



Workshop on Measuring Inequalities of Income and Wealth

Bertelsmann, Unter den Linden 1, 10117 Berlin, Germany
15-16 September 2015

Hosted by Bertelsmann Stiftung

AGENDA

This one and a half day workshop on Measuring Inequalities of Income and Wealth is organised in collaboration with Bertelsmann Stiftung, the OECD and the High Level Expert Group on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress.

Measuring the distribution of income and wealth accurately is fraught with challenges. The information on income distribution, for example, is usually based on household surveys. In addition to the problems of comparability across countries and over time, and the fact that many surveys have data on consumption but not on income (or vice versa), household surveys feature a gross underestimation of income from capital and large discrepancies with national account aggregates in key variables (such as total consumption or the total wage bill). In the case of wealth, the paucity of data is an additional challenge. Recognising the limitations of both household surveys and administrative data (such as tax-record data), this workshop has two main objectives: establish data pre-requisites and identify appropriate methodological frameworks to measure the distribution of income and wealth as accurately and consistently as possible.

In particular, the workshop will focus on the following four topics:

- How best to integrate household survey data with administrative registers (such as tax registers) to measure income distribution
- Methods to measure top incomes in advanced and developing countries
- Alternative approaches to the measurement of wealth distribution
- Steps towards the creation of Distributional National Accounts (DINA) (i.e. a decomposition of key National Accounts Aggregates in particular household income by percentiles of the population).

The preparation of this agenda has been led by Nora Lustig and Facundo Alvaredo, and has been informed by discussions with Anthony Atkinson, François Bourguignon, Martine Durand, Thomas Piketty and Joseph E. Stiglitz.

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| Tuesday 15 September, Bertelsmann, Unter den Linden 1, 10117 Berlin | |
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| 9:00 – 9:45 | <p>Welcome and setting the scene</p> <p>Aart De Geus, Chairman and CEO, Bertelsmann Stiftung</p> <p>Martine Durand, HLEG Co-Chair</p> <p>Joseph E. Stiglitz, HLEG Co-Chair</p> <p>Nora Lustig, Tulane University, HLEG</p> |
| 9:45-12:15 | <p>Session I – Alternative Approaches to the Measurement of Wealth Distribution</p> <p>Chair: Nora Lustig, Tulane University</p> <p>Facundo Alvaredo, Paris School of Economics, “Top wealth shares in the UK since 1895” (see presentation)</p> <p>Marco Mira D’Ercole, OECD, “OECD Guidelines for Micro Statistics on Household Wealth” (see presentation, see guidelines)</p> <p>Philip Vermeulen, ECB, “How fat is the top tail of the wealth distribution?” (see presentation)</p> <p>James B. Davies, University of Western Ontario, “Credit Suisse Wealth Report” (see presentation)</p> |
| 12:15-12:30 | Coffee break |
| 12:30-13:30 | <p>Session II – Measuring Top Incomes in Advanced and Developing Countries</p> <p>Chair: Facundo Alvaredo, Paris School of Economics</p> <p>Charlotte Bartels, German Institute for Economic Research (DIW/SOEP), “The role of capital income for top income shares in Germany” (see presentation)</p> <p>Tim Smeeding, University of Wisconsin, “Inequality in 3-D: Income, Consumption and Wealth” (see presentation)</p> |
| 13:30-14:15 | Lunch hosted by Bertelsmann Stiftung |
| 14:15-15:45 | <p>Session II (continued) – Measuring Top Incomes in Advanced and Developing Countries</p> <p>Chair: Facundo Alvaredo, Paris School of Economics</p> <p>Alfredo Bustos, INEGI, “Estimation of the distribution of income from survey data, adjusting for compatibility with other sources” (see presentation)</p> <p>Andrea Vigorito, Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay, “Top incomes in Uruguay: recent evolution and mobility patterns” (see presentation)</p> <p>Ingrid Woolard, University of Capetown</p> |
| 15:45-16:00 | Coffee break |

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| Tuesday 15 September (continued), Bertelsmann, Unter den Linden 1, 10117 Berlin | |
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| 15:30-17:00 | <p>Session III – Integrating Household Surveys and Administrative Data Chair: Francois Bourguignon, Paris School of Economics</p> <p>Markus Jantti, LIS, “The use of survey and administrative data in for distributional analysis – experiences from European data collection” (see presentation)</p> <p>Veli-Matti Törmälehto, StatFinland, “Combined use of survey and administrative data in EU-SILC (EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions)” (see presentation)</p> <p>Don Rubin, Harvard University</p> |
| 19:30 | Dinner hosted by Bertelsmann Stiftung with short presentations of “Sustainable Development Goals: Are the rich countries ready?” (Christian Kroll) |

| Wednesday 16 September, Bertelsmann, Unter den Linden 1, 10117 Berlin | |
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| 9:15 – 9:30 | Welcome coffee |
| 9:30 – 12:30 | <p>Towards a System of Distributional National Accounts (DINA) <i>The overall objective is to be able to produce Distributional National Accounts, that is, to provide annual estimates of the distribution of income and wealth using concepts of income and wealth that are consistent with the macroeconomic national accounts. The DINA should ultimately incorporate measures of the distribution of income before and after taxes and transfers, including not only direct taxes but also indirect ones, and including a valuation of transfers in-kind.</i></p> <p>Chair: Martine Durand, OECD</p> <p>Facundo Alvaredo, Paris School of Economics, “DINA project in the World Wealth and Income Database” (see presentation)</p> <p>Francois Bourguignon, Paris School of Economics, “Reconciling Survey Data with National Accounts” (see presentation)</p> <p>Nora Lustig, Tulane University, “Challenges in Reconciling Survey-based Fiscal Incidence Analysis with National Accounts” (see presentation)</p> <p>David Johnson, Bureau of Economic Analysis, “A Consistent Data Series to Evaluate Growth and Inequality in the National Accounts” (see presentation, see paper abstract)</p> <p>Eric Marlier, Luxembourg Institute for Socio-Economic Research (LISER) “Monitoring the evolution of income poverty and real incomes over time” (see presentation, see paper)</p> <p>Peter Van de Ven, OECD, “Bridging the Gaps between Micro Surveys and National Accounts: Bringing Two Worlds Together” (see presentation)</p> |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch hosted by Bertelsmann Stiftung |

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Wednesday 16 September (continued), Bertelsmann, Unter den Linden 1, 10117 Berlin

14:00 – 16:00

[“Inclusive Growth and the Social Market Economy – Do We Need a New Promise of Prosperity?”](#), public discussion event organised by Bertelsmann Stiftung

Aart De Geus, Chairman, Executive Board, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Gütersloh

Martine Durand, Chief Statistician and Director of OECD Statistics Directorate, HLEG Co-Chair

Joseph E. Stiglitz, Nobel Memorial Prizewinner in Economic Sciences (2001), Columbia University, HLEG Co-Chair

Christoph Schmidt, President, Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (RWI), Essen; Chairman of the German Council of Economic Experts; Member of the Scientific Advisory Board for the “Living Well – What’s Important to Us” government strategy

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