID partner AISSR/AIAS (University of Amsterdam) provides us with answers to our interview questions.



Q: Can you tell us a little more about the InGRID team at AISSR/AIAS? What is your key expertise?

S. Steinmetz & J. Besamusca: In InGRID-2, two institutes of the University of Amsterdam (UvA) are involved: the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR) and the Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies (AIAS-HIS).

AISSR which unites all research in the social sciences at the UvA. The main topics of interest are related to inequalities in (post-) industrialised societies and how stratifying variables (such as social origin, education, gender and ethnicity) as well as institutions and structures mediate the outcomes in the following three pillars: 'Socio-economic attainment' (concerning outcomes in the domains of education, work, and income), 'Political behaviour and opinions' and 'Living arrangements'.

AIAS-HIS is an interdisciplinary research institute focusing on the analysis of industrial relations, organisation of work, working conditions, wage setting, labour market inequalities, institutions and the welfare state. It combines various approaches from sociology, law, economics, medical sciences and political sciences. AIAS maintains a large portfolio of internationally funded research projects and international databases and data collections (e.g. the WageIndicator, ICTWSS and the WISCO database).

Within InGRID-2, the AISSR/AIAS team consist of Stephanie Steinmetz (team leader) and Janna Besamusca who both have a broad expertise in the areas of quality of work and employment, labour market related

educational and gender inequalities, industrial relations, collective bargaining, minimum wages, and wage setting processes in a global perspective. The team is complemented by Jaap Houtzagers who is co-ordinating the TNA for the whole InGRID-2 project.

Q: Is there any work or achievement of InGRID-1 of which your team is particularly proud? Will you continue working on this?

S. Steinmetz & J. Besamusca: InGRID-1 has started a long needed co-operation between researchers and research infrastructures in European countries in the area of poverty and working conditions. The inventories of national surveys on working conditions, the papers about the measurement of occupations and vacancies, the review of linked employer-employee data, the IPOLIS database and many other outputs of InGRID-1 give ground for high expectations for InGRID-2.

Q: What are your expectations for the InGRID-2 project? What do you like the most about this project?

S. Steinmetz & J. Besamusca: Our main tasks focus on the compilation, improvement and harmonisation of a variety of international and European data sets in the area of industrial relations (wage setting, collective bargaining coverage, trade union density) and wages and working conditions. In particular the work with a wide range of European microdata sets will allow us to improve the identification of vulnerable groups and to develop multidimensional indicators of vulnerability in the labour market. As such, we will be exploring many well-known and lesser-known data sets and reach out to a range of country experts in the upcoming three years.

The best thing about InGRID-2 is that we have so many opportunities to collaborate with the other InGRID-2 teams and the visiting researchers in order to achieve the most elaborated and solid results. At AISSR/AIAS, we will be collaborating with the CNAM team on collective bargaining agreements, consulting Eurofound, the OECD and ILO on industrial relations, as well as working with CELSI, UNIPI and CED on the

position of vulnerable groups in the labour market and the development of multi-dimensional indicators. InGRID-2 is uniquely suited to share knowledge and we hope to profit from the expertise of a flourishing research community.

Q: Is there something you would like to add at the end of this interview?

S. Steinmetz & J. Besamusca: We are very much looking forward to the upcoming years of collaboration.

InGRID-2 is a very important project to foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise across different social sciences disciplines and data infrastructures. We are in particular looking forward to foster a stronger cross-pillar co-operation.

For any further questions

Stephanie Steinmetz - S.M.Steinmetz@uva.nl
Janna Besamusca - J.Besamusca@uva.nl

Community news

New European Statistics User Forum by ESS

In March 2017, in the 'ESS Questionnaire on the use of social networks by advanced statistics users', participants were asked about their use of social networks for professional purposes and their interest in participating in online peer-to-peer discussions on statistical topics. Most of them expressed an interest in such a network and a preference for a new, custom-made forum to host such discussions.

Today, ESS invites all interested parties to join the conversations on the 'European Statistics User Forum' - <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/ess/forum> - a platform created to facilitate engaging with other statistics users and producers, exchange experiences and discuss issues or recent developments.

Get more information on the Forum, read through the frequently asked questions to get started, or contact the ESS Social Media Team at ESTAT-ESS-SOCIAL@ec.europa.eu

New Eurofound paper: 'Combining data from different surveys in analysis: compatibility of the 2013 European Company Survey and the 2015 European Working Conditions Survey'

The paper explores the extent to which data collected in the 2013 European Company Survey (3rd ECS) and the 2015 European Working Conditions Survey (6th EWCS) can be combined in analysis. It proposes an approach in which statistical matches are made on an

aggregate level, rather than an individual level, and discusses the implications in terms of the requirements for data manipulation. It explores the potential of explanations based on contextual characteristics by decomposing the variance of a number of key variables in the ECS and in the EWCS, and it includes an example of combined analysis in which aggregate level results from the ECS are included in a multilevel analysis of the EWCS microdata, to show the analytical possibility as well as to highlight its short-comings and the questions it raises going forward.

The paper concludes that while combined analysis has the potential to generate meaningful insights, some further methodological research is needed to explore the robustness of such analysis. The paper is intended to stimulate discussion on the issue of combined analysis in general, and the potential for using the ECS and the EWCS for this purpose in particular.

Download publication [here](#)

New EUROMOD working papers

Improving income protection for the elderly poor in Ecuador

A series of social benefits targeting vulnerable groups, such as the elderly population, has been implemented in Ecuador over the last few decades. Elderly adults living in vulnerable conditions and not affiliated with social security are entitled to non-contributory pension assistance under the Human Development Transfer programme. However, over one quarter of old-age beneficiaries still live in poverty and the recent fall in oil prices has put increasing pressure on government expenditures to deliver such schemes.

This paper aims to assess the current needs of old-age adults based on expenditure data, and makes use of microsimulation techniques to evaluate the effect of covering those needs through an increase in pension assistance. Our results show that increasing pension assistance to match the level of the poverty line in Ecuador would reduce elderly poverty by 40% and would take 18% of old-age beneficiaries out of poverty. We analyse the effect of additional hypothetical reforms and discuss the importance of using microsimulation techniques, in particular to assess the effect of budget neutral reforms in a macroeconomic environment with low oil prices.

Effects of tax-benefit policy changes across the income distributions of the EU-28 countries: 2016-2017

This report provides a comparative analysis of the distributional effects on household incomes of tax-benefit policy changes between 2016 and 2017 for each EU Member State.

The report follows the publication of similar analyses covering policy changes between 2013 and 2014, 2014 and 2015, and 2015 and 2016.

As per previous years, the report shows the policy effects (first-order) measured in real terms by policy type for each income decile group. Policy effects are described and accounted for on a country-by-country

basis - with a short commentary explaining the effects of reforms and the extent of indexation, relative to inflation.

Redistribution in a joint income-wealth perspective: a cross-country comparison

Redistribution is usually understood in terms of income; as a way to rank individuals as well as to determine taxable capacity or benefit eligibility. Yet, it is increasingly argued that more prominence should be given to the joint distribution of income and wealth and interest into the taxation of wealth for redistributive purposes has largely increased. By including the HFCS data into the microsimulation model EUROMOD we add two novel aspects to the literature. First, we include the analysis of taxes on wealth and wealth transfers. Second, we evaluate redistributive effects of tax-benefit systems against the joint income-wealth distribution instead of income only. We show that expressing living standards in terms of both income and wealth results in considerable reranking of individuals, which in turn leads to a lower redistributive impact of tax-benefit systems than is traditionally considered.

All EUROMOD working papers can be downloaded [here](#)

Visiting grants

More information: <http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/visiting-grants>

Experiences of visitors: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/IB2p3oHGtxE?controls=2&>

Outcomes following from visits: <http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/output-from-visits>

In February 2018, the third call for transnational access was made available on the InGRID website. In this call, visiting grants are offered for 11 of the InGRID research infrastructures: IECM (Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics, Barcelona), POLC (TÁRKI, Budapest), SOFI (University of Stockholm), CSB (University of Antwerp), HIVA (Catholic University of Leuven), CNAM (CEET, Paris), CELSI (Bratislava), UNIPI (University of Pisa), LIS (Luxembourg), S3RI (SOTON, University of Southampton), CMIST (University of Manchester). These free-of-charge visits can contain between 5 and 15 working days and visitors receive a partial reimbursement of travel costs and a subsistence allowance.

Each of the host institutes has expertise in and access to leading European (comparative) data sets or expertise in working with specialised statistical techniques for social sciences research. During a visit users get the opportunity to work together with experts from the host institution on their own project, receive access to, and support and guidance in the use of the data, advice on methodological questions and on the progress of their project. Candidates can apply for a visiting grant through the online application form.

Deadline for applications: 8 April 2018

More information <http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/visiting-grants/third-call-for-ingrid-2-visiting-grants-3-1>

Calendar 2018

April 2018

- 9-10 April: Expert workshop 'Measuring the platform economy: size and impact' @ CEPS, Brussels (Belgium)
- 25-27 April: Expert workshop 'Methods and data infrastructure to measure the quality of life of various vulnerable groups: extending IPOLIS' @ TARKI, Budapest (Hungary)

May 2018

- 31 May to 1 June: General Assembly meeting, Executive Committee meeting & Advisory Board meeting @ HIVA-KU Leuven, Leuven (Belgium)

June 2018

- Results of the third call for visiting grants
- Launch of the fourth call for applications for visiting grants
- 4-8 June: Summer school 'Advanced measurement of quality of working life' @ CEET, Paris (France)
- 13-15 June: EUROMOD-HHoT summer school 'Using EUROMOD for model family simulations' @ University of Antwerp, Antwerp (Belgium)

July 2018

- 12-13 July: Expert workshop 'Rights of migrants' @ HIVA-KU Leuven, Leuven (Belgium)

September 2018

- Launch of the InGRID e-portal
- InGRID newsletter issue 3

October 2018

- 22-26 October 2018: Summer school 'Advanced research on integration of migrants and refugees' @ DIW, Berlin (Germany)

Co-ordinator
Guy Van Gyes



Partners

TÁRKI Social Research Institute Inc. (HU)
 Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies – AIAS, University of Amsterdam (NL)
 Swedish Institute for Social Research - SOFI, Stockholm University (SE)
 Economic and Social Statistics Department, Trier University (DE)
 Centre for Demographic Studies – CED, University Autònoma of Barcelona (ES)
 Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research – LISER (LU)
 Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy – CSB, University of Antwerp (BE)
 Institute for Social and Economic Research - ISER, University of Essex (UK)
 German Institute for Economic Research – DIW (DE)
 Centre for Employment and Work Studies – CEET, National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts (FR)
 Centre for European Policy Studies – CEPS (BE)
 Department of Economics and Management, University of Pisa (IT)
 Department of Social Statistics and Demography – SOTON, University of Southampton (UK)
 Luxembourg Income Study – LIS, asbl (LU)
 School of Social Sciences, University of Manchester (UK)
 Central European Labour Studies Institute – CELSI (SK)
 Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences (GR)
 Central Institute for Labour Protection – CIOP, National Research Institute (PL)

InGRID-2

Integrating Research Infrastructure for European expertise on Inclusive Growth from data to policy Contract N° 730998

For further information about the InGRID-2 project, please contact
inclusive.growth@kuleuven.be
www.inclusivegrowth.eu
 p/a HIVA – Research Institute for Work and Society
 Parkstraat 47 box 5300
 3000 Leuven
 Belgium