



LUXEMBOURG INSTITUTE OF  
SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH



ANNUAL REPORT 2018



In addition to the general roles of public research centres in Luxembourg and in accordance with Article 37 of the Law of 3 December 2014, LISER has the specific role of *“carrying out fundamental and applied research in social sciences with the aim of furthering understanding and clarifying the effects of public policymaker and socio-economic actor initiatives nationally and internationally, with regard to both the social and business fabrics of society, as well as spatial development, and informing society”*.

This role forms part of the special context of Luxembourg which, through its history and as a founding member of the European Union (EU), is a country with deeply held values of balanced economic growth and economic and social cohesion.

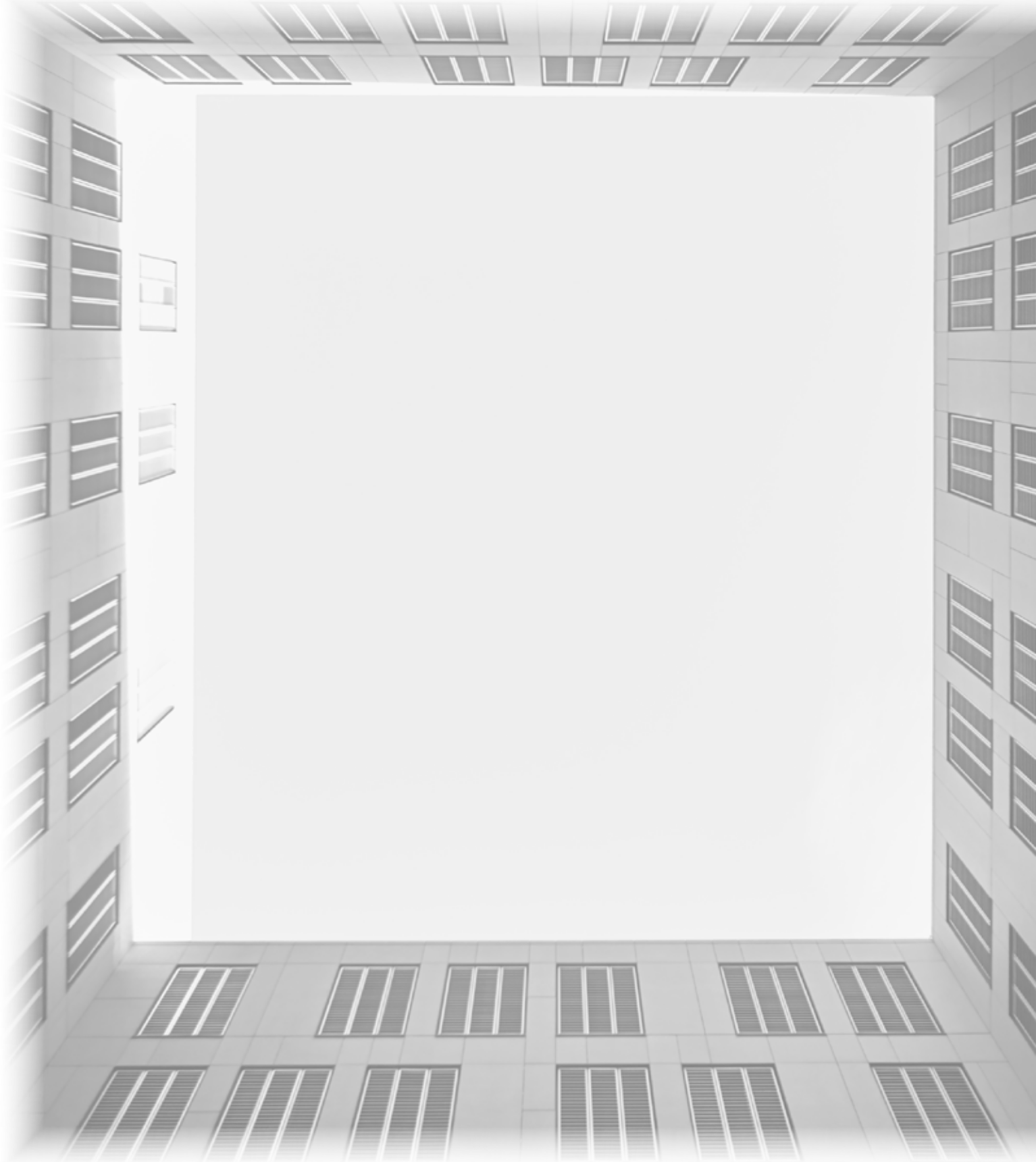


LISER aims to be an internationally renowned socio-economic research institute specialising in the analysis of societal change. Through its multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary research, it makes a proactive and targeted contribution to the sustainable and inclusive development of society, both nationally and internationally.

Luxembourg and the Greater Region provide an ideal research lab for social and economic sciences due to the varied nationalities, institutions, and policies found there, as well as the multiculturalism and multilingualism of its populace, and Luxembourg's economic appeal at the heart of Europe. These unique features provide LISER with fields of research that enable it to contribute new solutions to social and economic challenges, to formulate new research questions of outstanding quality, and to provide innovative recommendations to public authorities and all other stakeholders, helping build a “knowledge society” of the future that places great value on cohesion and inclusion.

**There are no borders in the challenges facing society, between neither institutions nor disciplines.** They demand to be apprehended as part of a holistic approach, so as to take their full dimensions and interdependence into account. In responding to this complex field of study, the institute's unique strength is both its interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach. At LISER, different perspectives transcend disciplines and institutions, delivering comprehensive solutions and avoiding scientific fragmentation.

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# A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

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**A retrospective over the past four years of the LISER Administrative Board, which has been in place since 1 January 2015**

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## **What exactly is the Administrative Board's role?**

The Administrative Board is appointed for a five-year period, so it has one year left until its term ends on 31 December 2019. Its general role and purpose is defined by the Luxembourgish law of 3 December 2014 governing the organisation of public research centres (Memo A-N 260 of 29 December 2014). Its general role is to both approve general policy and strategic directions, as well as to monitor the centre's activity.

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## **Why was the first year of its term so busy?**

Firstly, the beginning of the Administrative Board's term on 1 January 2015 coincided with implementation of the new law of 3 December 2014 governing the structure of public research centres. CEPS/INSTEAD became the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER). This change of name was accompanied by fundamental institutional changes, including the new structure of the Administrative Board. It marked a transition from an Administrative Board dominated by ministerial representatives, to one made up entirely of figures from civil society. In addition to this, the law required equal representation for men and women with the proportion of members from each gender making up at least 40% of the board.

Then, at the end of 2015, the first year of the board's term was disrupted by the Director General announcing his departure. The Administrative Board opted for temporary multiple management by internal LISER representatives, which oversaw everyday business until a new Director General was recruited in September 2016.

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### **How has the new Director General used the Administrative Board?**

The new Director General, Aline Muller, put forward a reorientation of strategic directives accompanied by restructuring to give greater weight to the multidisciplinary approach and research tools. As part of this, three new departmental directors were recruited at the Director General's suggestion. In summer 2017, these structural changes and changes to research policy were incorporated into the multi-year plan, which LISER used as the basis for negotiating its multi-year agreement with the Ministry of Higher Education and Research. The multi-year plan for 2018-2021 was signed in January 2018.

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### **In the other direction, what role did the Administrative Board assign to the Director General?**

In parallel to these changes, the Administrative Board gave the Director General a mandate of leading – together with the Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH) and the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST) – negotiations with trade unions, to firstly agree on a Collective Labour Agreement for the public research sector, and then to sign an organisational-level agreement for LISER. In late 2018, a framework agreement containing the negotiation schedule for income and human resources policies, including researcher careers, was signed with OGB-L. The organisational-level agreement is due to be finalised in summer 2019. In partnership with the Director General, the Administrative Board also established LISER's internal regulations, which applies some of the provisions of the law of 2014. These internal regulations were submitted for ministerial approval in Spring 2019.

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### **What role does the Administrative Board play in the professional development of experienced researchers?**

One final, important, point: since the new law came into force, the Administrative Board has granted sabbaticals to six researchers who spent 6–12 months in a foreign research institute. This immersion in American, Canadian, British, and Belgian universities should enable our researchers to develop new research questions, and help LISER further its integration into international networks.

# A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



**Our work and our projects form the  
tangible expression of our research  
impact, which examines the society of  
today to shape the world of tomorrow**

In 2016, the Administrative Board set me some bold and expansive strategic directives. To implement them, LISER was transformed, restructured, and consolidated. LISER's restructuring, based on a combined approach designed to build a comprehensive integrated architecture, has today given us a robust research force that has secured the resources it needs to fulfil its ambitions (see new organisational chart on page 68). The new and ongoing recruitments are testament to this strategy's strength.

These profound transformations were carried out thanks to the internal assets of our institute, and the remarkable cooperation with the Administrative Board who provided guidance with goodwill and determination.

Driven by the Administrative Board's directives, we are currently negotiating our institute's first Collective Labour Agreement.

It will be rooted in a true human resources policy that we will base on the development and promotion of our individual and collective skills, which form the fount of our expertise and competitive edge. Training, the institutional

skills development plan, annual reviews, follow-ups, and career mapping form its foundations. Through these measures, we will build our institute's future under the aegis of our Administrative Board, in collaboration with our staff representatives and a union commission, enabling our employees to play an active role in determining how "their" human resources policy will work.

In this 2018 report, we have decided to focus on the men and women who make up our institute. Over the course of these pages, we will show you the fruits of our efforts and our passion – which makes us who we are – weaving links with our partners and establishing a unique reach within the scientific community. Our work and our projects form the tangible expression of our research impact, which examines the society of today to shape the world of tomorrow.





# SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

In 2018, LISER produced a total of 167 publications, including 78 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Amongst them, the article entitled “*Equity impacts of price policies to promote healthy behaviours*”, co-authored by Marc Suhrcke and published in the prestigious medical journal *The Lancet* and the article co-authored by Joël Machado, “*Globalizing labor and the world economy: the role of human capital*”, published in the renowned *Journal of Economic Growth*. Our researchers’ scientific excellence was also recognised in 2018 in the form of a number of awards and other appointments, just some of which are listed below:

## Catalina LOMOS

Catalina Lomos received **two awards for her MathemaTIC project** for its unique approach to formative assessments and its implementation in primary schools in Luxembourg:

- / The first prize was for the best use of formative assessment, presented at the e-Assessment awards ceremony in London.
- / The second prize was the Gold Award from the Brandon Hall Excellence in Learning Group in the Best Advance in Custom Content category for its implementation and its progress towards improving results and reducing the equity gap in the Luxembourg education system.

## Christophe SOHN

Christophe Sohn was appointed the new **co-editor-in-chief** of the **Journal of Borderlands Studies** with Sergio Peña of COLEF (El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Mexico). They both succeed Professor Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly of the University of Victoria (Canada). The appointment of a LISER researcher highlights the importance of Luxembourg and the Greater Region as a unique laboratory developing cross-border cooperation and European integration.

## Third Network for the Analysis of EU-SILC

On 18–20 April 2018, thanks to the warm welcome of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), LISER organised the “Third Network for the Analysis of EU-SILC” (Net-SILC3). This event brought together experts from nine European Statistical System (ESS) bodies and eight academic bodies, with participants from 29 countries overall.

## Eva SIERMINSKA

**The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation awarded a two-year grant** to Eva Sierminska, a LISER researcher, so that she could continue her research on diversity in economics. The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation supports original projects with significant results for research and education in science, technology, engineering, maths, and economics. Eva’s research forms a continuation of her earlier work on differences between male and female specialisms in economics, a project she began while on sabbatical at the University of Arizona two years ago, funded by a start-up grant from the National Research Fund (FNY, INTER Mobility grant) and LISER. Along with her primary co-researcher, Prof. Ronald Oaxaca, she will model the decision-making process for a more detailed look at certain fields of economics with a view to analysing differences between genders.

The results of the project should inform us how we can encourage diversity in economics in particular, and more generally in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

In addition to papers in journals, the project will generate two robust databases and a website, and consolidate cooperation between LISER and the University of Arizona. The long-term ambition is to expand the project worldwide.

## Justin DELLOYE

Justin Delloye received an **award for excellence** from the **Regional Science Association International (RSAI)** for his thesis entitled “Urban Morphodynamics: Reconciling Location Theory and Complex Systems”.

# BEHAVIOURAL & EXPERIMENTAL ECONOMICS AT LISER

In 2015, LISER shifted its focus to behavioural and experimental economics. It created **LISER-LAB**, a cutting-edge lab based on a network of 32 computers and a sample of around 1000 university students for participation in economic experiments.

This new focus was primarily intended to train a new group of behavioural and experimental economics experts within LISER, so that the institute's applied research could draw on more realistic models of human behaviour, thereby producing better socio-economic recommendations. In 2018, the institute significantly bolstered its efforts when a group of **four behavioural economists** formed around LISER-LAB: Francesco Fallucchi, Georgia Michailidou, Daniele Nosenzo and Ernesto Reuben.

Their research interests cover everything from morality and social norms and how they interact with the intuitive and cultural environment in which they operate, to the behavioural biases that affect participation and achievement in the labour market. The group has published a prolific number of papers in leading academic journals (in particular the *American Journal of Political Science*, *Econometrica*, *Economic Journal*, *European Economic Review*, *Experimental Economics*, *Games and Economic Behavior*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Management Science* and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*).

A new behavioural and experimental economics research centre is the next step in this initiative. Remaining true to LISER's objectives, the research centre will occupy an **intellectual space where the academic world meets non-academic practitioners**. The aim is to generate academic research that is of interest not only to researchers, but also to national and international policymakers. To achieve this aim, the centre's strategy will focus on establishing lasting partnerships with public and private sector stakeholders which will enable researchers **to produce joint research with non-academic partners, and keep producing research with high scientific added-value**.

Another major aim of the centre is to harness LISER's strengths in terms of data infrastructure, to generate innovative, high-quality academic research, **combining experimental methods and other data generation processes** which researchers are not generally able to access elsewhere. By the end of 2019, the centre will have developed an **online experimentation platform** with members of the general public, incorporating them into **the LISER surveys**.

# A COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH WITH A SOCIAL IMPACT

One of LISER's strategic priorities is to improve how the social impact of LISER's research is measured and to identify the most promising vectors to increase this impact. In 2018, the institute made a decisive move in this direction. To do so, and with assistance from external experts, LISER carried out detailed analysis and proactive management of its impact on society. As well as establishing frameworks and creating technical tools, experts explored LISER's social impact through its various vectors: Below, we will summarise a few conclusions drawn from the findings of one of the projects we looked at: the ESPN (European Social Policy Network) project.

Funded by the European Commission, the European



**The ESPN is a unique example of a network that straddles two “worlds”: that of scientific analysis, and that of actors who influence social policy**

Social Policy Network (ESPN) was set up by LISER and its two partners (Applica and the European Social Observatory) in 2014 following an international tendering process. From 2014 to 2018, LISER acted as the general activity coordinator for the network, which covers no fewer than 35 European countries. In September 2018, following a new international tendering process, LISER was reappointed to its role as general coordinator of the prestigious network which it manages with the same two partners. The transition from the old contract to the new was the ideal milestone to assess the societal impact of the ESPN over the first four years of its existence.

The primary goal of the ESPN is to provide independent analysis of social protection (pensions, healthcare and long-term care) and social inclusion policies in 35 European countries, including the 28 EU Member States. For this analysis, ESPN drew on the teams of independent national experts which it had established in

the 35 countries it covers. ESPN also manages the Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSOC), whose database contains information on social protection systems and their management in the 28 EU countries, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. The database also contains a section on social protection for the self-employed.

The social impact analysis carried out in partnership with South Research and HIVA focused on the work of ESPN's network of independent experts. This network of experts produces numerous deliverables every year:

- / Three themed national reports (or 105 reports every year) which are compiled into three European summaries (the most recent themes covered are inequality in access to healthcare, the challenges of long-term care, and poverty and child welfare);
- / 70 “Flash Reports” on major developments in countries covered by ESPN (two per country per year);
- / a detailed report on the social protection systems and social policies in each of the 35 countries;
- / an analysis of social challenges and recommended social policies to inform the Commission's deliberations as part of the European Semester process.

ESPN has considerable impact on society due to the fact that the European Commission uses both the analysis itself and the resulting ESPN recommendations. The ESPN's research projects have influenced discourse in Europe and on the European agenda as well as the content of strategic texts in the field of social policies. Its projects have also fed into two major European initiatives: one on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market (the EU's Council of Ministers Recommendation adopted in 2016) and the other designed to support all people working as self-employed or on non-standard contracts, who, due to their type of contract or status in the labour market, are left with insufficient protection from social protection systems (draft Recommendation submitted to the Council

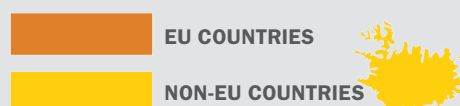
<sup>1</sup> For the 2014–2018 period, the seven non-EU countries covered by ESPN were: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Macedonia (FYROM), Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, and Turkey. As of 2018, these seven countries are candidate or potential candidate countries for accession to the EU: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey.

in 2018, and which should be adopted in 2019). The ESPN's work also provides input into the discussions of other international institutions, such as the International Labour Office (ILO) and the OECD.

The ESPN reflects LISER's determination to use its scientific expertise to benefit society, further strengthening its contribution to the creation of a knowledge-based society.

The ESPN is a unique example of a network that straddles two "worlds": that of scientific analysis, and that of actors who influence social policy.

## NETWORK ESPN

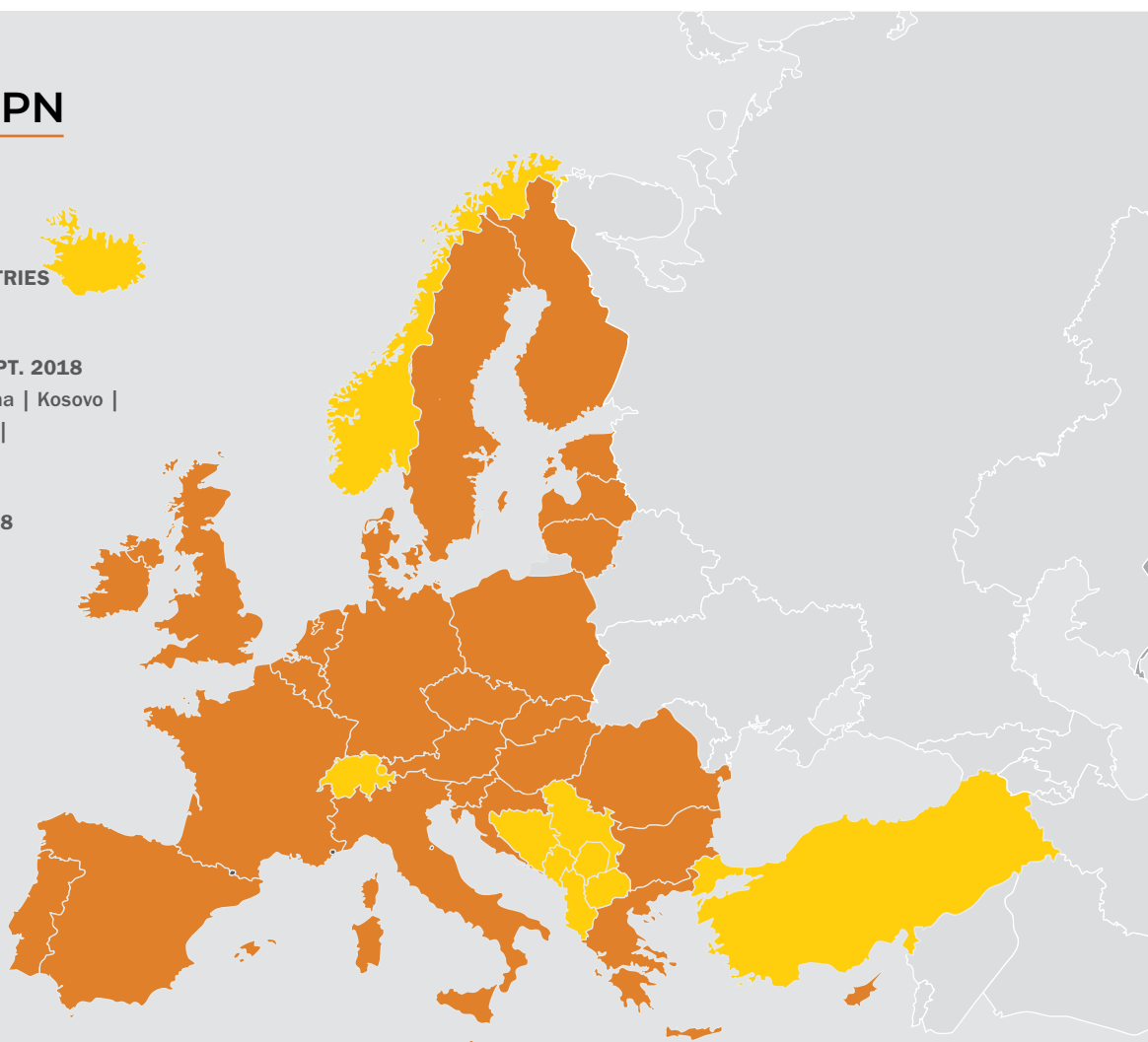


### NON-EU COUNTRIES FROM SEPT. 2018

Albania | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Kosovo |  
North Macedonia | Montenegro |  
Serbia | Turkey

### NON-EU COUNTRIES 2014-2018

Iceland | Liechtenstein | North  
Macedonia | Norway | Serbia |  
Switzerland | Turkey



# A PROACTIVE HUMAN RESOURCES

2018 was made notable by extremely valuable and constructive work on the reorganisation of the research institute, based on the strategic focuses set out by its administrative board. It was also a very busy year in terms of hiring, leading to the arrival of a new LISER management team and the strengthening of its research force. Today, the three departments are led by professors and scientists Eugenio Peluso (*Living Conditions*), Bertrand Verheyden (*Labour Market*) and Martin Dijst (*Urban Development and Mobility*). Furthermore, the interdisciplinary research programmes will continue to develop under the coordination of Marc Suhrcke (*Health and Health Systems*), Frédéric Docquier (*Crossing Borders*) and Daniele Catanzaro (*Digitalisation*). Special attention is now being given to behavioural sciences thanks to the creation of a centre of excellence led by Daniele Nosenzo. What's more, a number of excellent young doctoral and post-doctoral researchers have joined LISER's ranks to strengthen its existing teams and support its development. The Data Centre and support services teams have also seen a number of arrivals to effectively support the centre's departments and researchers.

The Administrative Board has adopted the human resources policy directives included in the new multi-year plan. A proactive HR policy is vital for LISER's short-, medium-, and long-term growth. LISER's new structure now includes the "Human Resources" department that reports directly to the Director General, and that is coordinated by Ulrike Kohl. It has a strategic mission to implement a career development policy based on individual and collective performance.

A whole series of HR initiatives were developed in 2018 as part of the Collective Labour Agreement negotiations with the OGB-L union representatives, based on proposals and recommendations from work-groups made up of employees. These work-groups produced the framework for the new annual reviews as well as grade allocations. Likewise, there was an intense and constructive conversation with employee representatives that covered different aspects of the new careers policy.

The Establishing Agreement was signed in November 2018, and sets out a roadmap to finalise the future Collective Labour Agreement in 2019. In addition, negotiations on the 2018–2020 Collective Labour Agreement for Public Research Centre Employees were successfully completed, and the agreement was signed in January 2019.

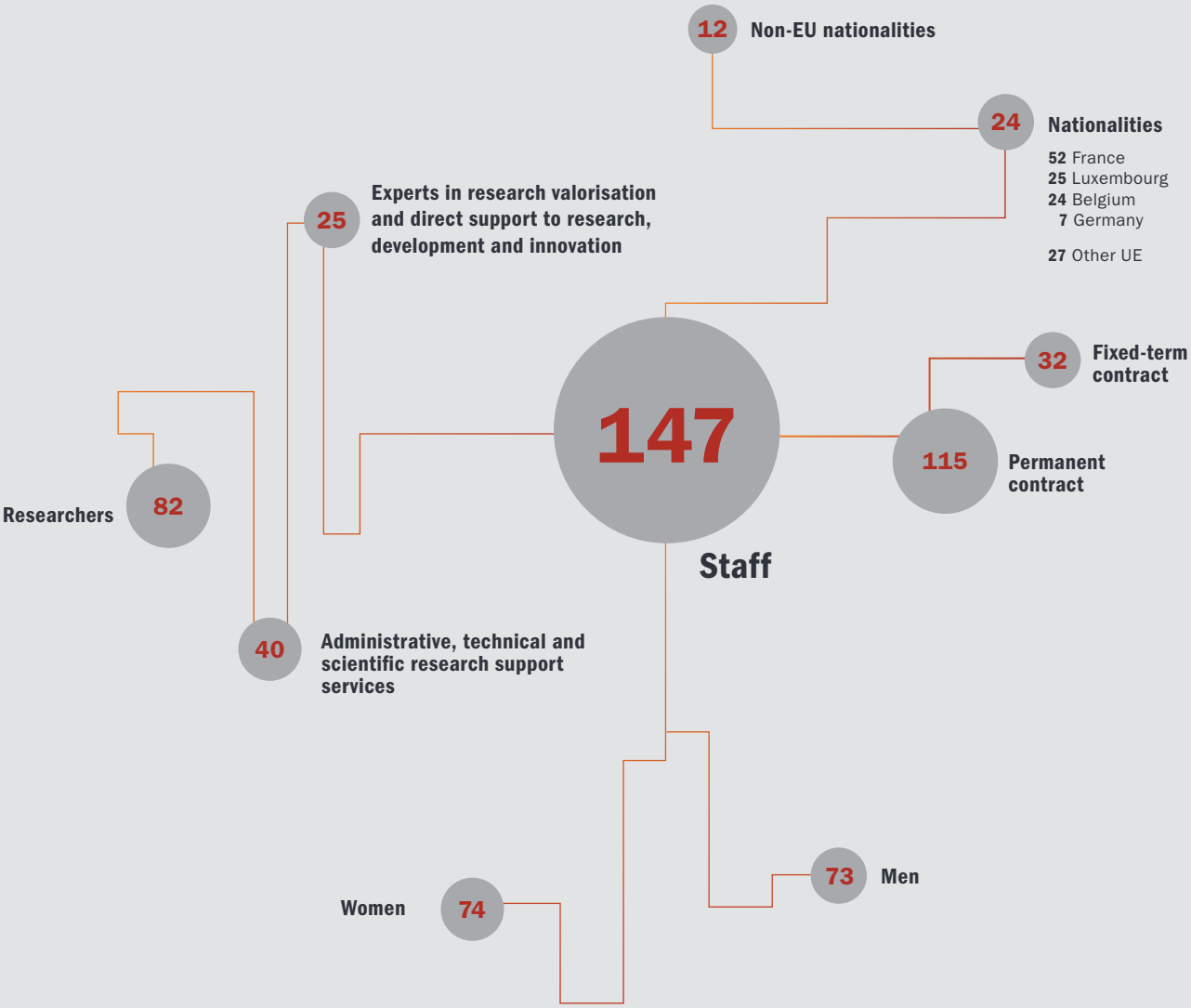
A number of initiatives launched in 2018 will continue in 2019:

- / Finalising the new Collective Labour Agreement up until the end of 2019, including:
  - Definitions of employee careers and possible promotions and pay rises in line with individual and collective performance
  - Job descriptions
  - Employee grades within career structure
  - Definition of the staff training/career development policy, including annual reviews.
- / The creation of a professional HR department focused on the development of individual and collective skills, providing a service that listens to our staff, monitoring based on key performance indicators, and the introduction of transparent, fair processes that are open to all.

LISER will align the strategic objectives of its human resources policy with the European excellence strategy, with the aim of obtaining the European *HR Excellence in Research* Award. Positioning LISER as a cutting-edge institute in the field of social sciences, and one that is attractive to junior and senior researchers alike, will be one of our priorities over the coming years, helping to expand the network of strategic partnerships and to strengthen the impact of its research work.



# KEY FIGURES



# QUALITY AND SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

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**Karen Dewulf (Quality Assurance & Processes Management)**

## **Supporting LISER's strategic development**

In an effort to support scientific excellence, our research teams are able to draw on the institute's operational excellence at each stage of their endeavours. Some of the keys to this success are a pursuit of simplification, facilitated discussion, and optimisation of internal regulations.

The aim is to make the allocation of financial, human, and material resources more efficient every single day, so that we can provide our research teams with the resources they need in the fastest, most effective, and relevant way.

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## **LISER's ambitious objectives**

LISER wishes to be known for its quality and excellence, consolidating the image of a modern, forward-thinking institute that is a competent and reliable actor in public research in Luxembourg, one able to carry out high-level research.

The aim is also for LISER to develop its own tailored quality strategy that meets the needs of our research teams and that focuses on providing a service to researchers.

This quality research will also bolster our human resources policy, providing researchers with a stimulating and inspiring working environment, where they can lead ambitious careers by devoting their best to their work.

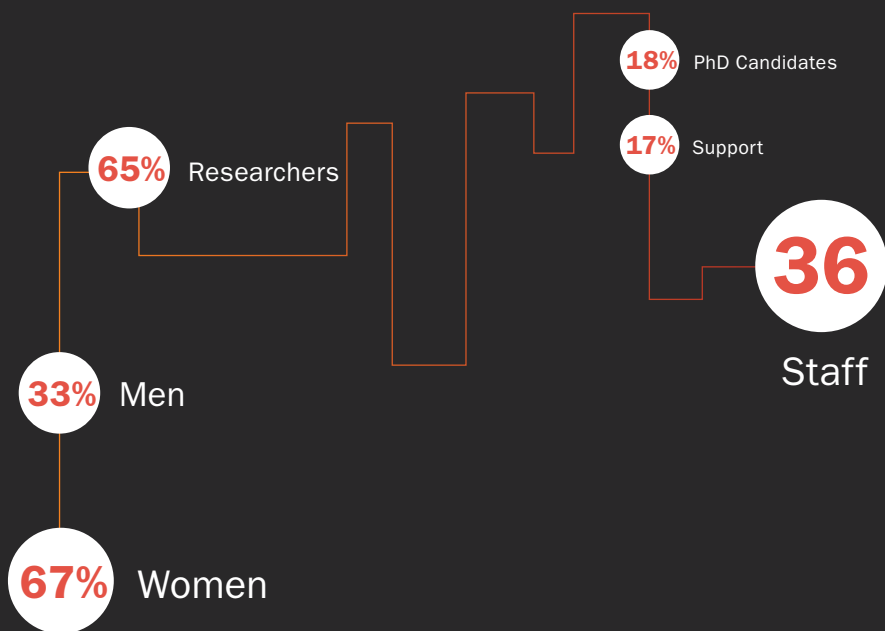
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## **A structure designed to meet targets**

To that end, we have created a quality management system for LISER. It will be implemented in 2019 in order to build efficient, effective services to support research, including:

- / A continuous improvement strategy to build a dynamic, flexible LISER that satisfies the requirements of its stakeholders,
  - / an active role in the quality strategy for staff, as part of a collaborative, inclusive approach that makes it a tangible part of everyone's work, as well as support in its implementation,
  - / committed management to support and facilitate these measures,
  - / integrated, simplified operating procedures that are tailored to research needs, aimed at consolidating collaboration and cross-disciplinary contact,
  - / an operational, factual approach to define and implement bespoke solutions with our teams.
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# LIVING CONDITIONS

In 2018 new senior and junior researchers joined the Living Conditions staff and the department started new important research projects on children well-being, education, equality of opportunities, preferences for redistribution, and tax and benefit systems.

Distribution of income • Microsimulation methods • Poverty, discrimination and inequality • Material deprivation and multidimensional inequality • Taxation, social policy and employment • Family economics and fertility choices • Child poverty and well-being • Inequality and education • Equal opportunities and territorial inequalities • Wealth and housing inequality • Integration and assimilation of foreigners • Social cohesion and wellbeing • Social inclusion • Preferences for redistribution • Inequality and populism • Digitalisation and economic inequality • Social indicators • Social mobility and the dynamics of incomes and wages • Socio-economic inequalities in health • Health and ageing • SHARE (Survey on Health Ageing and Retirement in Europe) • Sustainability of pension systems and the Welfare State









# EUGENIO PELUSO

Is inequality a “source of evil”, as Jeremy Bentham claimed more than two centuries ago, or are socio-economic achievements correct when they summarise that “natural” inequalities of talent, effort (and luck) across people are filtered and sorted by the market economy? Ever since its creation, Western thinking has accepted socio-economic inequality as a necessary and sometimes uncomfortable ingredient of the social fabric. The causes of economic inequality, its correct measurement and its normative implications are at the center of my research fields.

I started this investigation by studying the effects of economic decisions taken within the family on social welfare and inequality. I argued that the equalising role of the family among its members does not guarantee that income redistribution from rich to poor families also results in welfare-improvement at the individual level. Additional conditions are required in order to safely neglect intra-household inequality when designing redistributive policies. My PhD thesis was mainly devoted to clarifying these conditions. I had the chance to collaborate with



**Assessing the value of information for the public sector, by measuring the gains in social welfare due to policies based on a finer information is a further challenge for future research.**

many leading scientists in the following years, first in Cergy-Pontoise, and then in Verona. Benefitting from their bright ideas and enthusiastic example, my research agenda developed further, with inequality at its core: the relation between

stochastic dominance, inequality and discrimination; the assessment of multi-dimensional deprivation; the link between wealth and consumption inequality; the measurement of spatial inequality and its consequences, and of the urban quality of life. Leading the Living Conditions Department at LISER, with this background, is an extraordinary opportunity. Together with a research group combining experienced scholars and talented young researchers, we investigate the socio-economic mechanisms generating inequality, the most appropriate tools to fight poverty, social exclusion and stimulate social mobility and equality of opportunity. I plan to extend our research areas to analyse the political foundations of redistributive policies and the main threats to social cohesion. The rich and heterogeneous environment offered by an advanced country such as Luxembourg is a continuous source of stimuli and innovation. Dynamic and ever-changing societies are forced to design new policies to

face the recent and dramatic transformations they are undergoing at a social and technological level, which cause complex and contradictory consequences. While European integration and migration pressure increase the heterogeneity of the population and can be seen as a threat for social cohesion, they also anticipate inevitable future scenarios. Similarly, while the “digital divide” increases inequality and penalizes those who are not able to grasp the underlying processes, it also allows the increasing collection and management of information and data, offering new tools to social research and improving its effectiveness in supporting policy-makers’ decisions. Economists are well aware of the value of information, as firms collect more and more data to operate statistical and price discrimination and eventually increase profits. Assessing the value of information for the public sector, by measuring the gains in social welfare due to policies based on a finer information, is a further challenge for future research. I’m enthusiastic about the possibility of increasing collaborations with experts of the other LISER

departments, Labor Market and Urban Development and Mobility, and to generate further synergies from the evermore interdisciplinary research projects developed at the institute level.

I firmly believe that assessing research quality solely based on scientific complexity is a difficult exercise, which may lead social scientists to a world of abstract

results and citation counting. This artificial portrait risks turning them into a sort of Dorian Gray character, disconnected from the complex world they are trying to describe. As Head of Department, I consider fostering collaboration between the LC researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders a very important mission. **Main ideas and advances in social sciences should be made accessible to the general public, because the success of a democracy ultimately depends on the degree of people’s education and awareness.**



# AIGUL ALIEVA

The Postgraduate trajectory that I pursued in academic institutes of the UK, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Germany solidified my conviction that education is one of the most promising remedies for today's global challenges. Extensive research across all social sciences demonstrates the power of education over the multitude of individual and collective issues: health, economy, population and social reproduction, gender and minority discrimination, voting behaviour, civic engagement, levels of political corruption and violence, environmental protection and many more. Political and military conflicts, persecution of populations based on their race, religion, ethnicity, or gender generates mass displacements across countries and continents. Most of these conflicts originate in places with fewer educational opportunities, and consequently higher poverty rates. The latest immigration wave to Europe brought individuals and families with a socio-cultural profile and exposure to education still very different to ours. The success of their children in school systems across European societies will determine both their integration later in life, as well as the position of public opinion on immigration and solidarity issues.

Together with my colleagues in the Living Conditions department, I have carried out a number of projects on education and integration in Luxembourg: on school performance and career aspirations of young non-Europeans (Third Country Nationals), civic engagement and volunteering of both native Luxembourgish and young immigrants, as well as the evolution of academic performance over the past decade. These projects were supported by the Ministry of Family, Integration & Grand Region and the Ministry of Education, Childhood & Youth. Funded by the National Research Fund and conducted in collaboration with our international partner from York University in Canada, our latest project, PERSIST, was also an important learning experience for researcher on how to turn limitations into new opportunities. The idea of the project was to offer an alternative research strategy to compensate for the lack of comparative longitudinal data on immigrant children moving from primary to secondary education. In doing so, we aimed in parallel to tackle some of the empirical questions, which remained obscure

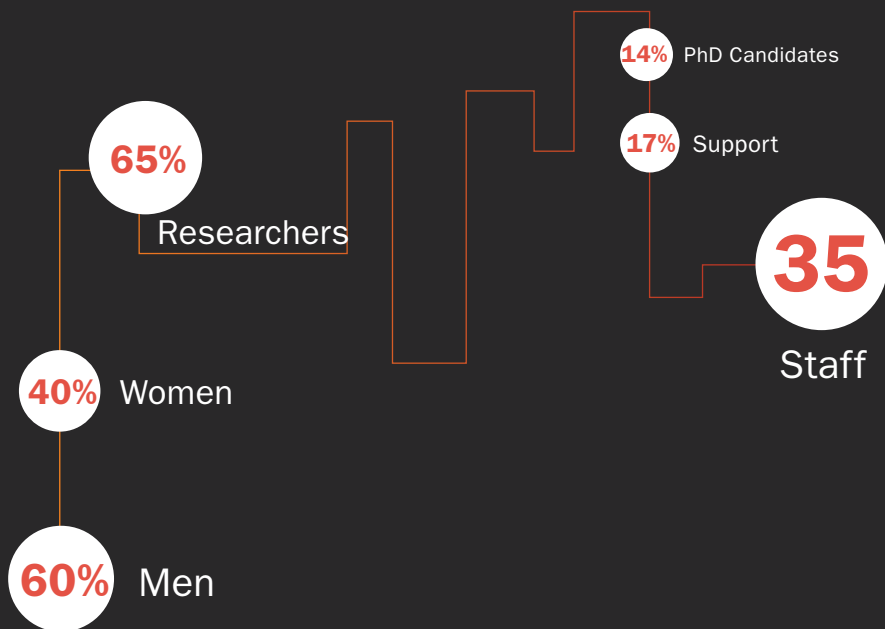
in European discussions, contrary to the US literature for example.

My future plans involve the expansion of international and interdisciplinary collaborative research on education, immigration and policy interventions with colleagues at LISER, other national research partners, e.g. the University of Luxembourg, and also with European partners. Current research and innovation programmes by the European Commission encourage collaboration across disciplines and subjects, and **Luxembourg, thanks to its dynamic, multilingual, multicultural working and living environment, offers a particularly suitable “living laboratory”**. Additionally, I would like to broaden the research on education in the direction of the growing share of shadow education across the globe and its consequences for future social inequalities. The Living Conditions department, as a dynamic and forward-thinking team of scholars, makes it the most appropriate environment for taking on new research challenges.



**The Postgraduate trajectory that I pursued in academic institutes of the UK, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Germany solidified my conviction that education is one of the most promising remedies for today's global challenges**





# LABOUR MARKET

In 2018, the department started important projects, in particular on the impact of labour policies on cross-border, international mobility and on working conditions in Luxembourg.

Active labour market policies • International and cross-border labour mobility • Digitalisation • Ageing workforce and diversity • Behavioural economics • Sustainability • Work-life balance • Skills mismatch







# SAM COSAERT

I have always been fascinated by the question of what individuals' observed choices tell us about their "true" preferences. When I was very young, I already confronted my parents with hypothetical trade-offs between their favourite travel destinations, hotels, etc. In my second year at the University of Leuven (KU Leuven), where I studied Business Economics, I had the opportunity to attend a course entitled "Seminar Methods of Economic Analysis", offered by Laurens Cherchye and Bram De Rock. I wanted to analyse how advertising and store environment impacted on individual consumption choices. Laurens and Bram introduced me to the art of consumer demand analysis. Once the project had ended, they encouraged and helped me to publish our final paper in a local scientific journal. This was my first collaboration with Laurens, who would later become my PhD supervisor.



**I have always been fascinated by the question of what individuals' observed choices tell us about their "true" preferences.**

My research allows me to test theoretical models using empirical data obtained from budget and time surveys or lab experiments. These data provide stylised facts on individual and collective consumption, labour supply and time use. The theoretical models provide a methodical understanding of the interaction between individual preferences and financial and time constraints. One of the distinctive features of my work is to use *revealed preference theory* to evaluate decision-making quality. This approach reconstructs preference relations from the data. If option A was available when B was chosen, then it is revealed that B is preferred over A. I applied this approach (i) to test various decision-making models, (ii) to recover individual preferences for goods like diamonds (published in *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*) and (iii) to predict consumer demand in new, hypothetical situations (published in the *Review of Economics and Statistics*).

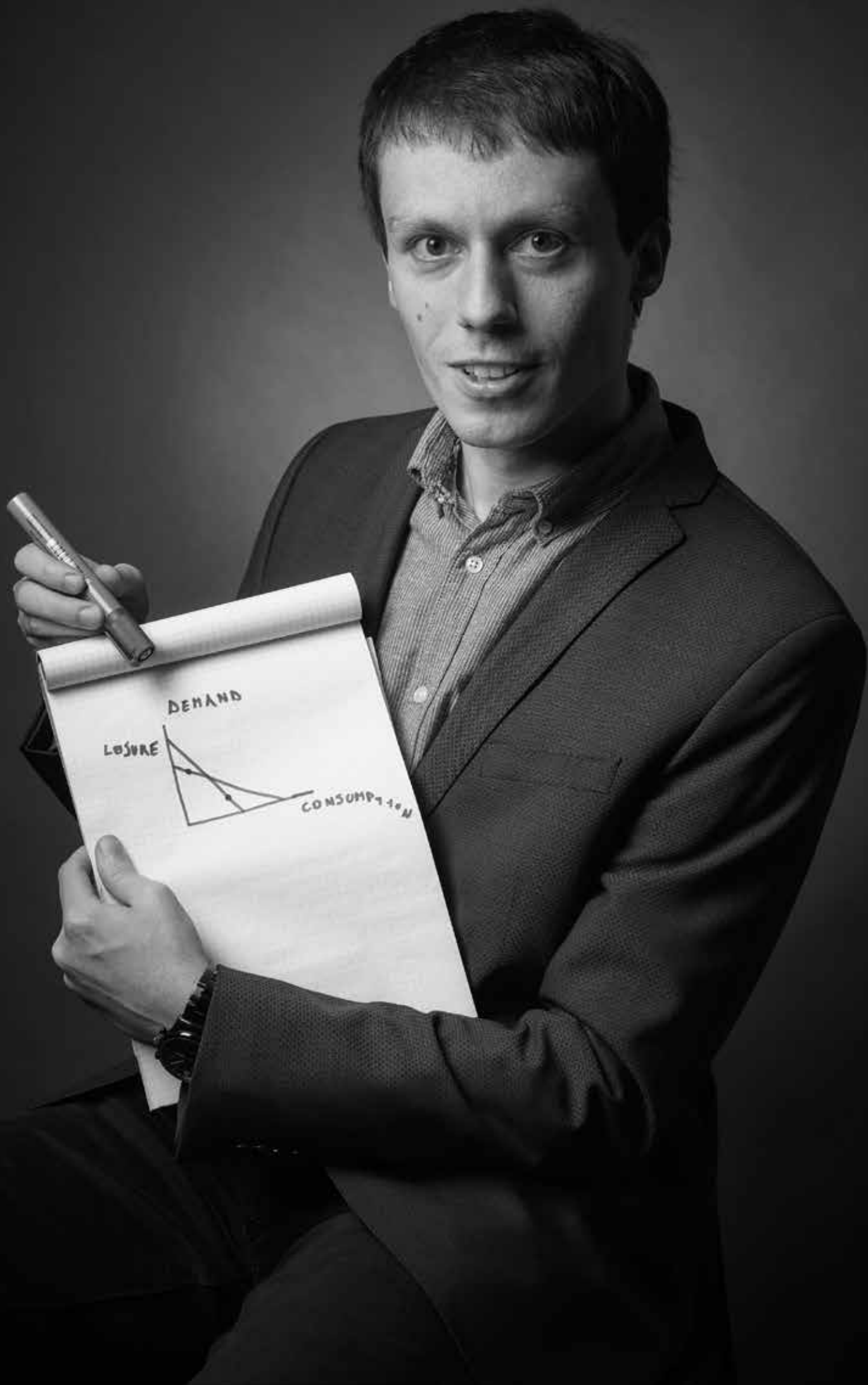
This approach is especially useful in the context of group decisions. Think of household members who collectively choose their consumption and labour supply. Conceptually, these individuals may have very distinct preferences, and their bargaining power is not necessarily constant. Take the example of heating and rent expenses in a household, these expenses are collective but it is often impossible to know who benefits the most from the consumption of these goods. The individual willingness to pay for public goods is not necessarily equal between members of a household and is most often impossible to observe. Budget surveys generally collect aggregate data

for the entire household, rather than data on the intra-household allocation of income. Still, individual welfare is at the core of the applied welfare analysis. **There may be poor individuals in rich households and conversely there may be rich individuals in poor households, if the intra-household distribution of resources is highly unequal.** The combination of (theoretical) modelling and the revealed preference approach makes it possible to calculate welfare indices per household member, taking into account public goods. The results of this study were published in the *Journal of Public Economics*.

Finally, households face not only financial but also time constraints. While policy makers are implementing generous parental leaves, recent studies show that shorter workweeks do not necessarily improve work-life balance. The reason is that the

effectiveness of such policies depends not only on the trade-offs between work and leisure time but also on the precise *timing* of these activities. *Timing* is especially important within the household due to its implications on togetherness, the time spouses spend together at work, child care, leisure and other activities.

In 2018, our team, consisting of Alexandros Theloudis (co-PI), Bertrand Verheyden, Francesco Fallucchi, Tom Potoms (ULB), Daniel Hamermesh (international mentor) and Ludivine Martin (local advisor), obtained a CORE-junior research grant of 578.000 euros funded by the Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR). The project, entitled "Time: too little, too late or too lone? Theoretical, empirical, and experimental investigation of time choices (TIMING)", proposes to study and quantify the costs and benefits for household members to spend time together.



# KONSTANTINOS TATSIRAMOS

My research focuses mainly on how labour markets function, with a particular emphasis on the role of labour market institutions in understanding workers' decisions related to employment and mobility and their implications on their well-being. Examples of research questions include the impact of unemployment insurance on unemployment duration and the quality of matching between individuals and employment, the effects of employment protection legislation on workers' job mobility, and the role of social networks on the matching process in the labour market.

Since January 2018, I have held a Joint Professorship in Labour Economics at the University of Luxembourg and LISER. Before moving to Luxembourg, I studied economics at the European University Institute in Florence, where I obtained my doctorate degree after completing an MSc in Economics at the University College London. I spent six very fruitful years in my first academic job as a research associate at IZA-Institute of Labour Economics in Bonn, which gave me the unique opportunity to develop my research and engage with one of the largest research networks in labour economics. For the next step in my academic career, I moved to the UK where I held positions as a lecturer and then as an associate professor at the University of Leicester and the University of Nottingham. My current joint position at LISER and the University of Luxembourg offers me the possibility to combine my experiences and contribute further to the development of labour economics and the interaction between the two institutions.

Over the past years, I have also had the opportunity to gain experience in the profession as an academic editor for the book series Research in Labor Economics, the IZA World of Labor and more recently for PLOS One, which is an international peer-reviewed open access journal, featuring research from the social sciences and humanities, natural sciences, medical research and engineering. **In my current research, I am interested in understanding how financial and labour market decisions**

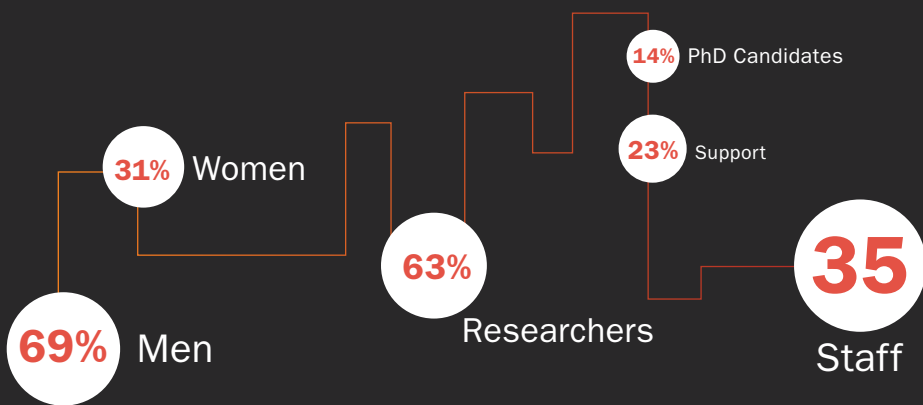
**interact with each other, the dynamics of labor demand, as well as the determinants of inequality.** I am also beginning to supervise PhD students on topics related to labour market research and I actively interact with researchers at LISER with the aim to develop a research agenda that can provide answers to policy questions relevant for the Greater Region.



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# URBAN DEVELOPMENT & MOBILITY

Urban development is profoundly changing interactions and daily practices. Today, the city manifests itself everywhere, through its forms or functions. It concentrates activities at the regional level or extends them to the local level. Space then deepens social, economic, environmental and health inequalities. Challenges that require both a geographical and interdisciplinary approach and a rethinking of governance and action across all scales.

New forms of mobility and sustainability • Affordable housing • Cross-border integration: practices and representations • Cross-border metropolitan areas and the role of the media • Territorial cooperation and planning in cross-border regions • Evaluation of national and cross-border transport networks • Urban environment and daily mobility and health • Housing policy • Housing price modelling • Individual mobility behaviour: practices and representations • Interaction between transport systems and land use • Social and spatial inequalities • Land use planning and urban social policy • Specialisation of financial centres.





# CAMILLE PERCHOUX

Since my first steps in the world of academia, I have always been passionate about the multidisciplinary approach of health sciences and geography to understand how space and location contribute towards shaping individuals' behaviours and socio-spatial inequalities in health. More specifically, a large share of my research is dedicated to investigating the impact of urban environments on active behaviours and healthy ageing. Indeed, physical environmental characteristics (land use, urban green spaces, accessibility to amenities, etc.), and social aspects of neighbourhoods (rates of employment, income, etc.) contribute to the enhancement or restriction of individuals' health behaviours such as physical and sedentary activity in contexts of everyday life (leisure, work, transportation).

My career reflects the evolution of my interests from human geography to socio-spatial determinants of health by using mixed theories and methods from both these disciplines. I graduated from the Université de Provence Aix-Marseille I with degrees in Geographic Sciences in Urban Planning (B.Sc.) and Spatial Analysis (M.Sc.). I then obtained a dual Ph.D. in

Public Health - Epidemiology from both Université de Montréal (Canada) and Université Pierre et Marie Curie Paris VI Sorbonne Universities (France). My doctoral thesis was at the crossroad of social epidemiology and health geography focusing on the methodological and causal challenges to account for both residential and non-residential environmental influences on health behaviours, with a specific case study on walking. I then joined the Research Centre in Human Nutrition (CRNH-Rhône Alpes) in Lyon, France, where I had the extraordinary opportunity to develop and expand my multidisciplinary training by working with epidemiologists, nutritionists, kinesiologists, health geographers and sociologists, on the influence of urban environments on active transportation. This postdoctoral position also provided me with the opportunity to join the DEDIPAC Knowledge Hub, a multidisciplinary consortium composed of 68 research centres from 13 countries across Europe, reflecting on the determinants of diet, physical activity and sedentary behaviors. These experiences have convinced

me that a transdisciplinary approach to social and spatial dynamics that help shape the health of the population is one of the key solutions to the pressing societal challenges related to current and future transformations of our societies towards more sustainable and healthier cities.

Since I arrived at LISER in 2016, a large part of my ongoing research has been devoted to the CURHA project, an ERA AGE 2 project on the influence of contrasting urban environments on healthy aging. Working closely with research teams in Montreal and Paris, we investigate the influence of urban forms, micro-environments and social participation on daily mobility habits, active

transportation and well-being among three cohorts of elderly people. Research in health geography is currently facing a paradigm shift in data collection and measurements, due to e-health and m-health technologies. **I believe that studying GPS and accelerometer data as part of the CURHA project put us at the forefront of these methodological advances.** In the near future, we aim to develop research



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projects based on e-health and m-health technology to promote healthy behaviours, in collaboration with multiple Luxembourgish partners (Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST), Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH) and University of Luxembourg). A close partnership with LIH on the longitudinal approach to residential environments for cardio-metabolic health will give rise to new evidence on the mechanism linking environmental conditions, behavioural risk factors (diet, physical activity, and tobacco and alcohol consumptions) and cardiometabolic diseases.





# ANTOINE PACCOUD

I am a social geographer with interests ranging from urban planning to continental philosophy. **What unites my research trajectory is a concern with the spatial dimension of social inequalities, from an empirical and a theoretical perspective. My research focuses on the points at which the disciplines of geography, economics and urban sociology intersect, with the aim of exploring the insights revealed by the confrontation of different types of data, methods and analytical frameworks.** My ideas have developed through a close engagement with three research sites: Paris, London and Luxembourg.

My interdisciplinary approach to geography is a reflection of my relatively late encounter with the discipline. I first became interested in political science, economics and international development before opting for geography and obtaining my PhD in Urban and Regional Planning at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), in 2013. This monograph focused on one of the most important episodes of urban development in the last two centuries: Haussmann's transformation of Paris in the mid-19th century, a transformation that took place in a context of extreme wealth inequalities. The project centres on the political conflict between powerful property owners and Prefect of the Seine Haussmann, a conflict linked to the capture of the speculative gains emerging from this large-scale process of urban change. The project combines the exploration of an unstudied archival resource with the development of a method to mobilise contemporary philosopher Alain Badiou's thought in empirical social science.

My research trajectory moved into social geography during a post-doctoral experience at LSE. In this period, I developed the methodological and theoretical tools needed to understand a new form of gentrification I was witnessing in my daily life in London: the use of rental investments to displace socially disadvantaged populations from centrally located neighborhoods unattractive to owner-occupiers. This phenomenon, which I call "*buy-to-let gentrification*", made me realise the crucial importance of land and housing in contemporary social inequalities. Indeed, this form of gentrification is one of the facets of the return of wealth inequalities

in the past decades: it thrives on the inaccessibility of homeownership for some and on the accumulation of housing assets for others. This research relied on the detailed spatial analysis of neighborhood-level changes in terms of socio-economic category, tenure, and migratory background.

Since my arrival at LISER in 2015, I have been developing a research programme drawing on Land Registry data to identify the mechanisms through which the ownership and development of land and housing produce social inequalities in Luxembourg. This is a crucial dimension of social inequality given the contrasting trajectories – over multiple generations – of families who own multiple real estate assets, of families who own only the home in which

they live and of families who do not own any land or housing. This dimension is especially important in Luxembourg where land and house prices have been increasing at a very rapid rate for the last two decades, thus widening the gulfs between these three groups. The aim of the project is to generate reliable and rich information on property

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wealth inequality in Luxembourg, both as concerns its historical evolution and the mechanisms through which concentration occurs.

Recently funded by the FNR's CORE Junior scheme, this last project is an articulation of the research domains in geography, economics and urban sociology that are integral to my research trajectory: the links between housing, land and wealth accumulation; property wealth inequality and its transmission in the long-term; and processes of urban and neighborhood change. The next stage of this research endeavor is to scale it up beyond the Luxembourg case by drawing on contexts where similar data is available.





# INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

In line with national and European priorities, LISER mobilises the interdisciplinary nature of its teams by focusing their work on three priority research areas that place people at the heart of their concerns: *Crossing Borders*, *Health and Health Systems*, and *Digital Transformation*.





# MARC SUHRCKE

I took up the position of Research Programme leader on Health in LISER in September 2017, after having worked in the UK for 9 years and in Italy for 8 years. So how did I get here?

Well, I started out as an economist, studying in Trier, Konstanz, and Hamburg (for a PhD). I was on the very verge of following my brother's large footsteps into banking, when I only just managed the turn, towards a 'quest' to apply economic perspectives and methods to more directly socially relevant topics. Health ended up the main application, and my starting hypothesis was that working in a policy-relevant international organisation must be the ideal place to pursue that quest in a way that could 'make a difference'. I made some early modest experiences in the European Commission and the European Bank for Reconstruction & Development, followed by some years at the UNICEF Research Centre (Florence). From there, I moved to the World Health Organization (WHO, Venice). Back then, part of my personal 'mission', maybe obsession, was to **demonstrate the importance of health for a wide range of individual- and country-level economic outcomes, as a way to make a case for investing in health, beyond the obvious health benefits alone**. After a few productive (and life-changing) years at WHO, my naïve enthusiasm was somewhat shoved aside by the constraints of working in – ultimately – a big, international bureaucracy. It then soon dawned upon me that the real professional paradise must undoubtedly be in academia! For reasons still somewhat beyond my comprehension, I was then given the opportunity to test that new hypothesis by becoming a Professor of Public Health Economics at the University of East Anglia (Norwich, UK). (This new hypothesis was swiftly rejected, too, but I carried on nonetheless!)

Research-wise, I turned my attention from showing the economic benefits of health to examining what it takes to improve health. **I was (and still am) intrigued by the relative lack of investment in prevention, as opposed to treatment, in healthcare systems worldwide**, and, hence, the 'economics of prevention' and 'economics of health behaviour' became a major focus of my interests. From Norwich, I moved to the Centre for Health Economics (CHE) at the University of York in 2014, as a Professor of Global Health Economics, to set-up a team working on health economic aspects in low- and middle-income countries. I am still affiliated with York in this position and would like to exploit the synergies between both LISER and CHE.

At LISER – while testing my third hypothesis that the ideal workplace can only be in an independent research institute outside of a university – I see massive potential for a perhaps unique combination of cutting-edge, quantitative and policy-relevant research on, among others, the health effects of policies located outside of healthcare. While we may all be aware that what matters for health is not solely the quantity and quality of health care provided, there is a glaring gap in the evidence base on the exact,



**No country, no matter how wealthy, can afford the luxury of avoiding to think hard – and be explicit – about the health benefits foregone by choosing one particular course of action over another, from within given, limited resources.**

causal impact of social, economic and environmental policies on health. With LISER's core expertise in most of the policy domains outside of healthcare that are seen as having major importance for health, and with LISER's wide-ranging methodological competence, the Institute is uniquely placed to have national and international impact in this field. In addition, I would like to help build health economics capacity in Luxembourg, which currently is non-existent. No country, no matter how wealthy, can afford the luxury of avoiding to think hard – and be explicit – about the health benefits foregone by choosing one particular course of action over another, from within given, limited resources. Which is after all the essence of what health economics is about.







# DANIELE CATANZARO



**My research activity is quantitative in nature and is characterised by heavy mathematical and computational aspects. I am particularly interested in translating qualitative information and/or general knowledge on discrete systems under study into quantitative information**

I graduated Summa cum Laude in Computer Science Engineering at the Università degli Studi di Palermo, Italy, in 2003. After having been recipient of a Marie Curie Fellowship and an Aspirant FNRS fellowship, in 2008 I was awarded Doctor of Science (with specialisation in Operations Research) by the Université Libre de Bruxelles, for my studies in combinatorial optimisation, network design and combinatorics of phylogenetics. Between 2009 and 2013 I was appointed Chargé de Recherches at the Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research (FRS-FNRS). During this period, I visited numerous universities and research institutions, including the Department of Statistics and Operations Research of the University of La Laguna (2009), the Tepper School of Business of Carnegie Mellon University (2010-2011), the Department of Computer Science of Reykjavik University (2010), the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science of the Freie Universität Berlin (2010), the Department of Genetics and Evolution of the University of Geneva (2010), the Laboratoire d'Informatique, de Robotique et de Microélectronique de Montpellier LIRMM-CNRS (2012), and the Department of Computational Biology of Carnegie Mellon University (2012). In 2013, I was appointed Assistant Professor of Operations Research at the Faculty of Economics and Business of the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen and in 2014, I became Associate Professor of Operations Research at Center for Operations Research and Econometrics (CORE) of the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL). I currently serve the Faculty Board of the Louvain School of Management as Chair of the Commission for the Bachelor Curriculum in Management Science and Business Engineering. In 2018, I have been named "Invited Professor" at the Department of Management of the University Ca Foscari of Venice, Italy.

My research activity is quantitative in nature and is characterized by heavy mathematical and computational aspects. I am particularly interested in translating

qualitative information and/or general knowledge on discrete systems under study into quantitative information that may be used (i) to model these systems independently of their nature, (ii) to obtain deep insights about possible fundamental phenomena at their core, and (iii) to forecast their behavior over time. This essential aspect gives to my research activity an intrinsic multidisciplinary connotation.

More in detail, my research interests concern the following areas:

- / Optimisation: with special focus on discrete optimisation; optimisation over lattices; polyhedral combinatorics; very large scale linear and integer programming; projection and inverse projection; development of optimisation techniques for large scale combinatorial problems arising from practical applications including but not restricted to planning, location, telecommunications, routing and supply chain management.
- / Combinatorial and Graph-Theoretic Algorithms: namely, the constructive characterizations of the solutions to specific combinatorial optimisation problems on graphs; subgraph and supergraph problems; mathematical results in combinatorics and graph theory.
- / Design and Analysis of Algorithms: Design and development of exact and approximate algorithms with performance analysis and approximation guarantees; design of parallel and distributed algorithms for multi-core environments; specific topics in data compression and encryption.
- / Computational Complexity: Completeness; reductions; relation between complexity classes; inapproximability.
- / Medical Bioinformatics: Hierarchical clustering; design and development of mathematical models and algorithms for phylogeny estimation; consistency analysis; dynamic models of molecular evolution; design and development of mathematical model and estimation algorithms for genome-wide association studies and tumor profiling.



# FRÉDÉRIC DOCQUIER

**Migration is part of mankind's DNA. It has always been a normal and inevitable response to the economic, social, political, security and environmental challenges that have punctuated our history.** And yet the movement of workers in general and international migration in particular, are issues that divide public opinion in every country in the world. In poor countries, migration is often linked to a 'brain drain' that widens the development gap with rich countries. In many rich countries, immigration is seen as an inflow of poorly qualified workers, resulting in negative impacts on the labour market and on public finances. These perceptions feed into the rhetoric of populist and far-right parties, and put immigration at the centre of public debate.



**My aim at LISER is to create an interdisciplinary task force on international mobility issues, combining members from the three existing departments and external research associates whose expertise is recognised at an international level.**

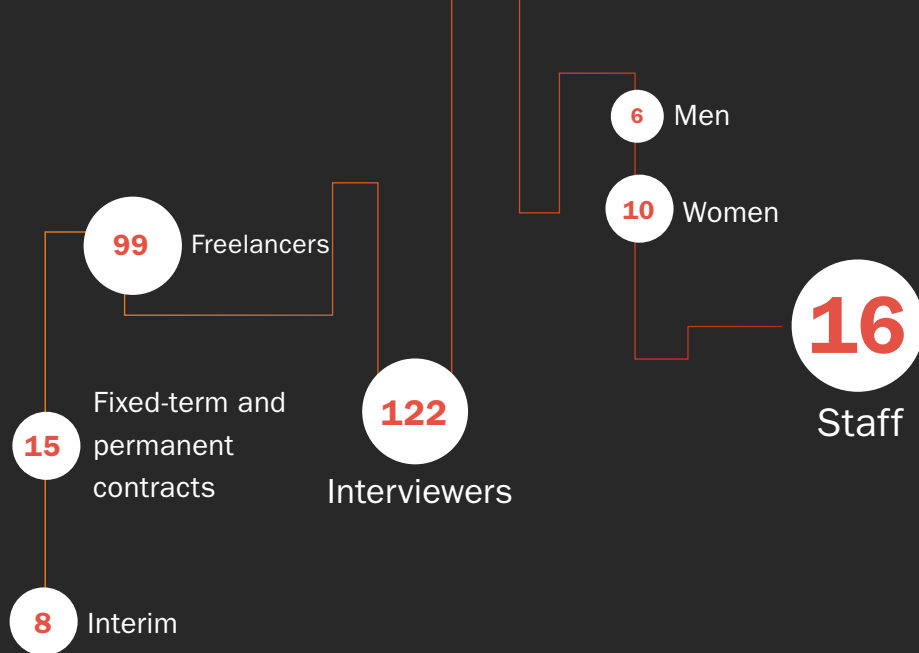
As an economist by training, I first turned to issues of migration just over 20 years ago, when I took up my first academic position at the University of Lille in France. My doctoral thesis focused on the links between population ageing (another significant demographic phenomenon), productivity growth and the long-term sustainability of the welfare state. Chance encounters led me to work with researchers who were focusing on the links between international migration and the world distribution of income. Since then, my research has gradually focused more on labour mobility issues. In 2005, I 'migrated' to the Université catholique de Louvain, where I found a highly stimulating environment to tackle increasingly diverse questions linked to international migration. I have worked on measuring migrations by level of education and by gender, on the key determinants of migration, and on its welfare implications for the sending and receiving countries. This research has led me to work with a number of co-authors from multiple universities, collaborate with international institutions, and take part in rewarding interdisciplinary discussions with demographers, lawyers, sociologists, political scientists, geographers and mathematicians. Over the last 20 years, I have seen a boom in the number of researchers specialising in migration. There has been considerable progress in terms of academic research, but there is still a lot of ground to cover.

I think that migration will be one of the major topics of the 21st century. In Europe, the recent refugee crisis has put immigration policy front and centre in political debate. While the direct causes of this crisis are well understood, global economic trends indicate that further episodes of mass-scale migration can be expected in the decades to come. Essentially, there are many structural factors that could explain the increase in international migration: demographic imbalances between countries, economic inequalities, globalisation, political instability, climate change, etc. This means that recent migratory trends must be seen as the result of a long-

term process that has been in place for more than half a century and will continue into the coming decades. In this context, I am pleased that LISER has created a cross-cutting department focusing on international mobility and has chosen me to lead it. In my first two weeks at LISER, I was impressed by the high quality of the teams

here and by the resources that have been put in place to conduct top-level research. My aim at LISER is to create an interdisciplinary task force on international mobility issues, combining members from the three existing departments and external research associates whose expertise is recognised at an international level. My objectives are threefold: (i) to produce innovative academic research; (ii) to help national, European and international decision-makers to better manage current and future mobility flows; (iii) to provide the public with objective information on the causes and consequences of the phenomenon. I have no doubt that this research will have a major impact on society.





# DATA CENTRE

The *Data Centre* aims to collect data for scientific studies in order to make them available to researchers, political actors and other partners in society. Thanks to its expertise in survey methodologies and statistics, the *Data Centre* is a unique actor in Luxembourg for researchers and decision-makers in the development of research projects and actions on the field.

Data collection • Survey methodology • Statistics • Treatment of the non-response • Sample • Anonymisation of data • Interviewers • Households • Companies • Face-to-face surveys • Web surveys • Archiving • Analysis • Weighting • Questionnaire







# CROSSED OVERVIEWS

## Household, Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS) – Third wave 2018

**María Guadarrama (Data Centre) | Carla Martins (Data Centre) | Javier Olivera (Living Conditions Department)**

### CONTEXT OF THE HOUSEHOLD FINANCE AND CONSUMPTION SURVEY (HFCS)

HFCS is the first harmonised survey gathering information on the assets and liabilities of households conducted in Eurozone as well as Poland and Hungary under the Eurosystem framework coordinated by the European Central Bank (ECB). This survey collects micro-level structural information on household assets and liabilities, investment and consumption expenditures as well as on household socio-economic characteristics. Collected data is key information to better understanding the effectiveness of monetary policy, the economics of financial stability, and the implications and transmission of macroeconomic shocks in Europe, allowing central banks to look beyond macroeconomic aggregates by improving knowledge about household distribution of wealth, debt and income. The first wave of the HFCS was collected in 2010 and 2011 in 15 countries, while the second wave was collected between 2013 and the first half of 2015 in 20 countries. The third wave was implemented between 2017 and 2018.

### FOCUS ON LUXEMBOURG HFCS

Luxembourg has always participated in the HFCS. The Central Bank of Luxembourg (BCL) is responsible for carrying out the survey in the Grand Duchy with the close collaboration of LISER that has been contracted for its implementation in Luxembourg. The 2018 HFCS resident survey is on its third wave and, as in the previous waves, LISER has collected the data over seven months between the end of March and the end of November.

Given the idiosyncratic characteristic of Luxembourg, which has a large population of cross-border workers who work in Luxembourg but live in the border countries (Belgium, France and Germany), a HFCS cross-border survey was conducted to collect similar information on cross-border commuters and their households in the Grand Region. This survey, also carried out in collaboration with LISER, has been specifically designed to complement the HFCS resident survey in order to ultimately offer a global vision of the financial and economic situation of workers in Luxembourg.

In addition to the ECB core questionnaire, which is common to all participating countries, optional non-core questions were added by the BCL and LISER in both HFCS questionnaires.

As the next figure shows, both HFCS surveys are large-scale projects to operate, that require an active cooperation of many different stakeholders at LISER: from the Data Centre team who implemented the fieldwork, to the researchers who participated in the questionnaire writing, to the methodologists who were responsible for the sampling and weighting of the surveys, and to all the services providing technical and administrative support.

For the LISER Data Centre, implementing the HFCS resident fieldwork requires the dedication of a huge human resources force. To achieve a total of 1,616 household answers, 52 interviewers, managed by 3 supervisors of the Data Centre, carried out face-to-face (CAPI) surveys from about 4,400 persons over the whole territory of Luxembourg in a period of 249 days. The HFCS cross-border was carried out in 69 days by computer assisted web interview (CAWI) programmed at LISER. Close to half of the total sample are French households (around 7 200 households), and the other half is evenly divided between Germany and Belgium (respectively around 4 000 and 3 800 households). In order to ensure the proper functioning of the survey, a pilot survey was run in LISER with the help of volunteer members of LISER staff.

## AN ADDITIONAL LISER DATA COLLECTION

To address ongoing research projects at LISER, an ad-hoc experiment funded by LISER was carried out to collect information on bequest motives during the last wave of the HFCS resident. An ad-hoc Paper and Pencil Interview (PAPI) questionnaire was handed out after the face-to-face interview to be sent back later to LISER by the interviewees. It embedded questions inquiring about the motives behind leaving bequests and how people plan to distribute them between their children. Among others, 'Altruism' and 'exchange' are two distinctive motives behind the division of bequests among children. While altruism implies that parents seek to compensate the worst-off children, exchange motives mean that parents try to compensate services provided by the child (such as companion, visit, care, etc.). Knowing the distribution of bequest motives is important both for the study of optimal inheritance taxation, and for the research addressing the generation of wealth inequality. These issues will be studied for the Luxembourg households as well as for the cross-borders households as the same information was also collected through the HFCS cross-border CAWI survey.

It is worth noting that, beside the face-to-face data collection mode, PAPI and CAWI modes were used to obtain further information on different activities of the families that otherwise would have made questionnaires exceedingly long. In the long run, the use of the administrative data is expected to significantly reduce the number of questions asked that, depending on the household composition, can be vastly large.

## HFCS statistical data collection in figures, LISER, 2018

	Type of Survey	Number of selected households	Number of answers obtained	Fieldwork period	Number of questions
Resident	Face to face	7100	1616	26 March to 30 November	353 (+24 in PAPI)
Cross-border	Web	15000	2464	17 September to 25 November	156

# EXPERT OVERVIEW

## The “Third Network for the Analysis of EU-SILC (Net-SILC3)”

**Eric Marlier** (*International Development Coordination*)

The “Third Network for the Analysis of EU-SILC (Net-SILC3)” is a research network funded by the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) and coordinated by LISER. It builds on a solid foundation of previous EU networks, which were also coordinated by LISER (esp. Net-SILC1 and Net-SILC2). Launched in 2016 for a period of 4.5 years, Net-SILC3 consists of a group of institutions and researchers using the comparative EU data source EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). It brings together experts from nine European Statistical System (ESS) bodies and eight academic bodies:

- / 1. ESS bodies:
  - the overall coordinator (LISER); and
  - eight ESS bodies: Statistics Austria, Statistics Finland, Statistics France (INSEE), Statistics Latvia (CSB), Statistics Luxembourg (STATEC), Statistics Netherlands (CBS), Statistics UK (ONS) and the Belgian Scientific Institute of Public Health (Sciensano).
- / 2. Research bodies:
  - GESIS (Leibniz-Institute for the Social Sciences, Germany);
  - Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) of the University of Essex (UK);
  - Institute of Economic Sciences (Republic of Serbia);
  - Stockholm University;
  - University of Amsterdam;
  - University of Antwerp (Belgium);
  - University of Manchester (UK);
  - University of Oxford (UK).

Since 2016 (and until 2020), Net-SILC3 carries out in-depth methodological work and socio-economic analysis of the EU-SILC data covering both cross-sectional and longitudinal dimensions. It also develops common tools and approaches aimed at improving various aspects of data production for the whole European Statistical System.

Net-SILC3 seeks to address various methodological and analytical questions that are of particular importance at this stage of the maturation of EU-SILC. The 26 Net-SILC3 work packages (WPs) are organised around two large clusters:

- / The first cluster aims at providing a thorough analysis of the various sources of non-sampling errors in EU-SILC. A focus of Net-SILC2 was the analysis of sampling errors. This has led to major progress inter alia in the assessment of the robustness of EU social indicators (the Net-SILC2 methodology is now used by the European Commission as well as Member States in the context of the work done by the EU Social Protection Committee's Indicators Sub-Group). Non-sampling errors have been somewhat neglected to date, so Net-SILC3 devotes a large part of its resources to the study of these errors. Non-sampling errors are systematic or variable errors that arise from aspects of the survey process other than sample selection. These include errors due to frame under-coverage, non-response, measurement and processing. Such errors are important, as studies in various contexts have shown them to be often at least as influential as sampling error. They can, however, be reduced through a combination of improved data collection practices and post-survey adjustment methods, but this requires understanding of the nature of the sources of error. An attempt to reduce non-sampling errors is particularly important in view of the revision of EU-SILC, i.e. as support to the elements to be included in the revised legal basis. This cluster of 11 WPs is designed to identify the main sources of non-sampling errors in EU-SILC, to describe the nature and impact of each type of error, and to produce guidance on reducing them.



- / The second cluster aims at deepening our knowledge of the determinants and dynamics of income and living conditions of people and their households through in-depth analyses of a number of socio-economic issues. A key objective of this cluster is to suggest robust policy-relevant indicators in this field, including longitudinal indicators. This cluster covers a wide range of fields of interest and is composed of 15 WPs.

Net-SILC3 organises four Best Practices Workshops to fine-tune our understanding of non-sampling errors and two International conferences throughout the 4.5-year period covered by the EU research grant.

Each of the 26 Net-SILC3 WPs is expected to lead to one or several papers to be presented at a Net-SILC3 conference or workshop; some of these papers are also presented at an EU Task-Forces and/or Working Groups. Most of the papers will be published in one of the two books that will be prepared at the end of the project (one book based on the research findings of cluster 1 and one book on the research findings of cluster 2).

The first Net-SILC3 Best Practices Workshop (on “Assessing and improving the validity and comparability of the EU-SILC income, own consumption, health and housing variables”) and the first international conference organised by Net-SILC3 took place in Athens in April 2018. This event was kindly hosted by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) and organised by LISER together with the University of Antwerp.

The second and third Net-SILC3 Best Practices Workshop on “Frame errors and non-response, weighting and calibration and imputation for income variables” took place in Colchester (Essex, UK) in February 2019. This event was kindly hosted by ISER and organised by LISER together with ISER.

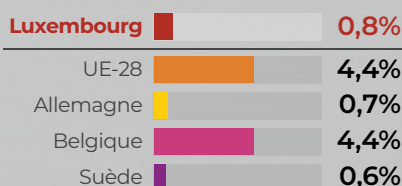
Net-SILC3 will organise another international conference as well as one additional Best Practice Workshop (on the “Impact of different modes of data collection”) in March/April 2020.



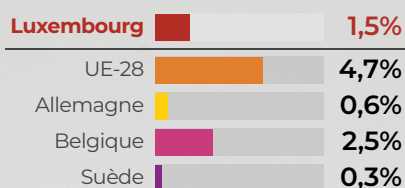
# FLAGSHIP PROJECT

## CHILD-SPECIFIC DEPRIVATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

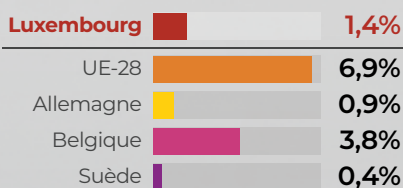
### BOOKS AT HOME SUITABLE FOR THE CHILDREN'S AGE



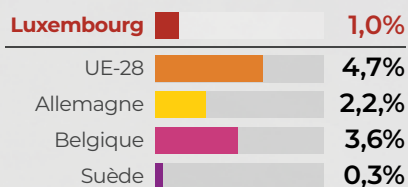
### INDOOR GAMES



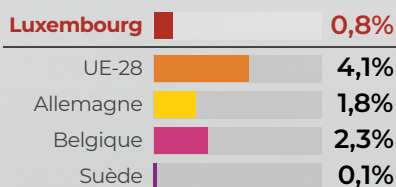
### ACCESS TO INTERNET



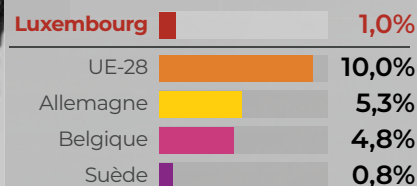
### TWO PAIRS OF PROPERLY FITTING SHOES



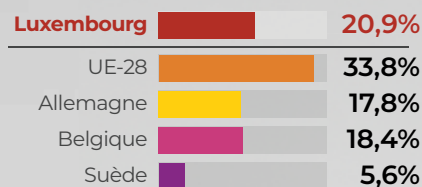
### FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES DAILY



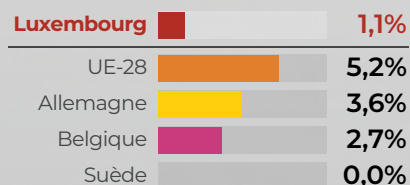
### HOME ADEQUATELY WARM



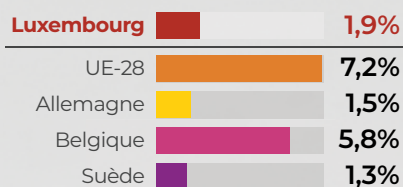
### REPLACE WORN-OUT FURNITURE



### MEAT, CHICKEN, FISH OR VEGETARIAN EQUIVALENT DAILY

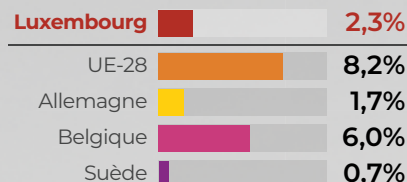


### CELEBRATIONS ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS



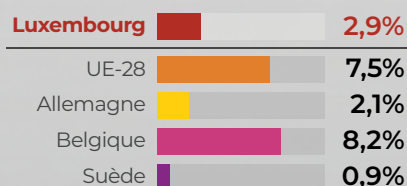
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### INVITATION OF FRIENDS TO PLAY AND EAT FROM TIME TO TIME



...

### SOME NEW (NOT SECOND-HAND) CLOTHES

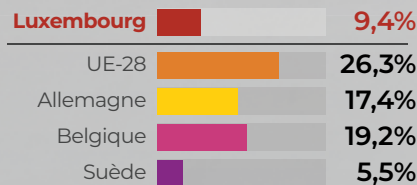


#### LISER's new child deprivation indicator approved at European level in March 2018

In March 2018, the European Union (EU) adopted a new child deprivation indicator. This is the first time that child-specific deprivation - which can differ from that of their parents - has been measured. To do this, a list was compiled, comprising of 17 items (goods and activities) considered to be necessities for any child living in Europe. The list is the result of research coordinated by LISER in collaboration with Bristol University and commissioned by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European

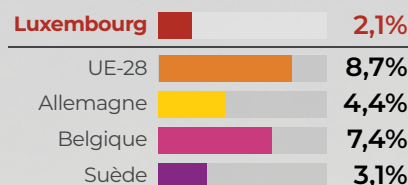
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### HOLIDAY



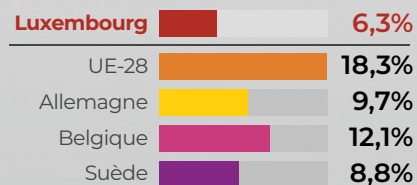
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### ACCESS TO A CAR FOR PRIVATE USE



...

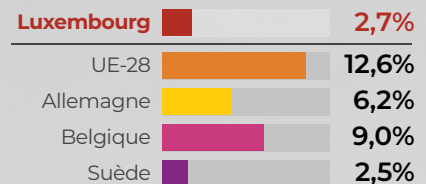
### ARREARS



Union. Working closely with Eurostat, Anne-Catherine Guio (LISER) and her co-authors explored the statistical properties of various items, in order to establish a robust, reliable and comparable system for measuring children's living conditions within the EU. Henceforth, this new indicator will be monitored by all EU Member States. Only examples of deprivation caused by financial hardship (as opposed to lifestyle choices) were considered to be problems<sup>1</sup>.

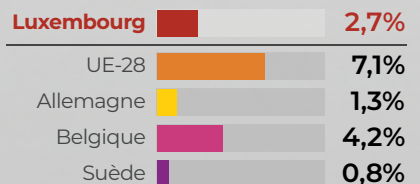
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### REGULAR LEISURE ACTIVITIES



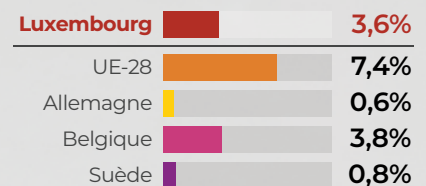
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### OUTDOOR LEISURE EQUIPMENT



...

### PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL TRIPS AND SCHOOL EVENTS



<sup>1</sup> See:

GUIO Anne-Catherine, GORDON David, MARLIER Eric, NAJERA Hector, POMATI Marco. Towards an EU measure of child deprivation. Child Indicators Research, 2018, vol. 11, n°3, pp. 835-860.

GUIO Anne-Catherine, GORDON David, MARLIER Eric. Measuring material deprivation in the EU: Indicators for the whole population and child-specific indicators. Luxembourg : Publications Office of the European Union 2012, Eurostat Methodologies and Working papers, 169 p.

**% of children who cannot afford ...**

# CHILD-SPECIFIC DEPRIVATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

**Anne-Catherine Guio** (*International Development Coordination*)

## At a glance

Does the child eat fruit and vegetables every day? Do they sometimes invite friends round? Can they take part in school trips and festivities? Do they live in a properly heated home? Do they go on holiday for at least one week every year? The Figure on page 48 shows the list of items used to compile the indicator. It also compares the percentage of children lacking each item in Luxembourg, Germany, France, Belgium, Sweden, and on average in the EU taken as a whole.

Despite enviable results overall for Luxembourg, Figure 1 shows that child deprivation does however exist in the country. 9% of children live in a household unable to afford a week's holiday per year. Over 20% of children live in households unable to replace worn-out furniture. Some children suffer from severe deprivation: 3-4% of children do not have a few new clothes, or live in households unable to pay for school trips. When compared with children in other countries, there are proportionally fewer children in Luxembourg suffering from each of these deprivations than the average for the EU and fewer in neighbouring countries (France, Belgium and Germany). Nevertheless, if Luxembourg's performance is compared with that of Sweden, we can see that, for 15 of the 17 items, children in Sweden are less likely to suffer deprivation than those living in Luxembourg.

If we look at the extent to which children lack more than one of the 17 items, we can see that 8% of children living in Luxembourg have at least three problems in their daily lives. Looking at the whole of the EU, the Figure on page 51 shows that Luxembourg is one of the best performers. Three countries, however, have an even lower rate: Sweden, Finland and Denmark. However, these average rates hide a very wide diversity of situations in the country, depending on the particular features of the household in which a child lives. Some population groups suffer from severe deprivation.

## What are the factors leading to deprivation in Luxembourg?

To assess the specific risk of deprivation in Luxembourg, Anne-Catherine Guio and her colleagues estimated an econometric model<sup>2</sup> to test the impact on their level of deprivation of the characteristics of the household where a child lives.

The results show that deprivation is the result of a mismatch between household resources and the needs/costs with which it is confronted. The higher the income, the lower the rate of deprivation. But this is not the only explanatory factor. For identical levels of income, having to pay high rent, being in debt, or living in a household where one member has chronic health problems, significantly increases children's risk of deprivation. Living in an unemployed household also increases child deprivation. This is because unemployed households are likely to see their resources dwindle – they have fewer savings (or more debt) to help them deal with difficult situations. Being a non-EU immigrant also bears an increased risk of deprivation for children, all other socio-demographic factors being equal (job, income, education, number of children).

<sup>2</sup> This type of model helps to understand the impact of each individual household characteristic on the number of deprivations suffered by the child, once the impact of the other characteristics has been taken into account (in other words, "all other things being equal"). For example, the impact of one risk factor (e.g. not being a homeowner) is measured in relation to a reference group (e.g. homeowners), taking all the other variables into account (income, education, size of household, etc.).

### One in three children living in a single parent household suffers from deprivation

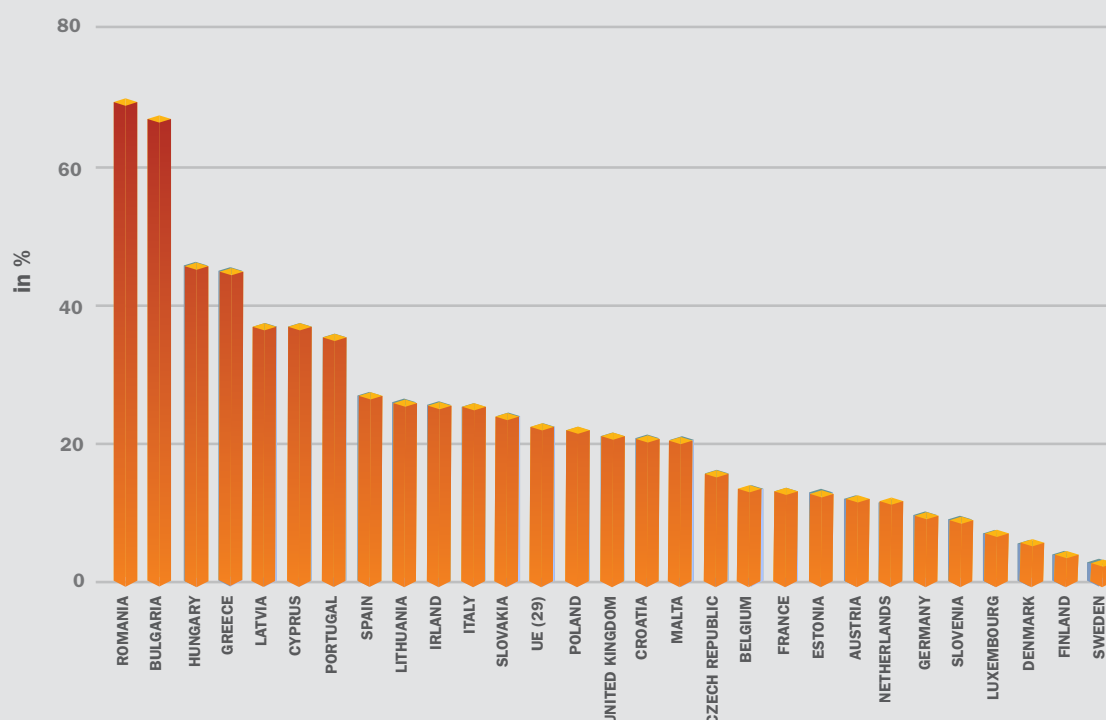
Living in a single-parent household significantly increases child deprivation in Luxembourg. This might be due to higher fixed costs (housing, education, etc.), which generally account for a greater share of household income in these households. At similar income levels, single-parent households can also be subject to greater income instability, as they cannot count on income from another member of the household. Some analysts are also pointing to the income tax rate for single-parent households. In Luxembourg, more than a third of children in single-parent families suffer daily deprivation, which is three-and-a-half times more than other children. No other EU country has such a high ratio.

### In conclusion ...

This analysis shows that children are better protected from deprivation in Luxembourg than in neighbouring countries. Such a good national performance nevertheless hides significant disparities among the children living in Luxembourg. This can inform political thinking about the best way to protect the most disadvantaged children from experiencing deprivation in their everyday lives.

## Child-specific deprivation in the EU-28

% of children who cannot afford at least three items



Note : The Child-specific deprivation data are collected each 3 or 4 years.

Source : EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) data, authors' computation.



# PUBLICATIONS







# FLAGSHIP PUBLICATIONS

## Equity impacts of price policies to promote healthy behaviours

*This article examines how pricing policies which promote healthier behaviours (e.g., taxation of tobacco, alcohol or sweetened beverages) affect the health and financial advantages of the poor and the rich within the same country.*

Governments can use fiscal policies to regulate the prices and consumption of potentially unhealthy products. However, policies aimed at reducing consumption by increasing prices, particularly by taxation, might impose an unfair financial burden on low-income households. In our sample of low- and middle-income countries, we find that as a proportion of total household consumption, price increases represent often a larger financial burden for low-income households than for high-income households, most consistently in the case of tobacco, depending on how much consumption decreases in response to increased prices. However, as they are highly responsive to price changes, low-income consumers are generally the ones who benefit most from health benefits. The potentially larger financial burden on low-income households created by taxation could be mitigated by a pro-poor use of the generated tax revenues.



SASSI Franco / BELLONI Annalisa / MIRELMAN Andrew J. / SUHRCKE Marc / THOMAS Alastair / SALTI Nisreen (et al.)

The Lancet, 2018, vol. 391, n°10134, pp. 2039-2070. [SJIR: 14.934, Top 10%, Q1]

## Inequality in old age cognition across the world

*This research paper - with data from 29 countries - shows that inequalities in the cognitive functioning of older people are largely determined by educational inequality experienced at a younger age and by inequality of educational opportunities.*

We examine the distribution of cognitive functioning among older people and its relationship to educational inequalities experienced at a younger age. We use all publicly available and representative old age surveys with comparable information to assess inequalities of cognitive functioning for six distinctive age groups in 29 countries. We advance the idea that cognitive inequalities among older people are largely determined by past educational inequalities as well as differential survival rates between the sexes. Results are robust to a variety of alternative explanations and persist even after controlling for gender-related biases in survival rates. Furthermore, we find evidence that unequal opportunities for education – captured by differences in parental background and gender- also have significant effects on inequality of old age cognition.



OLIVERA Javier, / ANDREOLI Francesco / LEIST Anja K. / CHAUVEL Louis

Economics and Human Biology, 2018, vol. 29, pp. 179-188. [SJIR : 2.123, Top 10%, Q1]

## Nonparametric Welfare and Demand Analysis with Unobserved Individual Heterogeneity

*Here we study consumers with different preferences and who are offered the same prices. Each price change can affect these people in a different way. This article highlights not only the average effect of price changes on well-being, but also the overall distribution of welfare effects among the population. Based on American data collected from 1994 to 2007, we observe a significant heterogeneity of gains/losses in well-being among the population.*

This paper combines revealed preference and nonparametric estimation techniques to obtain nonparametric bounds on the distribution of the money metric utility and demand functions over a population of heterogeneous households. Our approach is independent of any functional specification on the household utility functions. Our method applies the weak axiom of revealed preference to a population of heterogeneous households. Although this does not produce the sharpest bounds, we show that it is computationally attractive and provides narrow bounds. We demonstrate the usefulness of our results by applying it to the Consumer Expenditure Survey, a U.S. cross-sectional consumption data set.



COSAERT Sam / DEMUYNCK Thomas

Review of Economics and Statistics, 2018, vol. 100, n°2, pp. 349-361. [SJ: 7.088, Q1]

## The impact of social capital, land use, air pollution and noise on individual morbidity in Dutch neighbourhoods

*Based on one of the few studies on this subject, this article aims to understand the significance of combining several attributes of residential environments on the physical and mental health of its inhabitants. In particular, we took into account the level of urbanization, social cohesion and diversity of land use, which were all strongly correlated with health.*

Both social and physical neighbourhood factors may affect residents' health, but few studies have considered the combination of several exposures in relation to individual health status.

The aim was to assess a range of different potentially relevant physical and socio-environmental characteristics in a sample of small neighbourhoods in the Netherlands, to study their mutual correlations and to explore associations with morbidity of residents using routinely collected general practitioners' (GPs') data.

A high diversity in land use of neighbourhoods may be beneficial for physical and mental health of the inhabitants. If confirmed, this may be incorporated into urban planning, in particular regarding the diversity of greenspace.



ZOCK Jan-Paul / VERHEIJ Robert / HELBICH Marco / VOLKER Beate / SPREEUWENBERG Peter  
/ STRAK Maciek / JANSSEN Nicole A.H. / DIJST Martin, / GROENEWEGEN Peter

Environment International, 2018, vol. 121, n°1, pp. 453-460 [SJ: 2.568, Top 10%, Q1]

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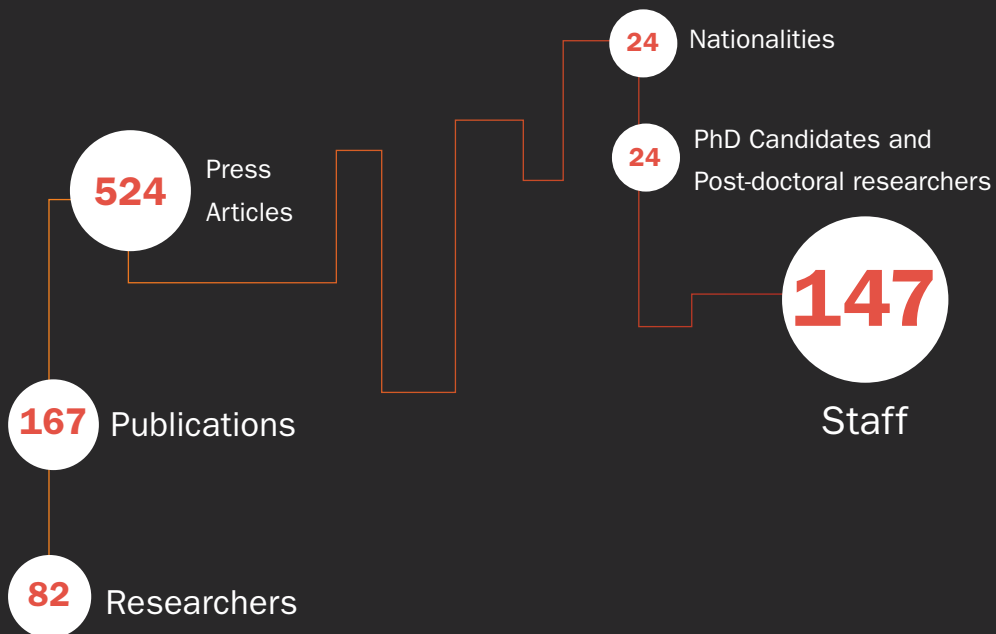
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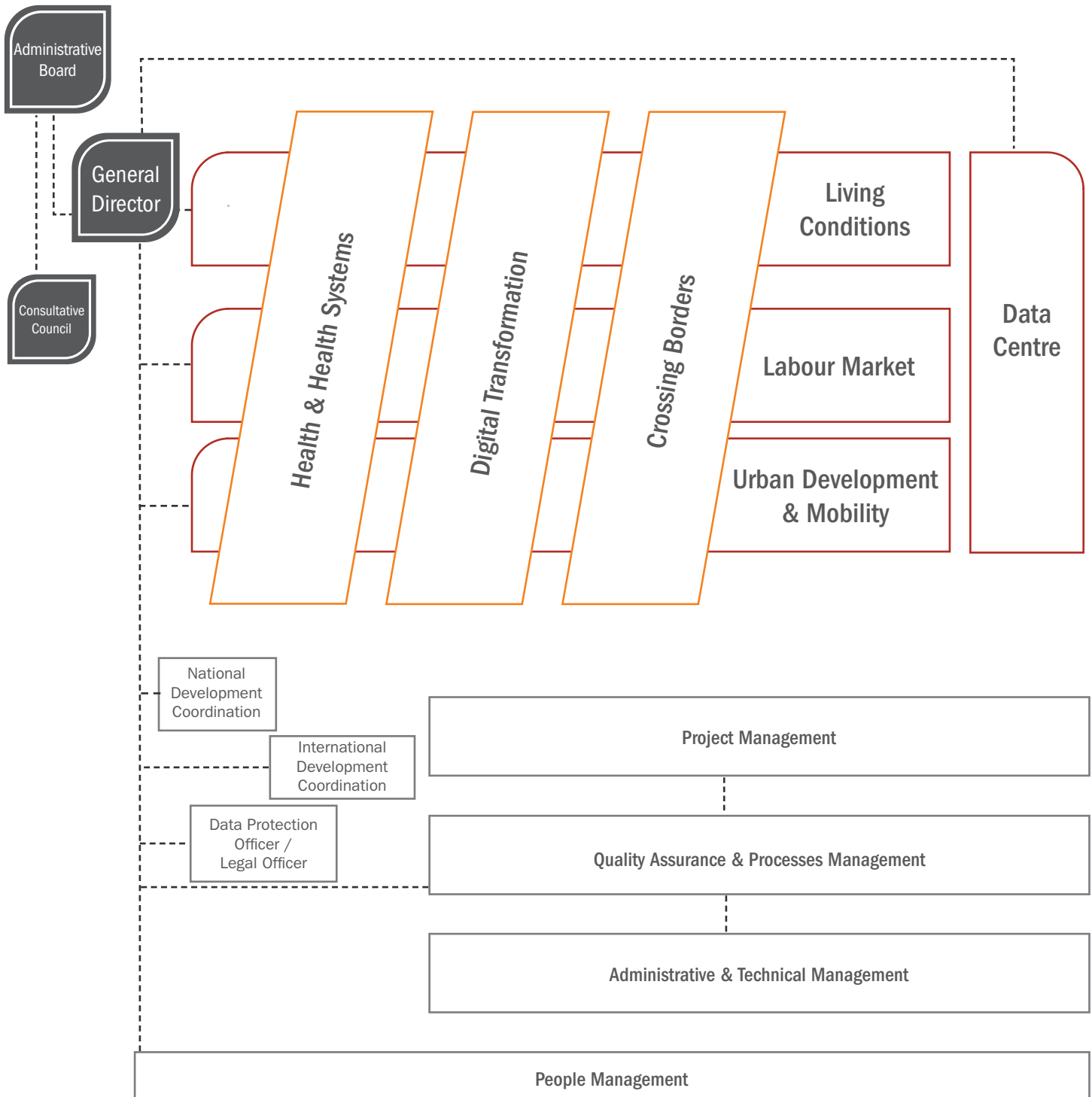
# FACTS & FIGURES







# ORGANISATIONAL CHART



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- / Nico Weydert, Deputy Director of STATEC
- / Laura Zuccoli, Deputy Director of STATEC

## Attend meeting of the Board of Directors in a consultative capacity

- / Josiane Entringer, **Assistant executive advisor**, Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche
- / Aline Muller, **CEO**, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)
- / Carole Blond-Hanten, **Staff Delegation President**, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ACTIF	2018	2017
<b>ACTIF IMMOBILISÉ</b>		
Immobilisations incorporelles et corporelles	481.038,07	573.011,28
Immobilisations financières	3.100,00	2.100,00
	484.138,07	575.111,28
<b>ACTIF CIRCULANT</b>		
<b>Créances</b>		
Créances résultant de ventes et prestations de services dont la durée résiduelle est inférieure ou égale à un an	3.862.783,57	2.513.479,62
Autres créances dont la durée résiduelle est inférieure ou égale à un an	112.876,86	272.585,84
Avoirs en banques, avoirs en compte de chèques postaux, chèques et encaisse	5.526.942,53	5.443.201,73
	9.502.602,96	8.229.267,19
Comptes de régularisation	139.127,28	144.758,84
<b>Total du bilan (actif)</b>	<b>10.125.868,31</b>	<b>8.949.137,31</b>
<b>FONDS PROPRES ET PASSIF</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>FONDS PROPRES</b>		
Excédents budgétaires cumulés	4.432.527,52	3.819.145,98
Résultat de l'exercice	34.664,84	613.381,54
Subventions d'investissement	481.038,07	573.010,63
	4.948.230,43	5.005.538,15
<b>PROVISIONS</b>		
Autres provisions	420.732,42	531.706,57
<b>DETTES</b>		
Dettes sur achats et prestations de services dont la durée résiduelle est inférieure ou égale à un an	1.379.469,27	1.211.632,99
<b>Autres dettes</b>		
Dettes fiscales	520.639,06	267.544,72
Dettes au titre de la sécurité sociale	387.933,31	335.055,86
Autres dettes dont la durée résiduelle est inférieure ou égale à un an	139.328,69	12.493,70
	2.427.370,33	1.826.727,27
Comptes de régularisation	2.329.535,13	1.585.165,32
<b>Total du bilan (Fonds propres et passif)</b>	<b>10.125.868,31</b>	<b>8.949.137,31</b>



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