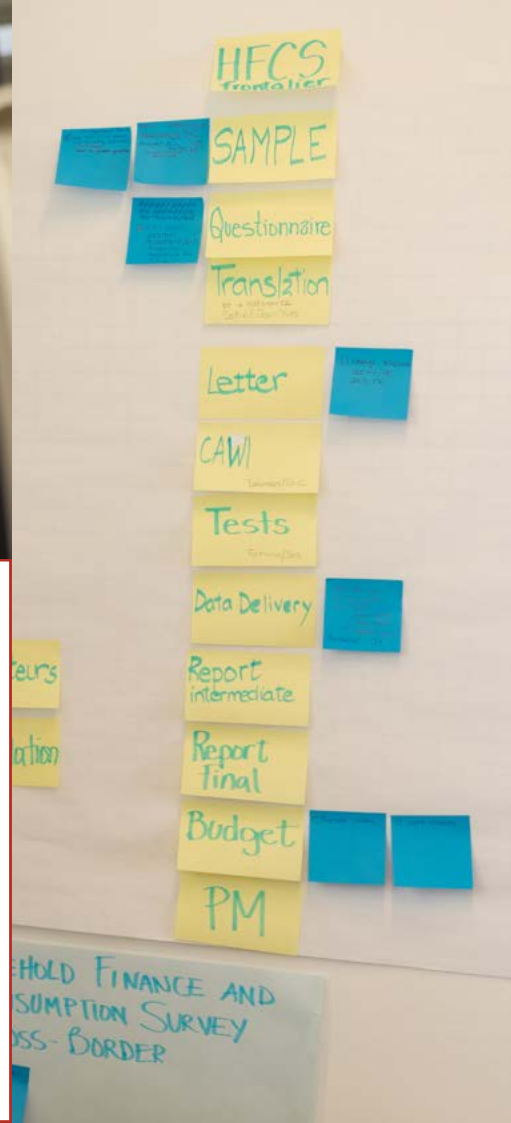


LISER



ANNUAL REPORT

27
EN



URBAN DEVELOPMENT & MOBILITY



LIVING CONDITIONS

LISER is a Luxembourgish public research institute, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research. LISER's research focuses mainly on the fields of social and economic policies, including their spatial dimension.

Through its empirical and theoretical work, the institute's mission is to provide the scientific community and society with clear, relevant and solid answers. The objective is to develop a sharp understanding of socio-economic mechanisms and their spatio-temporal dimensions in order to contribute to the development of better policies and to lay the foundations for a future strategic vision for our society. LISER is composed of three research departments: Labour Market, Living Conditions, Urban Development and Mobility.

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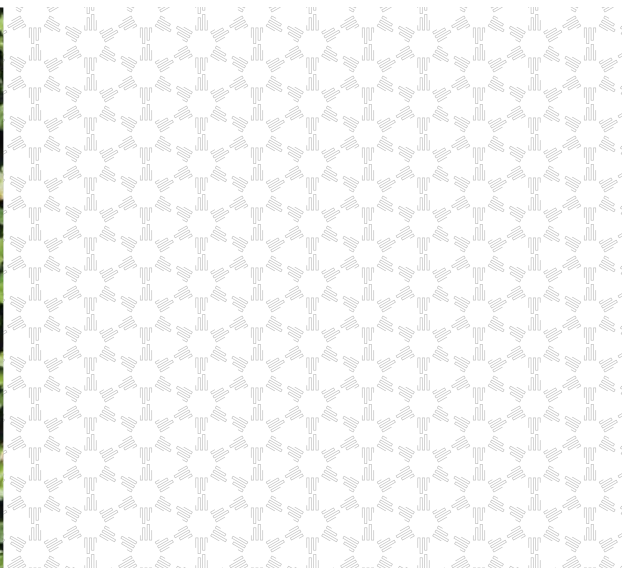
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A Word from the Chair

“Thanks to the investments made throughout 2017, LISER should be able to strengthen its position as an internationally recognised research institute.”

2017 was a decisive year for the future of LISER.

The first semester was dedicated to the preparation of the research programme for the next four years. The staff and its representative institutions were closely involved in this elaboration phase. Based on the research programme, the Board of Directors and the Executive Board negotiated the multi-year contract for the 2018-2021 period with the Ministry of Higher Education and Research during the second semester. This contract sets the State financial contribution in line with the commitments and objectives adopted by LISER during the implementation of the programme.

In 2017 the composition of LISER's senior management was finalized. After the arrival of the new CEO in 2016, the heads of the research departments “Urban development and mobility” (Prof Dr Martin Dijst) and “Labour market” (Dr Bertrand Verheyden) were recruited.

Thanks to these investments, LISER should be in a good place to strengthen its position as an internationally recognised research institute. I would like to show my appreciation to everyone, the staff, the CEO and members of the administrative board, for your enthusiastic engagement in the collective project of LISER.





A Word from the CEO

“We are committed to ensuring that our institute is in a continuous effort to improve the quality of our work in order to provide an even more acute and innovative understanding of society.”

I am very happy to present the LISER's annual report for 2017. As demonstrated in this report, 2017 was marked by milestones and developments that were particularly enriching and constructive for our institute.

When I think of this year, three words come to mind: gratitude, audacity, and determination.

Gratitude. 2017 was a pivotal year, with preparation for the 2018-2021 multi-year contract with the Ministry of Higher Education and Research – our institute was presented an opportunity to enter a profound phase of self-analysis and reflection on our future strategic research orientations. We embarked on this exercise in a collegial way, maintaining continuous dialogue and attentiveness. I am deeply grateful to all collaborators, members of the Board of Directors, as well as direct and indirect partners who contributed with so much conviction and enthusiasm to develop our strategic plan and prepare our multi-year contract.

Audacity. The world of research is changing; it continuously evolves. These changes lead to critical mutations, as well as a multitude of challenges. Through our strategic plan, we respond with rigour, force, and audacity in the face of

these challenges. Even though the stakes are high and the challenges numerous, the solutions we want to provide are innovative, ambitious, and steeped in our shared vision.

Determination. A number of projects in 2017 aimed to make our institute even more effective: decentralisation of the research organisation, recruitment of distinguished researchers from the four corners of Europe, institutionalisation of our connections with our partners, professionalisation of our research support structure and the restructuring of our DataCentre. We are committed to ensuring that our institute is in a continuous effort to improve the quality of our work in order to provide an even more acute and innovative understanding of society. Based on this excellence, our contribution to science and our impact on society will progress – this is the objective that we are resolutely pursuing.

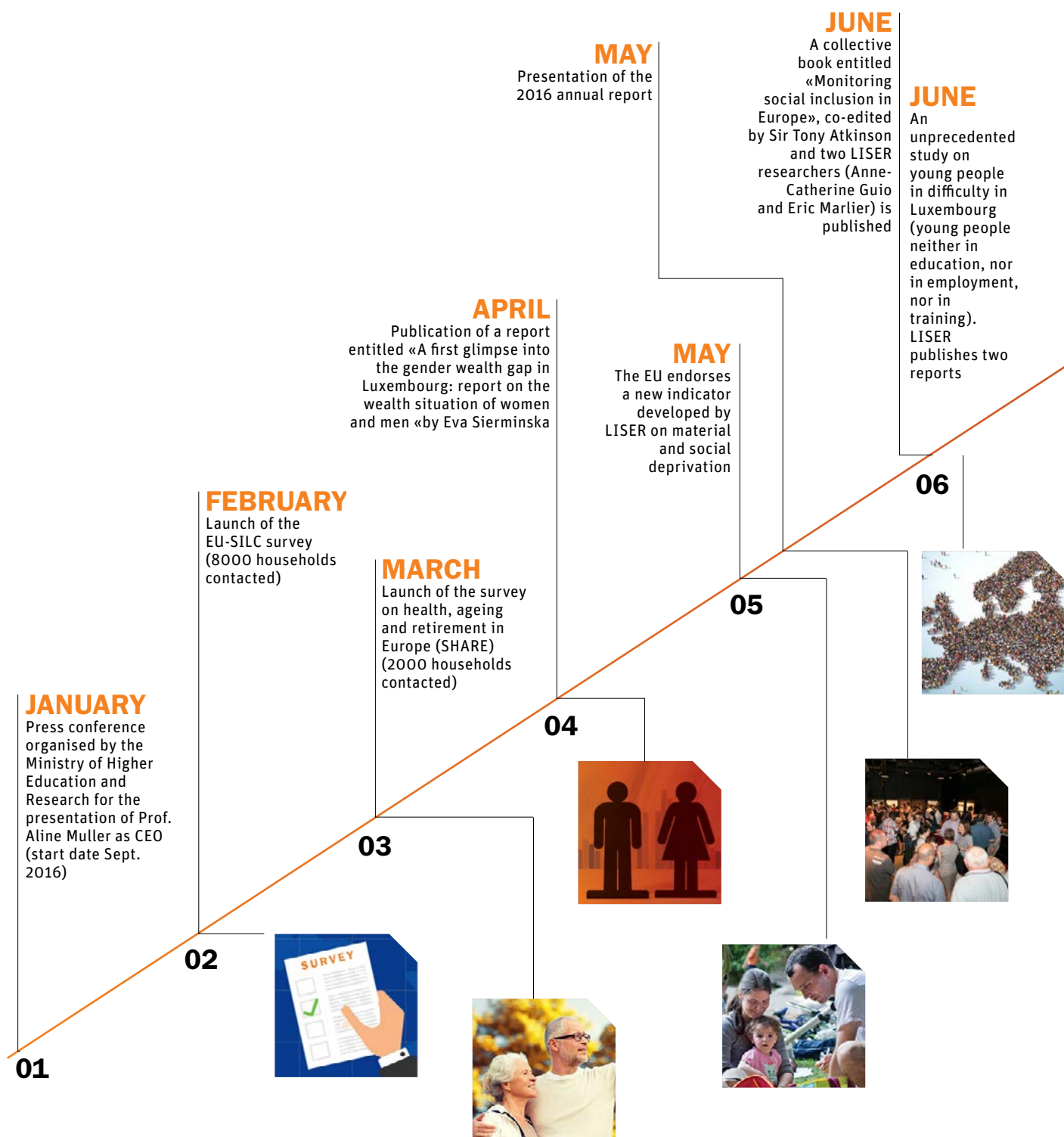
I hope you enjoy reading our annual report, which is only a chapter in a rich and exciting cycle.



ONE YEAR AT LISER

6

ANNUAL REPORT 2017





07

JULY

3-day summer school
on: «Methodologies for
Impact Evaluation»

2-day workshop on:
«Causal Inference
Program Evaluation,
and External Validity»

08

SEPTEMBER

Prof. Laurens Cherchye
from KU Leuven gave a
lecture on the theme:
"Revealed preference
analysis of non-
unitary household
consumption: Theory
and applications"

09

SEPTEMBER

Inaugural workshop
of LISER-LAB and
speech given by
Prof. Simon Gächter
of the University of
Nottingham

10

OCTOBER

Conference on data
protection in social science
research

11

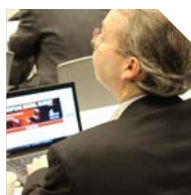
DECEMBER

SIMDECO project
closing workshop:
Understanding
International
Differences in
Income Inequality

12

DECEMBER

Conference-debate
- Towards a social
Europe: challenges
and ways forward



A collective book on “Monitoring social inclusion in Europe”

In 2017, a book on “Monitoring social inclusion in Europe”, edited by A.B Atkinson, A.-C. Guio and E. Marlier was published. This book is one of the last contributions by Sir Tony Atkinson, who passed away on 1 January 2017 after almost 50 years of research dedicated to better measure, understand and tackle inequality and poverty.

PROJECT LEADERS Anne-Catherine Guio et Eric Marlier

This book is the result of five years of EU-funded research carried out by Net-SILC2, the “Second Network for the Analysis of the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)”. Net-SILC2 was coordinated by LISER and involved a large number of academics as well as experts in national statistical institutes across Europe. So, it brought together expertise from both producers and users of EU-SILC to carry out in-depth methodological work and socio-economic analysis of this unique comparable dataset and to develop common tools and approaches regarding various aspects of data production for the whole European Statistical System.

The book aims to contribute to society’s understanding of some of the substantive challenges facing “Social Europe” and to the development of methods that can bring about new insights into issues related to income, deprivation and work. The data on individuals and their households are used to contrast the experience of European countries, drawing out lessons of potential value to all. The strengths and weaknesses of cross-sectional and longitudinal EU-SILC data are also examined, and recommendations for their further improvement are made – in relation to both data production and data analysis.

“The book is intended not only for policy-makers and statisticians but also for all those concerned about the impact of economic, employment and social policies on people’s lives and about the ways in which the social dimension of Europe – including the monitoring of the EU social inclusion target – could be strengthened.”



THE NET-SILC2 BOOK COVERS THE FOLLOWING FIELDS:

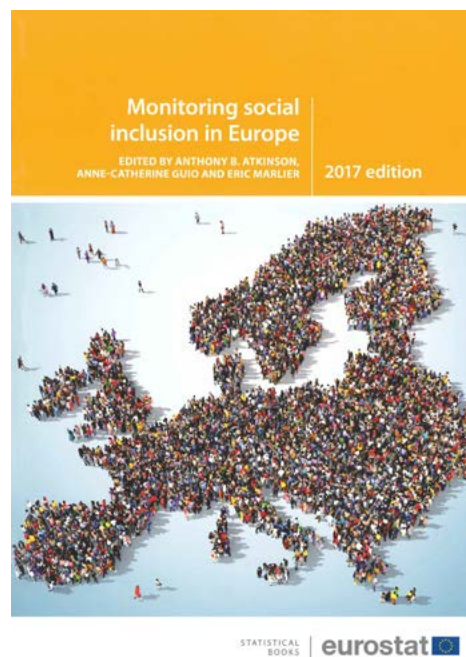
- / Income measurement and income distribution (including the distributional impact of imputed rent and of public services)
- / Material deprivation and multidimensional poverty
- / Employment and (quasi-)joblessness, income poverty and the Europe 2020 “at-risk-of-poverty-or-social-exclusion” (AROPE) indicators
- / Dynamics of poverty and social exclusion
- / Technical issues in the development of household social surveys.

The “Third Network for the Analysis of EU-SILC”, also funded by the EU and coordinated by LISER (Anne-Catherine Guio and Eric Marlier), is now up and running.

Net-SILC3 will continue to carry out in-depth methodological work and socio-economic analysis of the EU-SILC data until 2020. It will also organise the two international EU-SILC conferences and four Best Practice Workshops.

The Net-SILC2 book is available for free from :

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3217494/8031566/KS-05-14-075-EN-N.pdf/c3a33007-6cf2-4d86-9b9e-d39fd3e5420c>

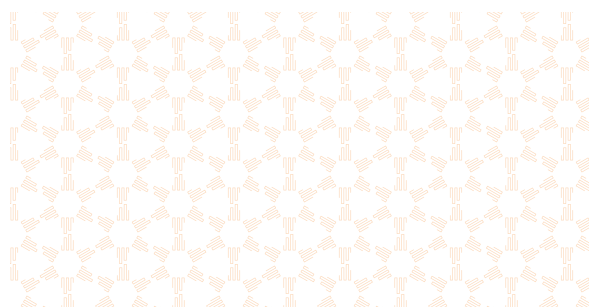


Material and social deprivation: the EU endorses a new indicator

In March 2017, the EU endorsed a new indicator of “Material and social deprivation”, which is now part of the major monitoring tools used by EU Member States and the European Commission for measuring EU progress in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. This indicator replaces the standard material deprivation indicator which the EU adopted in 2009.

PROJECT LEADER Anne-Catherine Guio

The new indicator of “Material and social deprivation” is the result of extensive international research funded by the EU and carried out by LISER in close collaboration with the University of Bristol (Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research). Anne-Catherine Guio (LISER) coordinated the research. The analysis can be downloaded from: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3888793/8309969/KS-TC-17-002-EN-N.pdf/da1887c3-a6b1-462e-bafb-e4f0b3fd3ab8>



“This indicator is the outcome of research that covers key aspects of what we think our work should contribute to: taking care of data quality, improving international indicators definition and better understanding the actual living conditions of people”



Since 2000, EU cooperation in the field of social policy has been organised around a set of key objectives. Progress towards these objectives is monitored using EU social indicators commonly agreed between the Commission and Member States. One such indicator is a measure of material deprivation endorsed in 2009 whose robustness needed to be strengthened. After several years of international comparative research funded by Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Union), the authors identified an optimal set of 13 material and social deprivation items which allow constructing a highly robust indicator. Six of these items were already included in the 2009 deprivation measure (which was based on 9 items) and seven are new.

As a result of this research, the seven new items proposed are now included in the core questionnaire of the EU reference data source for income and living conditions (EU-SILC). So, all 13 items are now collected every year in all EU countries and a number of non-EU countries.



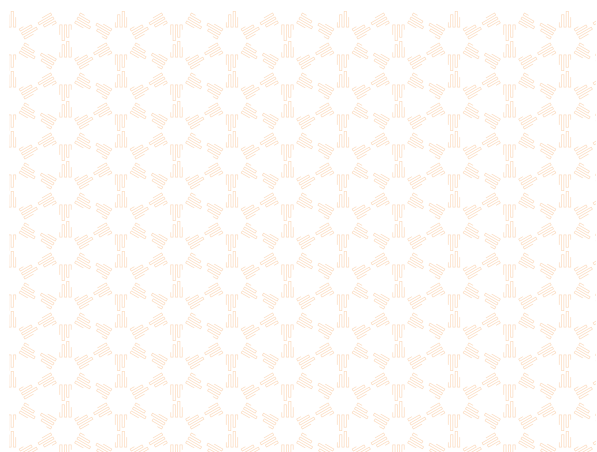
THE LIST OF 13 MATERIAL AND SOCIAL DEPRIVATION ITEMS IS AS FOLLOWS:

a) The inability for a household to:

- / face unexpected expenses;
- / afford a one-week annual holiday away from home;
- / avoid arrears (in mortgage or rent, utility bills or hire purchase instalments);
- / afford a meal with meat, chicken or fish every second day;
- / afford keeping the home adequately warm;
- / have access to a car/van for personal use;
- / replace worn-out furniture.

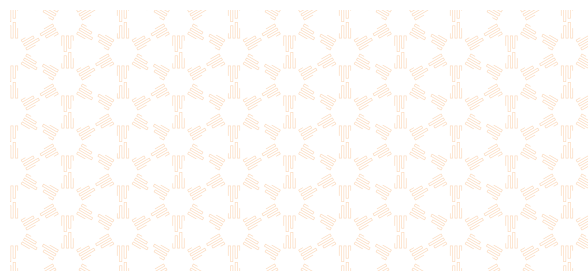
b) The inability for a person to:

- / replace worn-out clothes;
- / have two pairs of properly fitting shoes;
- / spend a small amount of money each week on him/herself;
- / have regular leisure activities;
- / get together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least monthly;
- / have an internet connection.



The material and social deprivation (MSD) rate is the proportion of people lacking at least five out of these 13 items. Figures show the large diversity of MSD rates in the EU, with percentages ranging from 3% in Sweden to 50% in Romania (5% in Luxembourg).

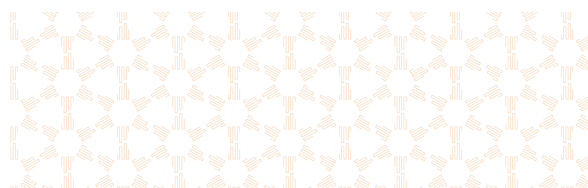
Although income poverty and deprivation are closely linked, there are situations where (income) poor people manage to avoid deprivation thanks to the high overall standard of living in the country where they live, the high in-kind social benefits/ services provided at (sub-)national level and/or their savings. Conversely, there are situations where people who are not (income) poor do suffer from deprivation due to accumulated debts, low standards of living in the country, poor in-kind benefits/ services and, which is linked, high personal costs (housing, education, mobility, health...). The MSD and the income poverty indicators complement each other: they are useful to understand different aspects of poverty and social exclusion.



Material and social deprivation in the EU



Source : EU-SILC 2016



A board game intended for society: the Gender Game

During the 2017 Science Festival organised by the Luxembourg National Research Fund, the Gender Game from LISER helped raise awareness among the general public about inequalities between women and men in our society.

PROJECT LEADER Carole Blond-Hanten



Many scientific studies, including the research of the European Institute for Gender Equality (www.eige.com), highlight the slow progress of our societies in achieving gender equality. With a gender equality index of 69 – on a scale from 1 for total inequality to 100 for total equality between women and men – Luxembourg is now progressing on the path towards an equal society. Even though equality is written in the law, it is not fully achieved in the real national context.

Awareness of the gender stereotypes and their possible implications is one of the tools in reducing these disparities. As a consequence, building on its own scientific research and facilitated by the FNR funding, LISER has created and developed a large (physical) board game addressed to the general public: the GG! GG means Gender Game, but also Good Game – to represent a fun and fair game. The board game is divided into squares covering 4 areas where gender inequalities remain: power, knowledge, work, and society. After throwing the dice and moving one piece to the corresponding square, the player is asked one

question. The player provides an answer to the question and afterwards, the answer based on scientific evidence is provided. Sometimes the latter answer is surprising and illustrates the inequality remaining between men and women in Luxembourg. Everybody can play, because there are questions suitable for children, teenagers and adults.

During the four days of the 2017 Science Festival, the workshop proposing the GG was always full, whether it was welcoming the schools or the general public. Interactions between these various social groups helped confirm the persistence of certain gender stereotypes in our society. Based on this high receptivity of the general public, the GG also strengthened the relevance of using a fun and interactive medium to raise awareness about questions of equality between women and men and its possible implications. To conclude, we have achieved our goal of raising awareness among players on how gender gaps could affect different areas of our lives, and they also had fun.



Wealth, Women, Men in Luxembourg

The study on Luxembourg carried out by LISER was part of an international project on wealth and gender in Europe coordinated by Dr Eva Sierminska and involving international experts.

PROJECT LEADER Dr. Eva Sierminska

Wealth is undoubtedly an important component of economic well-being. Yet, until recently the wealth situation of women and men in Luxembourg could be considered a black-box. Thanks to recent work in this area, there is now a first assessments of wealth differences, which point to inequalities across genders in this respect.

The study on Luxembourg was part of an international project on Wealth and Gender in Europe in the context of which 11 experts from other countries¹ were engaged to provide a description of the wealth outcomes in their countries. The goal was to use a new source of data - the Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS), which collects household wealth information for the Euro-area countries. In order to have a representative from Eastern Europe data from Poland was also obtained. Although the gender pay gap has received a lot of attention in the literature and popular press, the gender wealth gap defined as the difference in wealth between women and men is still in its infancy. This latest work has filled in this void at the European level and at the same time provides the first results for Luxembourg.

The findings of this report indicate that on average women have lower wealth² levels than men. At the median, the gender wealth gap is 0.6 for the EU-15 and for Luxembourg 0.8. Although, women and men, both start their economic adulthood with similar wealth levels, marital status affects them differently. This could be in part due to the fact that

women focus more on savings products such as saving accounts and real estate, rather than on investment products such as stocks and mutual funds, which have a higher expected return. Consequently, women's portfolios are less risky.

The situation in Luxembourg does not diverge particularly from what is found in other parts of Europe. Luxembourg does have the highest mean and median value of household wealth among the euro area countries due to long-term economic growth and rapid house price appreciation, but wealth is unequally distributed among its population. The largest gender wealth gap is among never married households and this cannot be explained by differences in income only. The differences are more likely to arise due to the style of allocating wealth components and risk tolerance.

The report does take a formal look at the gender wealth gap and decomposes it using more advanced techniques into differences related to observed characteristics between women and men, such as education levels or labor market outcomes and to other factors that cannot be otherwise observed. What is unusual in Luxembourg is that a majority of the gap unlike in most other European countries can be explained by differences in characteristics between women and men- income and marital status and very little remains unexplained. Future research could look into these process in more detail.

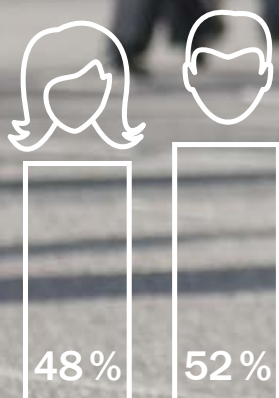
¹ *Wealth and Gender in Europe, 2017, European Commission, Directorate General for Justice.*

² *Wealth is defined as difference between assets and liabilities. Assets is the sum of financial (current and saving accounts, bonds, stocks and mutual funds) and non-financial assets (real estate and businesses).*



LABOUR MARKET

GENDER DISTRIBUTION



STAFF DISTRIBUTION



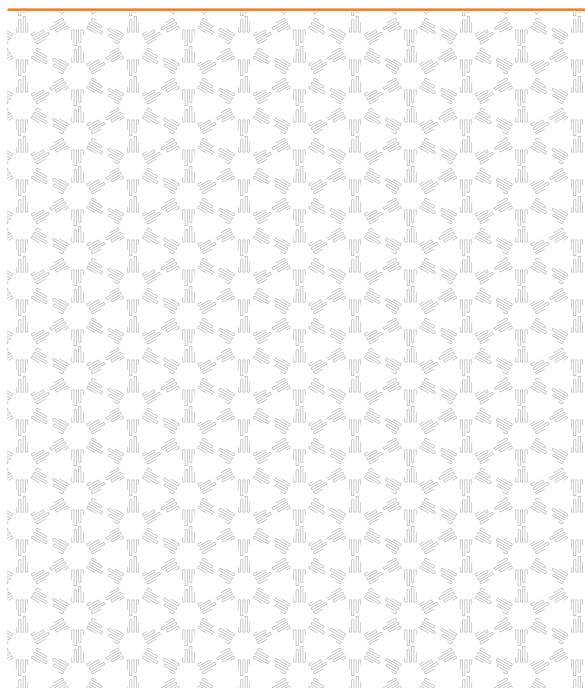


“In 2017, the department started important projects, in particular on the integration of older workers and migrants in the labour market of the Grand Duchy.”

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT Dr Bertrand Verheyden

RESEARCH AREAS

- / Corporate social responsibility
- / Fight against unemployment and participation in the labour market
- / Human resources economics and behavioural analysis
- / Labour relations, collective agreements
- / National and European employment policies
- / Regional and international mobility of workers



Does subsidised early years childcare make it easier for mothers to enter the labour market?

The CHILDCARE¹ project, in partnership with Professor Arnaud Dupuy (CREA, University of Luxembourg), sets out to understand the behaviour of the various stakeholders involved (parents, public authorities, as well as early years education and childcare departments) so that it can analyse the effects of existing policies and suggest alternatives.



PROJECT MEMBER Dr Audrey Bousselein

For the past 15 years or so, public authorities in Luxembourg have made major investments to expand the range of available childcare options², making them more affordable with the introduction of the Childcare Vouchers (Chèque-service accueil) in 2009. This universal service has had the effect of significantly reducing the cost of childcare: on average, families end up covering 25% of the cost, and the State takes care of the rest³.

Despite this broad political consensus, there remains very little scientific knowledge of the role played by the kind of universal childcare programmes found in Luxembourg in particular, and across Europe in general. Indeed, the matters stated above are mainly based on the results of empirical studies of targeted programmes, like those for low income families in the United States. It remains unclear as to whether universal programmes would have the same results, due to differences in the programmes' scale, content, target population, and institutional context (maternity and paternity leave policies). This lack of data is unfortunate for public decision-makers, given the cost of these policies and their importance to society.

The project tries to answer the following questions: Are childcare subsidies effective instruments for improving work-life balance and reducing socioeconomic inequality? How do these policies influence the decisions that parents and childcare providers make?

In Luxembourg, the introduction of Childcare Vouchers has had a positive effect on the employment (up three percentage points) of mothers of children aged under three but has had no effect on working hours. This general effect masks some

As more women have entered the workforce in recent decades, it has created a daily need for early years childcare outside the family circle. In many countries, governments have decided to subsidise childcare. This kind of public policy addresses at least two objectives. Firstly, by reducing the financial barriers to work, it helps women find a better balance between their working and family lives, thereby furthering gender equality in the workplace. Secondly, quality childcare can assist in the normal development of young children, which could help reduce future inequality in education.

“For the past 15 years or so, public authorities in Luxembourg have made major investments to expand the range of available childcare options, making them more affordable with the introduction of the Childcare Vouchers (Chèque-service accueil) in 2009.”

¹ The Childcare project Optimal Policies in the market for childcare: theory and evidence from Luxembourg is funded by the FNR (FNR/C14/SC/8337045).

² The number of available childcare places has multiplied by 4.5 over this period (Source: Report from the Ministry of Family, Inclusion, and the Grande Région, and from the Ministry of Education, Childhood, and Young People in Luxembourg).

³ Ministry of Education, Childhood, and Young People in Luxembourg..



differences: the project had the most impact on women with lower qualifications and on immigrants. This is hardly surprising given that into-work incentives are usually most effective for these women.

Is a universal policy more effective at helping mothers into work? Or should public authorities instead focus on targeted initiatives, giving more generous subsidies to certain families?

RESEARCH PARTNERS

/ LISER

DEPARTMENT LABOUR MARKET

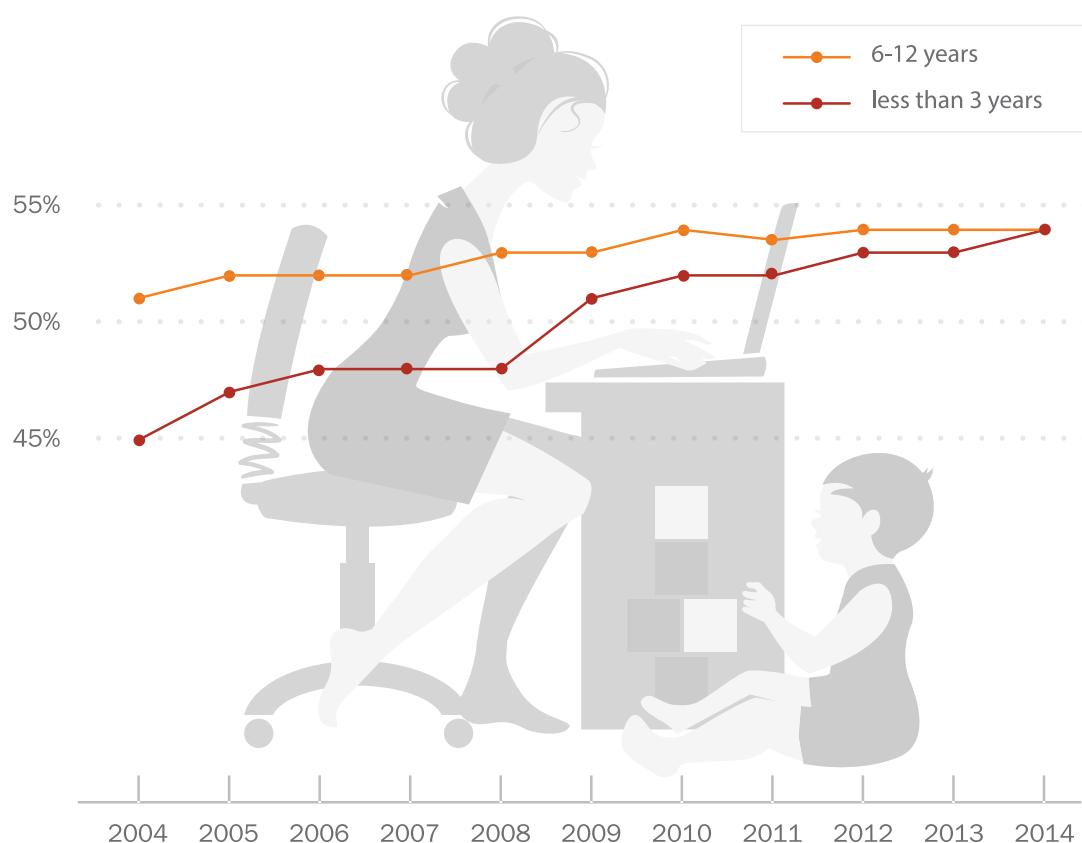
/ UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG (LUXEMBOURG)

FUNDING PROGRAMME



Luxembourg National
Research Fund

Percentage of women in paid employment, by age of youngest child, between 2004 and 2014



Note for the reader : in 2008, 48% of mothers whose youngest child was aged under three were in paid employment, this statistic stood at 54% in 2010.

Source : EU-SILC/PSELL 3, LISER

Employment relations and restructuring in the banking sector: Lessons learned during the financial crisis in Luxembourg, France and Romania

The aim of this project has been to analyse three different responses as to how employment relations systems and related dynamics in the sector responded to crisis pressures. Understudied in the academic literature, Luxembourg serves as a study focus of particular policy relevance as the banking sector has become a fundamental GDP and employment contributor since the demise of the steel sector in the 1970s.



PROJECT LEADER Patrick Thill

The banking sector employs more than four million employees in Europe. The sector has been severely hit by the international financial and economic crisis with a decrease of employment creation, an increase of unemployment rates, a drop in GDP share, and a negative impact on collective bargaining systems in the three countries under study. The sector also faces increasing pressures from digitalisation, new European regulation frameworks and political developments such as Brexit.

The project has mobilised qualitative data based on semi-structured interviews conducted in the three countries in the context of the European research project EUROSOFIN (co-financed by the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal

Opportunities of the European Commission in 2013-2015), and data from the European Monitoring Centre of Change (EMCC) database by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Working and Living Conditions (EUROFOUND).

“The integration of social models in Europe has lagged behind despite that the European economies are out of recession”

The study finds that there are significant and in some cases increasing differences between ‘old’ and ‘new’ Europe concerning collective bargaining and socially acceptable restructuring. By employing the concept of ‘organised’ and ‘disorganised’ decentralisation of employment relations systems in Europe, it is emphasised that employment relations were maintained during the crisis and larger crisis effects on employment cushioned within the organized decentralization of employment relations models such as in Luxembourg and France. In the two countries, industrial relations models still operate, with strong collective bargaining at sectoral level, reinforced by government intervention that occurs within a legal framework that regulates sectoral bargaining. In Luxembourg, in particular, collective bargaining occurs through the negotiation of a collective labour agreement and the appliance of legal instruments (social plans, job retention plans, etc.) leading to internal mobility and training schemes in banks. In disorganized decentralization, in contrast, such as in Romania, solutions to crisis effects are left to the company level and market forces.



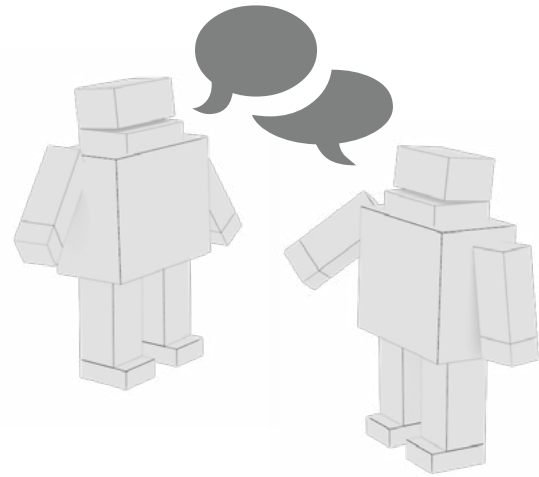
RESEARCH PARTNERS

/ LISER

DEPARTMENT LABOUR MARKET

/ BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (BULGARIA)

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIETIES AND
KNOWLEDGE



The study concludes that the integration of social models in Europe has lagged behind despite that the European economies are out of recession. This is exacerbated by challenges posed to the banking sector by the digitisation of business processes, and the diversification and product innovation that affect jobs and skills. In this complex and transnational environment, nationally embedded social partners in banking also face the challenge of adapting their strategies, areas of negotiation and expertise.

A fundamental dissemination of the project has been the scientific article entitled 'The impact of crisis and restructuring on employment relations in banking: The cases of France, Luxembourg and Romania' published in the prestigious European Journal of Industrial Relations in January 2018.



DOES WORK EXPERIENCE MITIGATE DISCRIMINATION?

In this paper we implement a correspondence experiment to test whether ethnic discrimination is heterogeneous by job candidates' work experience. We sent 768 fictitious job applications in response to genuine vacancies in Belgium. Five origins and three experience levels were randomly assigned to the applications. When we compare the callback from employers by ethnic minority status and years of work experience we find significant discrimination on candidates having no or 10 years of experience and no ethnic discrimination when candidates have 20 years of experience. For each year of experience, the hiring discrimination lowers by 5.5 percent.



Economics Letters, 2017, vol. 155, pp. 35-38.

/ STIJN BAERT
/ ANDREA ALBANESE
/ SOFIE DU GARDEIN
/ JOLIEN OVAERE
/ JARNO STAPPERS



ANDREA ALBANESE

"I completed a joint PhD programme at DEFAP Graduate School of Milan (Italy) and Ghent University (Belgium) in December 2015. My research interests are labour economics and causal analysis and my papers have been published in journals such as *Labour Economics* and *Economics Letters*. I joined LISER in 2016, and I am the Team Leader of the "Regional Policies and Cross-border Employment" unit in the Labour Market Department and the principal investigator of the National Research Fund in Luxembourg (FNR) funded project "CrossEUWork" (CORE junior 2017)."

DO INNOVATIVE WORK PRACTICES AND USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES MOTIVATE EMPLOYEES?

I investigated the impact of innovative work practices and information and communication technologies (ICT) use on employees' motivations. The paper provides new and interesting results on how firms can build a motivational environment. The results confirm the positive role of work practices such as teamwork, quality norms, formal appraisals, management recognition, and family-friendly policies. The ICT that most contributed to the development of a motivational environment are those that facilitate access to information and knowledge such as workflow, Internet, and e-mail.



Industrial Relations, 2017, vol. 56, n°2, pp. 263-292

/ LUDIVINE MARTIN



LUDIVINE MARTIN

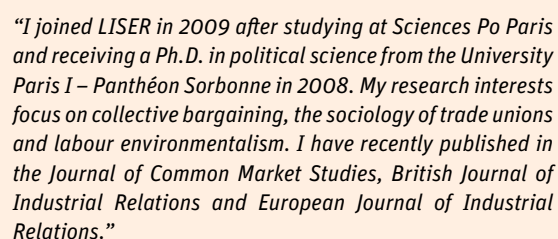
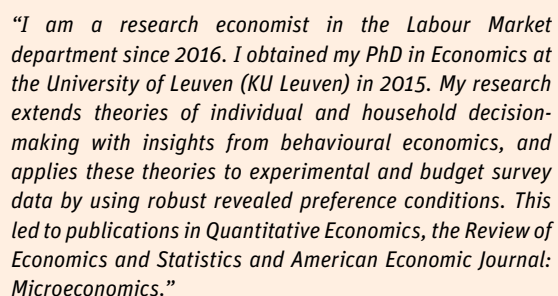
"PhD in Economics, from the University of Rennes 1, I have been working at LISER for almost 10 years in the Labour Market Department. My areas of research interests cover personnel and labour economics with a particular focus on the impact of Information and Communication Technologies on workers' motivations, well-being and work-life balance. I have recently successfully completed a research project entitled « Technology use at Work And INovative work practices » (TWIN) funded by the National Research Fund (FNR) in its CORE programme assessing the impact of technology use at work and innovative work practices on employees' behaviour."



CONGLOMERATE UNIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS OF UNION DEMOCRACY.

Confronted with membership losses and declining bargaining power, trade unions have engaged in both political and organizational responses. A frequent type of organizational response has involved the creation of conglomerate unions, which bring together workers from various sectors and occupations. Pointing out a number of parallels between organizational developments in trade unions and political parties, this article analyses the emergence of conglomerate unions as a cause and consequence of changing conceptions of union democracy. Drawing on two in-depth case studies conducted in France and Germany, the article examines how trade unions perceive their situation and how they define a reform rationale based on increasing their organizational 'efficiency' and 'effectiveness'. The reform of trade unions' internal organization, in turn, affects unions' capacity for interest aggregation and representation.

- / SABRINA BRUYNEEL
- / LAURENS CHERCHYE
- / SAM COSAERT
- / BRAM DE ROCK
- / STEFGRIED DEWITTE



LIVING CONDITIONS

PHOTO Rue Philippe II, Luxembourg-Ville

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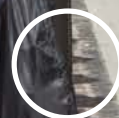
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“Through its diversity and its institutions, Luxembourg society provides a framework to analyse in a scientific and rigorous manner key issues such as the role of public policies in strengthening social cohesion.”

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT Dr Alessio Fusco

RESEARCH AREAS

- / Analysis of social policy
- / Child poverty
- / Distribution of income and wealth
- / Equal opportunities and territorial inequalities
- / Health and ageing
- / Inequality and education
- / Integration and assimilation of foreigners
- / Microsimulation methods
- / Poverty, discrimination and inequality
- / SHARE (Survey on Health Ageing and Retirement in Europe)
- / Social cohesion and wellbeing
- / Social inclusion
- / Social indicators
- / Social mobility and the dynamics of incomes and wages
- / Socio-economic inequalities in health
- / Sustainability of pension systems and the Welfare State
- / Taxation, social policies, employment and inequality
- / Work/life balance





InGRID-2

A newly launched European-wide social sciences research infrastructure

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme¹. InGRID (<http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/>) is a network of European research infrastructures.



PROJECT LEADER Dr Philippe Liegeois

A research infrastructure is a facility that provides the scientific community with resources and services to conduct top-level research in their respective fields. In 2017, the network has received funding for another 4-year span by the European H2020-programme: the InGRID-2 project. InGRID-2 consists of a consortium of 19 key actors from European research centres and universities. Integrating, expanding and innovating the infrastructures-in-existence is the key goal of the InGRID-2 project. Serving as a significant actor, LISER will facilitate the project.

Europe is confronted with another “climate warming” - a social one. Despite the fact that the European economy is showing mild signs of improvement, the past crisis is far from over and people across Europe are still suffering under the consequences. Many Europeans have experienced decreases in living standards during the crisis, resulting in poverty, but also growing inequalities between regions, age groups and household types. These crisis experiences confirm to a certain extent ongoing trends related to globalisation, financialisation, demographic challenges, welfare-state retrenchment, technological changes and skills mismatches in the labour market as well as changing power relations between labour and capital.

In this context, policy at the European level is increasingly defined as a key issue in order to tackle growing social problems.

InGRID-2 serves the social sciences community that aspires to make an evidence-based contribution to this European policy challenge of inclusive growth. It is a social sciences community that focuses on social in/exclusion, vulnerability-at-work and related social and labour market policies from a European comparative perspective.

InGRID-2 will involve three types of activities. Firstly, it will provide access to social science installations to researchers based on a unified and integrated grant system. Secondly, InGRID-2 will coordinate networking activities to set up a knowledge exchange and transfer within the dedicated community-of-interest by organising 18 training activities, 11 expert discussions and 3 special interest groups. Finally, research activities will be conducted with the aim of enhancing and enriching the technical quality of the research distributed infrastructure.

LISER will be involved in many areas covered by InGRID-2, significantly intensifying its participation compared to the former FP7-funded InGRID project (2013-2017). So, the institute will welcome researchers from all over the world (2017-2021) for short research visits. It will also organize several workshops and conduct research on: (i) migrant's social rights (2018); (ii) the combination between EUROMOD and LIAM2, two important microsimulation platforms targeting respectively short-term and long-run analyses (2018-2020); (iii) mid-term projections through microsimulation modelling (2018-2020); (iv) poverty and material deprivation (2020); (v) the theory and practice of programme evaluation by the use of complex design methods (2019) and (vi) dynamic microsimulations (2017-2021). The latter activity will reinforce the synergy between developers aiming at analyzing e.g. the long-term distribution effects of population ageing. It will also include a first operationalization of an e-resource platform (listing of models, applications, development and simulation tools) to be developed with key actors, including the International Microsimulation Association, hosted by LISER since 2015.

¹ under Grant Agreement no 730998



*InGRID-2, a consortium of 19 key actors led by HIVA – KULeuven in Belgium.
Source : <http://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/>*

RESEARCH PARTNERS

- / LISER**
DEPARTMENT LIVING CONDITIONS
- / TARKI (HUNGARY)**
- / UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM (THE NETHERLANDS)**
AMSTERDAMS INSTITUUT VOOR ARBEIDSTUDIES
- / UNIVERSITY OF STOCKHOLM (SWEDEN)**
SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH
- / UNIVERSITÉ DE TRÈVE (GERMANY)**
WIRTSCHAFTS- UND SOZIALSTATISTIK
- / CENTRE D'ESTUDIS DEMOGRÀFIES (SPAIN)**
- / UNIVERSITY OF ANTWERP (BELGIUM)**
CENTRUM VOOR SOCIAL BELEID HERMAN DELEECK
- / UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX (UNITED KINGDOM)**
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH
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- / CENTRE D'ETUDES DE L'EMPLOI ET DU TRAVAIL – CNAM (FRANCE)**
- / CEPS (BELGIUM)**
- / UNIVERSITY OF PISA (ITALY)**
DIPARTIMENTO DI ECONOMICA E MANAGEMENT

FUNDING PROGRAMMES



- / UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON (UNITED KINGDOM)**
SOTON
- / CROSS-NATIONAL DATA CENTER IN LUXEMBOURG - LIS (LUXEMBOURG)**
- / UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER (UNITED KINGDOM)**
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
- / CENTRAL EUROPEAN LABOUR STUDIES INSTITUTE (REPUBLIC OF SLOVAKIA)**
- / PANTEION UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES (GREECE)**
- / NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, (POLAND)**
CIOP – CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR LABOUR PROTECTION

Inequalities in household incomes between European countries

How can we explain differences in household income inequality between European countries? The role of demography, social and fiscal policies, and employment and pay structures (SimDeco¹)



PROJECT LEADERS

Dr Denisa Sologon, Dr Philippe Van Kerm

The inequality in incomes is the subject of considerable debate. Contrary to popular belief, the situation can be very different in different countries: while some countries have seen inequality increase significantly, others much less; periods of stability have followed periods of rapid growth and the cycles are not the same everywhere.

The level of income inequality, as measured for example by the Gini coefficient, varies considerably from country to country, even among countries with similar level of development. The difference in inequality between the US or the UK and the Scandinavian Countries is much bigger than the changes observed within any OECD country over the last thirty years. And yet, while the causes of various recent changes in numerous countries are now well understood, we know far less about what can explain the differences in inequality levels between countries.

The aim of the SimDeco project, funded by the National Research Fund, was to explore the nature of international differences in disposable household income inequality

in Europe. Why do we see such differences in inequality between countries that are otherwise similar? Four possible major explanatory factors are examined. Is it because the demographic profiles differ between countries (more young people, more single parent families, more people living alone, etc.)? Is it because the employment structures are different (different sectors of activity, different types of jobs, different levels of unemployment)? Is it because pay structures are different (higher wages, different levels of capital income)? Or is it because socio-fiscal policies are different, with higher or lower levels of income tax, or redistribution policies that are more or less generous in transfer mechanisms such as pensions, services for families, or welfare programmes? The project developed a statistical approach combining microeconomic and microsimulation models in order to quantify the role played by the four main factors.

The detailed statistical representation of the link between the various income components and the socio-demographic and labour market characteristics allows the simulation of gross household incomes and their distribution under alternative scenarios. Combining these simulations with the detailed calculation of taxes, social security contributions and benefits depending on each household's characteristics and gross income, allows the realistic simulation of the distribution of disposable or net income. By proposing a generic framework for studying international differences in the distribution of household income across European countries, it was possible to study the mechanisms that can explain the differences in income inequality levels between these countries.

The main application of this statistical model was the comparison between the UK and Ireland, two European neighboring English-speaking countries that share many similarities while displaying at the same time sufficient differences to merit understanding of the factors that have resulted in different levels of inequality. We explored the

“Almost half of the difference in inequality is due to differences between the two tax-benefit systems.”

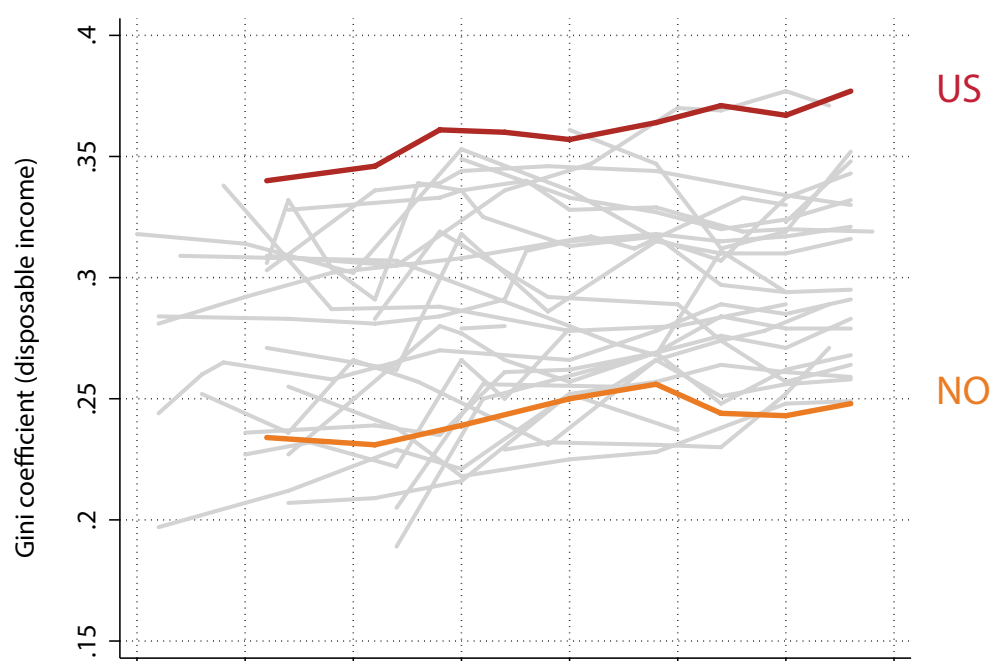
¹ The SimDeco project was funded by the Luxembourg National Research Fund (grant number C13/SC/5937475).



drivers of distributional differences between these countries in 2007, the latest year before the economic crisis. Whereas market income distribution is roughly 1.4 Gini point less unequal in Ireland than in the UK, the difference in inequality in disposable income is almost three times larger. Almost half of the difference in inequality is due to differences between the two tax-benefit systems. The role of social and fiscal policies emerge as more important than demographics, labour market structure and returns in explaining the higher inequality levels found in the UK. The application to other European countries, such as the Netherlands and Portugal, has confirmed this finding.

This result shows that fiscal and social policy decisions play an important role in shaping income inequality differences even among similar countries, more than the labour market, demographic factors or the economy. There is therefore room for policy action in confronting income inequality.

Gini index of income inequality in industrialised countries since 1980



Reading note: There is much more difference in inequality between NO and the US than there is between the US today and 20 years ago (each line tracks the evolution of disposable income inequality in a different industrialized country from about 1980 to 2015). What can explain this? Differences in redistribution through taxes and transfers? Differences in the economy and the labour market? Differences in earnings? Differences in population characteristics?

Source: LIS Key Figures - <http://www.lisdatacenter.org/>

RESEARCH PARTNERS

/ LISER DEPARTMENT LIVING CONDITIONS

/ NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND GALWAY
(IRELAND)

/ UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA (AUSTRALIA)

FUNDING PROGRAMME



Luxembourg National
Research Fund



DID THE ESCALATION OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS OF 2008 AFFECT THE PERCEPTION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED THREATS? A NATURAL EXPERIMENT

In this paper, we apply a natural experiment approach, comparing specific data from the European Values Study prior to and after the escalation of the financial crisis in 2008. The aim is to disentangle the short-term effect of the crisis on the relationship between social vulnerability and immigrant-related threat perceptions for the residents of Luxembourg (natives and foreign nationals). The results reveal that vulnerable foreign nationals demonstrated lower perceptions of immigration-related threats after the escalation of the crisis than their pre-crisis counterparts. No significant effect of the escalation of the crisis was found among Luxembourg nationals.

Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 2017 (Online First: 23 May 2017).

/ Marie VALENTOVA
/ Marie-Sophie CALLENS



MARIE VALENTOVA

"Research fellow at LISER since 2002, I hold a PhD in Sociology from Masaryk University and Advanced Master in European Social Policy Analysis (MESPA) from Tilburg University (NL) and Bath University (UK). I also acted as a country member of the Expert's Forum of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), and led and contributed to funded research and policy-oriented project (both at EU and national level) that dealt with female career interruptions, parental leave policy evaluation, integration and perception of immigrants."

ARE INCOME POVERTY AND PERCEPTIONS OF FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES DYNAMICALLY INTERRELATED?

An individual's economic ill fare can be assessed both objectively, looking at one's income with reference to a poverty line, or subjectively, on the basis of the individual's perceived experience of financial difficulties. Although these are distinct perspectives, income poverty and perceptions of financial difficulties are likely to be interrelated. Low income (especially if it persists) is likely to negatively affect perceptions of financial difficulties and, as recently suggested by the behavioural economics literature, (past) subjective sentiment may in return influence individual's income generating ability and poverty status. The aim of this paper is to determine the extent of these dynamic cross-effects between both processes. Using Luxembourg survey data, the main result highlights the existence of a feedback effect from past perceived financial difficulties on current income poverty suggesting that subjective perceptions can have objective effects on an individual's behaviour and outcomes.

Journal of Economic Psychology, 2017, vol. 61, pp. 103-114

/ Sara AYLLÓN
/ Alessio FUSCO



ALESSIO FUSCO

"I am acting head of the Living Conditions Department since February 2017. Before that I held various positions within LISER which I joined in 2005 as a Post-doctoral researcher in the IMPALLA Master programme. In 2008, I joined the Living Conditions department as a research economist and was then appointed head of the 'Income, Wealth and Poverty' research unit in 2013. I hold a PhD in Economics from the University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis (France) and my research interests are on applied microeconomic topics related to the analysis and the measurement of inequality, poverty and social assistance. I am currently the Principal Investigator of the project 'Investigating the Mechanisms of Reliance to Social Assistance' (IMeRSe) funded by the Luxembourg National Research Funds (FNR). I also participated to several EU-funded research projects about the measurement of material deprivation in Europe (Net-SILC) or the impact of growing inequalities on the society (GINI)."

MODELLING EARNINGS DYNAMICS AND INEQUALITY: FOREIGN WORKERS AND INEQUALITY TRENDS IN LUXEMBOURG, 1988–2009.

The paper exploits large-scale administrative data to analyse trends in male earnings inequality in Luxembourg during 20 years of rapid economic growth, industrial redevelopment and massive inflow of foreign workers. We observe a surprising stability in overall earnings inequality. However, these are a result of more complex underlying changes, with marked increases in persistent inequality (except among natives), a growing contribution of foreigners and a decrease in earnings instability (primarily for natives).

Journal of the Royal Statistical Society (Series A: Statistics in Society), 2017 181(2), 409–440.

/ Denisa **SOLOGON**
/ Philippe **VAN KERM**



DENISA SOLOGON

“I received my PhD in Economics/Social Protection in 2010 from Maastricht University, The Netherlands. My PhD project was financed by a Marie Curie PhD Fellowship and an AFR PhD Fellowship from the National Research Fund in Luxembourg. During my PhD, I had a Visiting Research Fellowship at Harvard University - Harvard Kennedy School of Government, The Wiener Center for Social Policy. Finally, I joined the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER) as a Research Economist in 2013 and have been appointed head of the “Income, Wealth, and Poverty” unit in 2017.”



PHILIPPE VAN KERM

“I have been a researcher at LISER since 2001. I am at present Professor of Social Inequality and Social Policy at the Faculty of Language and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education on a joint appointment between LISER and the University of Luxembourg. Much of my research focuses on the distribution of income and wealth, income dynamics and social mobility, and different forms of socio-economic inequalities.”

PERSISTENCE OF SOCIOECONOMIC INEQUALITIES IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTORS FIVE YEARS AFTER CORONARY ANGIOGRAPHY.

The purpose of this study was to assess trends in knowledge of cardiovascular risk factors among patients five years after coronary angiography and to investigate the impact of educational level on knowledge level. In 2013/2014, only 40% of patients could list at least three risk factors, a much higher percentage than the 8.5% observed during the initial survey in 2008/2009. Patients with higher educational levels were more likely to cite at least three risk factors than patients with lower education levels.

European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing, 2017 (Online First: 11/07/2017)

/ Anastase **TCHICAYA**
/ Nathalie **LORENTZ**
/ Stefaan **DEMAREST**
/ Jean **BEISSEL**



ANASTASE TCHICAYA

“I am a health and social protection PhD economist with over twenty-five years of research experience in this field. I have worked at LISER for 16 years in the Living Conditions department, and am also the principal investigator of research projects funded by the FNR, and carried out with my colleague Nathalie Lorentz. Currently, my work focuses on socio-economic inequalities in health, cardiovascular risk factors, quality of life and health behaviour change in patients with cardiovascular diseases in Luxembourg.”

> NATHALIE LORENTZ

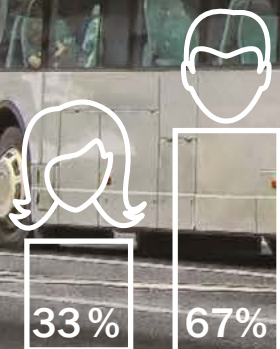
“I have a master’s degree in epidemiology and public health from the University of Bordeaux. I work at LISER for over 17 years in the Living Conditions department. I am particularly interested in social inequalities in health. I am currently working on the socio-economic and demographic determinants of cardiovascular disease.”



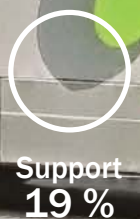
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MOBILITY

PHOTO Avenue de la Liberté, Luxembourg-City

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STAFF DISTRIBUTION



ENT



“Spatial mismatch between supply of housing, employment and consumer facilities causes daily (cross-border) mobility problems. It puts quality of life under pressure. Thorough understanding of the mechanisms, implications as well as effectiveness of alternative solutions are key challenges.”

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT Prof. Dr. Martin Dijst

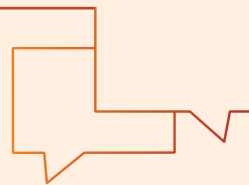
RESEARCH AREAS

- / Affordable housing
- / Cross-border integration: practices and representations
- / Cross-border metropolitan areas and the role of the media
- / Cross-border territorial cooperation and planning
- / Evaluation of national and cross-border transport networks
- / Urban environment, daily mobility and health
- / Housing policies
- / Housing price modelling
- / Individual mobility behaviour: practices and representations
- / Interaction between transport systems and land use
- / Smart mobility and sustainability
- / Social and spatial inequalities
- / Spatial planning and urban social policy
- / Specialisation of financial centres





INTERVIEW WITH MARTIN DIJST



“I stroke a blow for more interdisciplinary geographical research which puts human beings central to get a more comprehensive understanding of the meaning of exposures to environments for the well-being of human beings.”


MARTIN DIJST



Already, since my master's in Urban Geography at Amsterdam University I was fascinated by the relationships between human beings and geographical environments. I remember, my first student's paper was titled 'Geography as HUMAN Science' in which I stroke a blow for more interdisciplinary geographical research which puts human beings central to get a more comprehensive understanding of the meaning of exposures to environments for the well-being of human beings. The late prof. Christian Van Paassen, invited me to his room to have a personal discussion on my paper. I felt so honoured. Thanks to him I was stimulated to continue my quest for more interdisciplinarity in geographical research.

My academic career brought me from the University of Amsterdam, via a Dutch social science research institute, to Delft University of Technology where I did my PhD in transportation on The Elliptical Life of Human Beings. Thereafter, Utrecht University offered me a position to develop a research team on spatial mobility which resulted in a full professorship in Urban Geography with a special focus on Urban Development and Spatial Mobility. Interdisciplinarity is a red thread to my academic career. In a EU-project on spatial deconcentration of employment and quality of life in European metropolitan areas, I collaborated with economists and political scientists. Another Dutch project on climate and environmental change brought together meteorologists, planners and geographers.

Since 2014, I am also involved in debates with a large variety of social and natural scientists on urban metabolism, which resulted in the joint White Paper 'Exploring Urban Metabolism; towards an integrative perspective'.

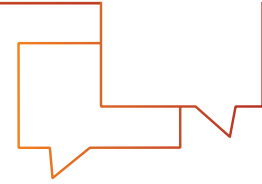
Since 2013, I was leading the interdisciplinary research program Healthy Urban Living. For the first time researchers from a large variety of medical, behavioural, geographical and GIS scientific disciplines started to work together on issues related to healthy urban living. The development of the program was a concerted action of several faculties of Utrecht University and the University Medical Center Utrecht in close collaboration with renowned Dutch national health institutes. Also stakeholders, such as municipalities and provinces, were intensively involved in this program. As part of the program a Global and Geo Health Data Center was developed.

The department of Urban Development and Mobility has a strong expertise in excellent research on several issues related to urban policies and spatial mobility. With its inter- and transdisciplinary focus, it forms for me the ideal breeding ground to develop jointly, with other research institutes, public and private stakeholders, cutting edge scientifically-inspired but policy-oriented research.





INTERVIEW WITH GEOFFREY CARUSO



"I like to think that as a geographer we must bring in finer spatial forms into economics therefore providing opportunities to add explicit environmental externalities (such as pollution, landscape amenities, etc.) and a better understanding of transportation when assessing the social wellbeing and the environmental sustainability of cities."


GEOFFREY CARUSO



My research is mostly dedicated to understanding how cities evolve and what type of urbanisation patterns emerge from the complex set of interactions that relate individuals, transportation systems and the environment. In May 2017, I have been appointed to the joint Professor chair of the University of Luxembourg and LISER in Urban Analysis and Modelling. This position is a fantastic opportunity for me to strengthen the quantitative geography path that I have started to develop about 10 years ago as an Associate Professor within the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning at the University of Luxembourg. By consolidating this effort with the urban and transport research line conducted at LISER, my ambition is to create in Luxembourg an internationally leading group in quantitative urban geography and spatial analytics.

Urban modelling and quantitative spatial analysis have always been a key component of my research, with a very particular focus on integrating dynamic simulation tools and micro-economics and allying both theoretical and applied perspectives. Before joining Luxembourg, I obtained a PhD in Geographical Sciences at the Université catholique de Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium) after writing a PhD on periurbanisation where I linked Cellular-Automata models – a very trendy computational method used by geographers to simulate land use change - with urban economic theory. I then worked as a Research Associate at the Martin Centre for Architectural and Urban Studies in Cambridge, United Kingdom, and at the Centre for Operations Research and Econometrics (CORE) back in Louvain-la-Neuve in Belgium. In England, I learned to interact with urban planners - a very well established field in the UK - and linked my research to operational transportation models and agent-based approaches. In Louvain-la-Neuve, I

benefitted from many interactions with economists from whom I particularly appreciate the parsimony and formalism of the social outcome of cities. I like to think that as a geographer we must bring in finer spatial forms into economics therefore providing opportunities to add explicit environmental externalities (such as pollution, landscape amenities, etc.) and a better understanding of transportation when assessing the social wellbeing and the environmental sustainability of cities.

Among my ongoing research projects one is devoted to understanding how urban green space impact residential choice and whether it does so differently for different socio-economic groups. Another one is devoted to an empirical analysis of how land use and density patterns change with the population size of cities across Europe, which ultimately questions whether we should go for big cities or for smaller but more numerous cities. This research line will be continued as part of a FNR CORE research project (SCALE-IT-UP) in the coming years. I am also supervising a set of PhD theses related to carbon sequestration in urban vegetation, the form of road networks and their impact on residential pollution exposure, or the emergence of Neolithic settlement patterns, all using a mix of advanced geographical data analysis methods and computer simulation models. In the future I would like to setup an improved, yet transparent, land use and transport interaction model for the Greater Region where we could simulate housing and labour markets, residential choice and travel, within a very detailed geography in order to support spatial planning and policy in this complex cross-border setting.



Smart-Boundary : Simulating urban growth in cross-border regions

“Smart-Boundary” is a research project funded by the National Research Fund in Luxembourg and the CNRS in France, in the context of INTER-PICS bilateral tenders. From its launch, this project has helped reinforce old collaborations and share expertise between LISER and ThéMA laboratory teams (UMR 6049, CNRS – Université Bourgogne Franche-Comté).



PROJECT LEADER Dr Olivier Klein

“Smart-Boundary” aims to prospectively study and simulate urban development in various areas on a regional scale, notably cross-border areas. Special attention is given to studying the role of borders, as diverse as they may appear, in order to identify processes at work, and factors that can contribute to urban development in these distinctive places.

Controlling urban sprawl and soil artificialisation has become one of the key stakes for sustainable regional development. However, traditional spatial planning approaches are often insufficient for anticipating spatial changes, notably in cross-border areas. In the face of this complexity, using dynamic spatial simulations and developing appropriate tools offers suitable solutions for reflection and decision-making, for the scientific community, territorial technical staff and various stakeholders.

From a methodological point of view, this prospective vision of territories relies on development scenarios that are

designed and implemented in dynamic simulation models, which are developed specifically in the context of this project. Two types of approaches are preferred. The first is based on constrained cellular automaton changing by means of transition rules defined by experts. The second is based on machine learning algorithms that develop predictive models from knowledge stemming from the past. Cross use of these different methods enables testing spatial consequences of territorial development scenarios. All of this work is carried out over three studied areas. Two areas are cross-border: the first is Strasbourg-Kehl area and the second is Luxembourg with its cross-border employment area. The third is non-border, the Communauté d'Agglomération du Grand Besançon.

Various contrasting planning scenarios have been tested. Some are standard, such as the continuation of past trends, greater densification of urban centres, or even suburbanisation around the main employment hubs. Others are more original and more specific, such as development linked to the close proximity to the border, around border crossing areas, but also around large-scale projects located in border areas such as the Esch-Belval site in the south of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

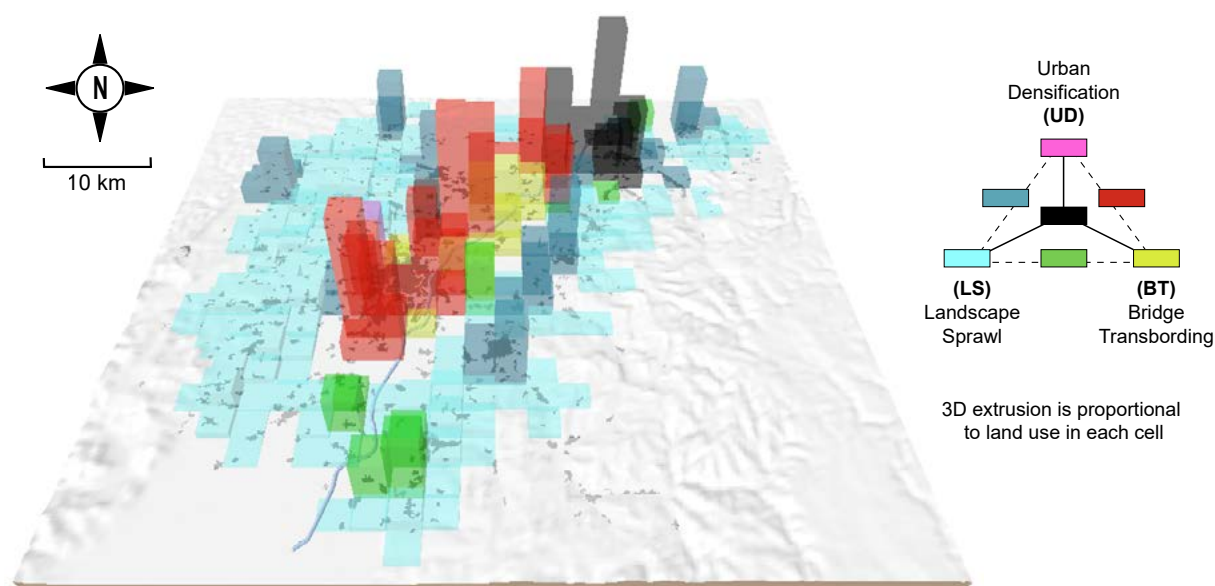
By combining the results of the various simulations, areas with different urbanisation and development potentials emerge. Some of these areas with particular complex spatial patterns appear almost systematically, which predicts strong development potential. Furthermore, the simulation and the combination of various scenarios also help assess the impact of certain parameters or factors on urban development, like the role of accessibility to employment hubs.

Using this land use change modelling, implemented in software specifically developed by ThéMA Laboratory for this project, allows us to study urban sprawl more easily and efficiently, notably in cross-border areas. Currently, the next stages of the project will focus on validating developments made with local actors and working to communicate results stemming from this research in academic publications.

*“Controlling urban sprawl and soil
artificialisation has become one
of the key stakes for sustainable
regional development”*



Simulation of land use change by 2038 in the Strasbourg-Kehl cross-border region



Source : EEA, 2006
Authors : Antoni J-P., Klein O.

ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE PROJECT

- / Olivier **KLEIN** (PI, LISER)
- / Jean-Philippe **ANTONI** (CO-PI, THÉMA LABORATORY – UNIVERSITÉ DE BOURGOGNE FRANCHE-COMTÉ, CNRS)
- / Valentine **JUDGE** (LISER AND THÉMA LABORATORY – UNIVERSITÉ DE BOURGOGNE FRANCHE-COMTÉ, CNRS)
- / Hichem **OMRANI** (LISER)
- / Gilles **VUIDEL** (THÉMA LABORATORY – UNIVERSITÉ DE BOURGOGNE FRANCHE-COMTÉ, CNRS)

FUNDING PROGRAMME



Crossing disciplinary borders to better tackle cross-border environmental challenges!

The CrossWater project is an interdisciplinary research project in which researchers from geography, political science, environmental chemistry and physics worked together on the topic of water pollution.



PROJECT LEADER Dr Christophe Sohn

The project investigated the transboundary environmental problem of micro-pollutants in the surface water of the river Rhine. Its goal was to:

- determine challenges of cooperation in water quality management in the Rhine catchment;
- identify so-called “mismatches” between competence areas of actors responsible for the regulation of micro-pollutants and the pollution’s spatial extension area in the river basin
- assess the different policy instruments that address the environmental problem at the national and regional levels.

Micro-pollutants are residues of chemical substances stemming from pesticide use in agriculture, the human consumption of pharmaceuticals, production processes using chemicals, the application of herbicides, and the use of antibiotics in livestock breeding. The different causes by humans’ daily activities make micro-pollutants a ubiquitous challenge for surface water. Micro-pollutants’ effects on humans and the environment are uncertain, but it is likely that they might cause harm to aquatic ecosystems and eventually secondary consumers and humans. The substances extend within water bodies, crossing national borders. Actors from different countries and from different

sectors – covering the consumers, polluters, service providers, science and state actors – need to work across borders to align their actions and tackle this environmental problem.

The Moselle catchment area on Luxembourgish and German territory, the catchment area of the lower Rhine in Germany (Ruhr) and the cross-border urban area of Basel (Switzerland-France and Germany) were selected as case studies in order to examine:

- the *actors* regulating micro-pollutants in surface water;
- the *different legislations and instruments* tackling this environmental problem;
- *actors’ participation in so-called platforms* like associations or river basin organizations;
- *actors’ cooperation patterns* when managing micro-pollutants.

The project found that in all three cases, actors who regulate micro-pollutants come from different sectors that should all be involved in the management scheme to successfully regulate the environmental problem. The group of actors identified in each case comprises state actors who develop policy instruments to regulate the problem in identifying the polluters who cause the problem, service providers who clean water thereby contributing to solve the problem, scientific institutions that develop techniques to detect micro-pollutants and to filter them and water associations and NGOs that transmit knowledge on the topic. In all three case studies, actors form a tight network of social interaction and information exchange that aims at the regulation of micro-pollutants.

In the case of the Moselle and the Lower Rhine catchment area, state actors oriented the legislation regulating micro-pollutants towards the European Union’s Directive 2000/60/EC, the so-called Water Framework Directive (WFD). The WFD commits

“The project found that in all three cases, actors who regulate micro-pollutants come from different sectors that should all be involved in the management scheme to successfully regulate the environmental problem.”



EU member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all European water bodies by 2015. In the Basel case study, micro-pollutants' regulation is considered in the Swiss Water Protection Act.

The instruments tackling micro-pollutants differ across the cases. In Basel, source-directed as well as end-of-pipe instruments are implemented. The former tackle the substances at their entry point into the water cycle and range from substance bans to discharge limits. The latter comprise measures that tackle the substances once they already entered the water cycle. In the Ruhr case, actors apply a multi-barrier approach that comprises water quality monitoring, the diagnosis of micro-pollutants, the preparation of an action plan, the taking of measures, and continuous research. The main measure applied is the upgrading of wastewater treatment plants to filter micro-pollutants – an end-of-pipe instrument. In the Moselle case,

instruments are the least developed: in Luxembourg, actors monitor and categorize the existing substances before working out measures; in Rhineland-Palatinate, the focus lies on water monitoring and source-directed instruments.

Finally, the CrossWater project also looked at the spatial overlap of actors' territorial competence area in which they manage micro-pollutants and the physical extension of micro-pollutants in the Rhine river catchment area. The results show that drinking water providers are well connected to regional and national actors in charge of micro-pollutant regulation. Moreover, there is a considerable amount of overlap between actors' spatial competence area and the catchment area in which micro-pollutants are detected. Last, the regulation of micro-pollutants is done in the 'right' area, namely in the regions where micro-pollutants occur.

RESEARCH PARTNERS

/ LISER

DEPARTMENT URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MOBILITY

/ UNIVERSITY OF BERNE (SWITZERLAND)

INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

/ eawag (SWITZERLAND)

SWISS FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF AQUATIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FUNDING PROGRAMME

/ INTER FNR-SNF (Swiss National Fund)

Rhine catchment area





CITY DELINEATION IN EUROPEAN APPLICATIONS OF LUTI MODELS: REVIEW AND TESTS

This paper stresses the lack of attention paid to the geographical definitions of cities in LUTI models (transport-urbanism model, which integrates the interactions between transport supply and demand, real estate supply and demand and land use issues) as one key detrimental aspect to transferring and generalising LUTI results. The paper suggests methodological guidelines to improve the comparability of LUTI, mainly in: delineating the study area based on commuting flows, coupling the model components with the 'rest of the world', and reporting geographical and socioeconomic patterns for transparency.



Transport Reviews, 2017 (Online First: 28/02/2017)

/ Isabelle **THOMAS**
/ Jonathan **JONES**
/ Geoffrey **CARUSO**
/ Philippe **GERBER**



PHILIPPE GERBER

"I am a geographer with main interests in Land Use and Transport Interaction (LUTI) models by linking interactions between residential and daily mobility using spatial analysis and econometric tools. I also have strong expertise in survey design and the application of related analytical methods. In doing so, I contribute to a better understanding of mobility behaviour beyond the traditional prism of 'bounded rationality', with a focus on attitudes and representations. I am working at LISER since 2001 after my completion of my PhD in 2000 about residential mobility in general, and gentrification and urban comfort in particular."

TENURE CHANGE IN LONDON'S SUBURBS: SPREADING GENTRIFICATION OR SUBURBAN UPSCALING?

This article looks at the distribution of social upscaling across London linked to changes in tenure between 2001 and 2011. Against a background of discussions of suburban decline, it shows that there are a number of Outer London areas which have seen upscaling trajectories linked to the private rented sector. The analysis reveals that this particular type of upscaling was made possible by the variegation in the Outer London landscape: within a space dominated by early to mid-20th century semi-detached and terraced (row) housing, areas of distinctive architecture and excellent accessibility offer a diluted version of the metropolitan milieu gentrifiers seek in the inner city.



Urban Studies, 2017 (Online First: 18 July 2017).

/ Antoine **PACCOUD**
/ Alan **MACE**



ANTOINE PACCOUD

"I'm a social geographer with a PhD from the London School of Economics (LSE), at LISER since 2015. I have published on Haussmann's transformation of Paris, on gentrification linked to the private rental sector in the United Kingdom and on the application of the ideas of contemporary philosopher Alain Badiou in the social sciences. I am currently studying the mechanisms underlying the long-run concentration in the ownership of property in Luxembourg."

LIFE-ORIENTED TRAVEL BEHAVIOUR RESEARCH: AN OVERVIEW.

For many decades, mobility researchers considered mobility as a means to get from A to B, or as derived from the activities in which we want to participate during a day. However, daily mobility is also related to the various choices we make with respect to different life domains (e.g., Where to live, work, play? Should I start a family now? Buy a second car, or become a member of a car sharing club? Etc.). This calls for a shift towards a life-oriented approach in mobility research. Such a life-oriented approach highlights the interdependencies between life choices, supporting the need for more cross-sectoral policymaking.



Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice, October 2017, vol. 104, pp. 167-178.

/ Junyi **ZHANG**
/ Veronique **VAN ACKER**



VERONIQUE **VAN ACKER**

“Doctor in Geography, from Ghent University (Belgium), I have been working at LISER for almost 2 years now in the Department of Urban Development and Mobility. Currently, I am developing a new research line on the life-oriented approach in travel behaviour research with special attention to differences between generations. My areas of research focus mainly on the interaction between the built environment and travel behaviour, the influence of lifestyles and mobility attitudes, travel satisfaction and subjective well-being, and the interest in new mobility services like Mobility as a Service (MaaS) and automated vehicles (AVs).”

THE GEO-POLITICS OF BREXIT, THE EURO AND THE CITY OF LONDON

In this paper we call for more, and for a more profound, engagement with the geo-political dimension of the finance economy that epitomises the 21st century capitalist order. Using the example of financial clearing and settlement, key processes in global trade and finance mechanisms in which London leads the world, we discuss the entangled political and economic dimensions in the shadow of Brexit to come, and its potential impact on the City's complex financial ecosystem.



Geoforum, 2017, vol. 85, pp. 1-4.

/ Sabine **DÖRRY**



SABINE **DÖRRY**

“PhD in economic geography, Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main. My research interests include, amongst others, the changing global production and trade relations, primarily in financial and other services industries, and the dynamics of urban, financial and real estate development. I seek to develop alternative ways of analysing the global financial system, particularly the relational nature of complex local production systems of finance in the world's leading financial centres.”



DATA CENTER

GENDER DISTRIBUTION





“In 2017 we embarked on a path of transformation in order to build an even stronger team capitalizing on the tradition and introducing methodological and operational innovation.”

HEAD Dr Agnieszka Walczak

DATA CENTER

/ Jean-Yves Bienvenue
/ Alexandra Biever
/ Sylviane Breulheid
/ Maxime Di Blasi
/ Anasse El Maslohi
/ Maria Guadarrama
/ Eric Guastalli
/ Michel Leman
/ Nada Magnoni
/ Carla Martins
/ Marie-Josée Munchen
/ Nermin Plavsic
/ Ginette Schickes
/ Marc Schneider
/ Laureen Vanni
/ Anne Villeret



Summary of the year 2017

“The year 2017 marks the first step on the path towards developing a center of excellence for survey methodology and archiving of social science data in Luxembourg. The team, strengthened by the arrival of three new members, has successfully completed a number of surveys, explored methodological issues related to sampling of the country’s population, worked on the improvement of internal processes to achieve greater operational efficiencies and has been preparing for the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). These developments lay the ground for an even stronger team for the future.”

// Dr Agnieszka Walczak, *Head Data Center*

Surveys in 2017

Survey EU-SILC

From mid-February to mid-October 2017, LISER conducted – on behalf of the National Institute of Statistics of Luxembourg (STATEC) - the survey European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). The aim of this annual survey is to collect data on income, poverty, social exclusion, work, education, health and living conditions in order to produce national and European indicators for monitoring the poverty and social inclusion in the EU. Approximately 8000 households on the territory of Luxembourg have been contacted, and 3985 agreed to answer, which amounted to more than 10 000 individuals interviewed for the survey.



more than

8 000

households contacted

3 985

households participated in
the survey



SHARE Survey

From March to November 2017, LISER collected data from the third wave of the European SHARE survey: survey on health, retirement and ageing, from 1530 households living in Luxembourg and thanks to the support of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research. Nearly 1290 people agreed to participate in this new wave of surveys and answered questions about their health, living conditions, family and social relationships, as well as several questions aimed at tracing important events in their lives. All the data collected provide a better understanding of the ageing process of the population and highlight the best ways to maintain good living conditions at an older age. This data is also valuable to better tailor public policies to people's needs.



1 290

people aged 50 or older answered to the survey

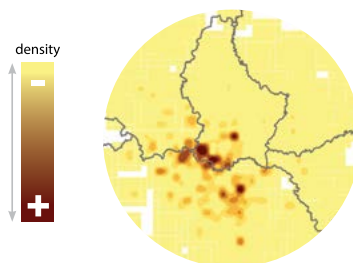
Mobility survey in the activity zones of the Southern region - Second phase: Employee survey

In collaboration with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures, PRO-SUD and Verkeiersverbond, LISER conducted a study to find out the practices and mobility needs of employees of companies in business parks in the Southern region. This study made it possible to analyse individual mobility behavior of employees and identify possible levers for action to improve daily mobility in these areas. To do so, in collaboration with the «Urban Development and Mobility» department, the Survey team developed an Internet questionnaire. After distribution to companies located in these business parks, 1,349 employees responded to this survey.

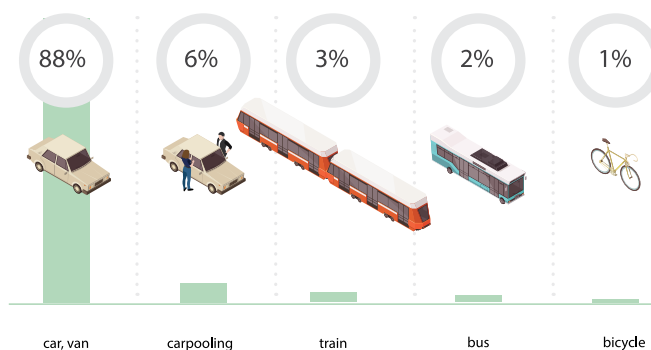
1 349

employees answered to this survey

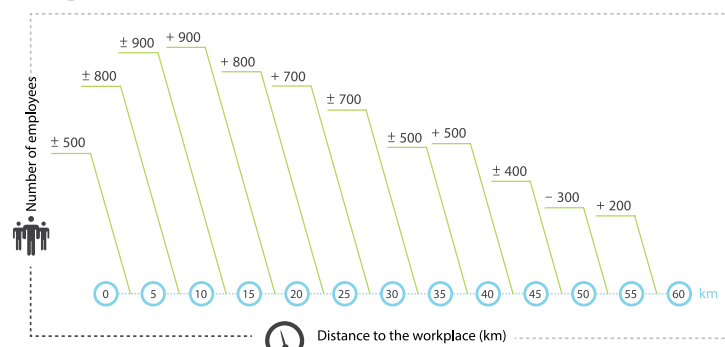
a) Density of employees by place of residence



b) Modal split



c) Distance home-to-work



The LISER database catalogue - Data Service

A website that displays the richness of data collected by LISER.



MARC SCHNEIDER
team leader behind the project

« In Luxembourg, people know LISER well, but they are not aware that there are so many databases available in the institution. It was therefore necessary for LISER to inform researchers and other professionals about the databases that LISER hosts. We have put in place very simple search filters, which allow researchers, students and other users to quickly find the databases corresponding to their theme of interest. Cataliser is certainly destined to become the essential platform for data exchange in Luxembourg, but also beyond borders of the country ... »

Since recently, LISER has been offering to the scientific and professional community a catalogue of databases in the field of social sciences. In the free access mode, the website allows you to view information on the data produced through surveys and the work of the institute's research teams.

“Data Service” is particularly aimed at the scientific and professional community, but it also showcases internationally the Institute's scientific work.

The interface of the web application (<http://dataservice.liser.lu>) is a real asset for the provision of many databases.

The catalogue allows, through associated keywords, not only to quickly identify where the data is listed, but also to view the associated metadata: the user can at a glance know in which form the data is available, how to access the data and the conditions of use for the data. “Data Service” also includes technical and methodological documents and information on survey questionnaires.

The data selected from the catalogue is available on request. The data is handled in strict compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations of the European Union (which came into force in May 2018)

DATA DR



Conference on data protection in social science research

October 17th, 2017, LISER



AGNIESZKA WALCZAK
conference organiser

The new EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which will enter into force in May 2018, intends to further strengthen data protection of individuals in the European Union. The regulation has very important implications for research, including research in social and behavioural sciences.

Participants of the conference “Data Protection in Social Science Research”, which was hosted at LISER on 17th October 2017, discussed the challenges that the data protection regulation imposes on research, but also identified a number of opportunities that the new law brings.

« The right to data portability (Art. 20 in the GDPR) opens potential avenues for research – researchers could design studies for which participants are asked to bring their own data, for example from social security providers, health insurers, public institutions or even private companies such as Facebook”, said Prof. Michael Bosnjak, Director of the Leibniz-Institute for Psychology Information (ZPID). »

Dr Anne Sofie Fink Kjeldgaard from the Danish National Archives sees the new data protection regulation as a “driver for development of user services for metadata and data as open as possible and as restricted as necessary, following on the ideas about Open Government and Open Science”.

In spite of the awareness about the importance of data protection in research, concerns were raised that we need to at all costs avoid any potential negative repercussions for research, such as restraining access to data for research purposes (for example access to register data used as sampling frames by universities and research institutes). In addition, the potential differential impact of data protection spreads across different actors such as national statistical institutes, universities, research institutes and private companies. The considerable burden to implement all safeguards was also evoked by participants.



SUPPORT TO RESEARCH

PHOTO LISER, Fonds Belval

GENDER DISTRIBUTION





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/ Frédéric Klein

HUMAN RESOURCES

/ **Valérie Baran**

/ Paola Dumet

/ Vanya Kirova

/ Esther Zana-Nau

SECRETARIAT

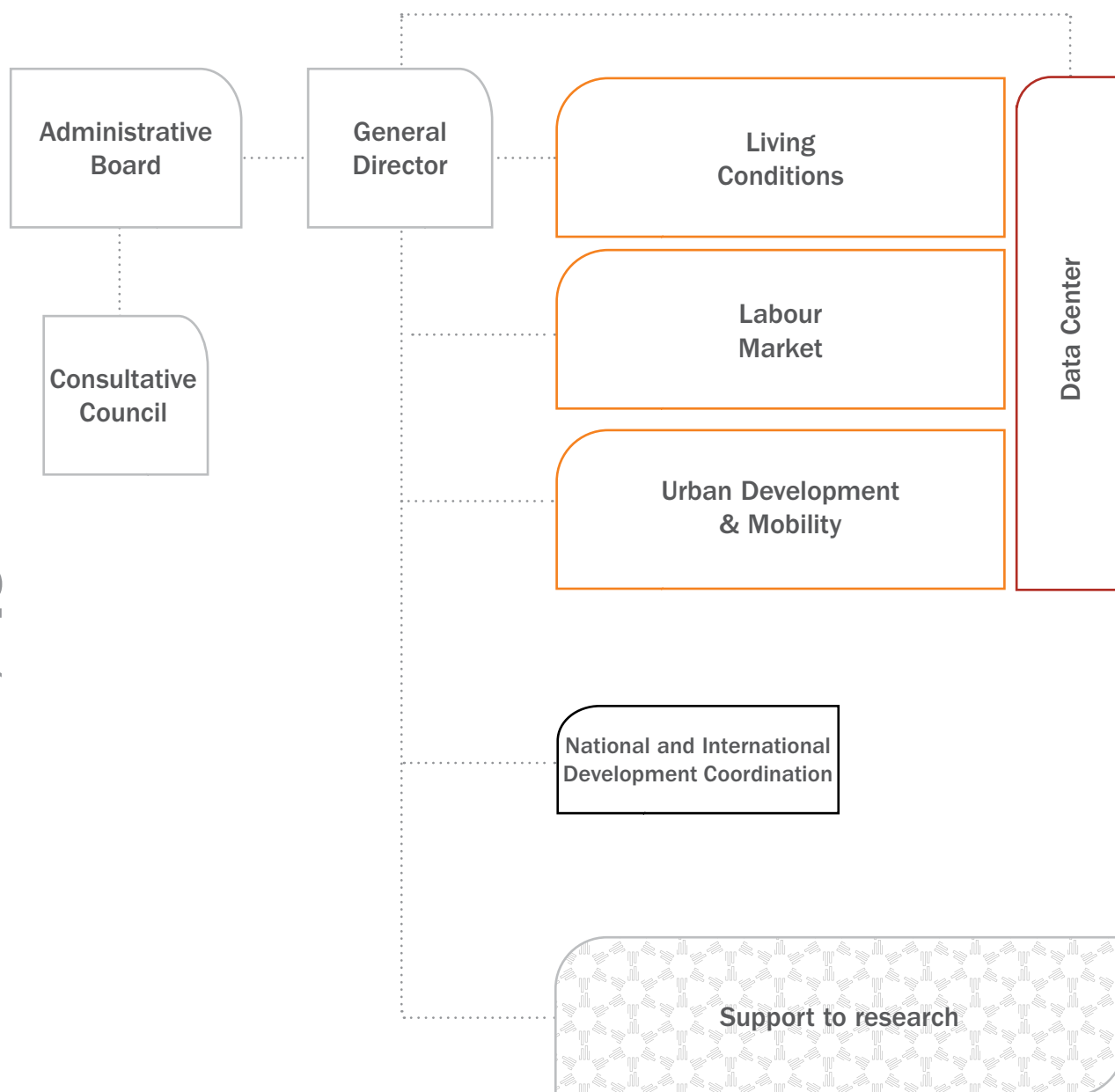
/ Monique Fernandes Almeida

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- / Laura Zuccoli, *Chair at ASTI*

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



When...

... OUR RESEARCHERS LEAVE FOR A STAY AT A UNIVERSITY ABROAD

University of California San Diego (UCSD)

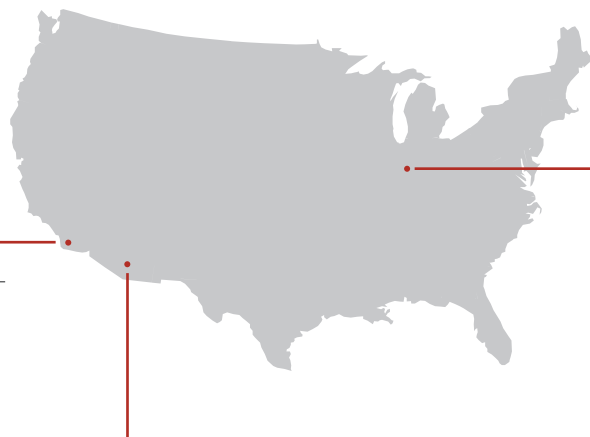
Dates: 08/2016 - 07/2017



Department: Urban development & mobility

CHRISTOPHE SOHN

Research interests: Border cities and regions, cross-border governance, de-bordering and rebordering dynamics



University of Arizona, Tucson

Dates: 09/2016 - 08/2017



Department: Labour Market

EVA SIERMINSKA

Research interests: Field specialisation in economics, inequality and financial well-being, household wealth portfolios and the labor market

Purdue University

Dates: 11/2016 - 04/2017



Department: Urban development & mobility

HICHEM OMRANI

Research interests: Simulation/modeling, machine learning, big data, smart and sustainable city, ICT

They answered our questions

1 What was the objective of your visit?

3 What are your next challenges?

2 What were the results of your stay?

4 Now back in Luxembourg, what do you miss most about the USA?



1 What was the objective of your visit?



At Purdue I served as Senior Visiting Researcher, working jointly with Dr. Bryan Pijanowski, an internationally recognised specialist in the field of land use science. The research visit has extended Pijanowski's Land Transformation Model-LTM that allows cells in cellular automata model to hold membership in more than one land use class.



The primary focus of my stay was to develop two research projects I had elaborated in the framework of my INTER Mobility grant. The first project dealt with the spatial development of the San Diego-Tijuana cross-border city-region. The second project sought to explore the role and significance of national borders in a comparative framework, in particular between Europe and North America. In my view, there is a potential fruitful dialogue here that is somehow under-exploited. I also wanted to strengthen my scientific competences through my integration within the dynamic academic community in Southern California and the building of a grounded expertise on cross-border urban development, planning and theory. Finally, I aimed at establishing long-term scientific collaborations between LISER and US academic partners.



At the University of Arizona, Department of Economics, I studied the specialisation of women and men in the field of Economics. The field of economics is very broad --- from very descriptive to quite abstract and theoretical. I investigated the reasons why there is little diversity in the field with women concentrating in health and labour economics and men in theory and more quantitative methods. My goal was also to expand my network in the field and create opportunities for longer term collaboration between the department and LISER.

2 What were the results of your stay?



By presenting our work to a varied audience we learned about additional data sources for our study. At the moment, we are putting together a broad database, which will allow us to answer many more questions regarding the behaviour of individuals in the labor market, their job choice and field of study preferences. In other words, my year in the desert was not only fruitful in terms of a completed project and networking, but potentially could keep me and my colleagues busy for years to come! While in Tucson, I was also asked by the department to teach an Econometrics course, which was a fantastic experience and allowed me to find a new passion I didn't realise I had.



In this research framework, in 2017 I published six articles in peer-reviewed journals with high impact factors such as Transactions in GIS, GIScience & Remote Sensing, Journal of Environmental Informatics, Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, Ecological Informatics and two articles in refereed international conferences.



This year allowed me to publish two papers related to the previously mentioned research projects and disseminate the results to a wider audience both in the US and in Mexico. Beyond these expected results, the development of new ideas appear most interesting to me. In this domain, the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States has had mixed consequences. Indeed, as a border scholar working on the cross-border relationships between San Diego and

Tijuana, my work was impacted by the revival of strong political mobilisation of reactionary and xenophobic border narratives. On one hand, it has proved to be much more difficult to engage in a project with US partners due to the cancellation or freezing of funding related to research on the US-Mexico border. On the other hand, the shock that the election created for the border region has triggered strong reactions from local stakeholders engaged in cross-border cooperation initiatives. In a way, the conflict magnified the issues at stake and the strategies of the different

stakeholders. It was thus an exceptional context to study conflicting bordering dynamics and elaborate new research perspectives. The political events in the US echo in Europe with Brexit and the rise of anti-European and anti-migration populisms, which also challenge the open-border regime and, more broadly, the process of European integration. The experience gathered during my stay therefore also nourishes comparative work, which directly concerns our European borders.



3 What are your next challenges?



In the short term, I want to devote myself fully to the valorisation of the research I did during my stay, especially by mobilising the interviews I conducted with actors from San Diego and Tijuana involved in cross-border economic promotion. I have a couple of exciting papers in the making. In the medium term, I want to take advantage of more than a decade of research on the role and significance of national borders for the development of border cities and regions in various contexts and engage in the writing of a single-authored book.



Looking forward, my research agenda will aim to develop research ideas targeting a joint a research proposal between the Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR), the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), and the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF).



My next challenge is to create an architecture for the amazing data we have and present our results to a broader audience in a paper that is already in the making.

In the longer term, I have several additional paper ideas that will be fun to produce with my collaborator in Arizona. At the same time, I intend to expand the network and strengthen the ties we have began building at conferences and the department during my stay in the US.

4 Now back in Luxembourg, what do you miss most about the USA?



I appreciated a lot the research environment at Purdue University, as it was inspiring and gave me fresh ideas for future challenges. I miss my US colleagues who I now count among my friends (Bryan, Kristen, Jack, Maryam, Javier, Chris, Dente, Ben, Zhao, Ling) from Pijanowskis Lab. I might have left the US but thanks to smartphones, we will keep in touch and will continue collaborating even from a distance, which is exciting! Last but not least, I have plans to invite some US colleagues as Visiting Scholars to LISER in order to discover the research landscape in Luxembourg and collaborate on International publications/projects.



I certainly miss the Californian sun and the Pacific Ocean, which gives such a boost of energy! I also miss the exciting academic environment that brought many encounters and discussions with scholars from all over the world. UCSD attracts so many prominent scientists, politicians and civil leaders; it is a fascinating melting pot. Finally yet importantly, I miss the US-Mexico border and the people who live in-between these two radically different yet connected and interdependent worlds. Despite the waiting times and the pernickety checks, I crossed the border dozens of times for my research or just to eat some street tacos. On my last visit in Tijuana, a Mexican immigration officer noticed all my visits and exclaimed, You have so many stamps in your passport, do you want me to add one more? That day, I felt really like a true fronterizo.



I miss Tucson –it is a medium size city – 100 km from the Mexican border. It is located in a unique kind of desert area with a very rich flora and fauna—with a monsoon (wet) season during the summer months and fantastic weather all year round. I also became fond of the department and new colleagues. The atmosphere was vibrant and very hospitable and I greatly miss the intellectual exchanges we had during seminars and lunches. I loved their notion that we are here to support each other in a common goal, which is creating top research output and passing on knowledge to others.



When...

... LISER WELCOMES RESEARCHERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

When they come to LISER, whether as part of an event or work on a joint project with our researchers, these guest researchers usually do us the honour of giving a speech at one of our research seminars.

33

visiting scholars

14

different countries
of origin

175

weeks spent at LISER

Prof. Simon Gaetcher visited LISER on 15/09 to provide a keynote address at the LISER-LAB Inaugural Workshop. The keynote lecture was entitled “Revealing the Economic Consequences of Group Cohesion” (co-authored with Chris Starmer and Fabio Tufano). The event focused on research in behavioural and experimental economics, with presentations on social norms, cooperation and digitalization.

We asked to Prof. Gaetcher to answer to two questions:

You are considered a world-renowned expert in behavioral and experimental economics. How would you describe this area of study?

« I think it is the study of real human behaviour under controlled conditions. It uses incentives to understand motivated behaviour in a way that can be translated/related to economic ways of thinking. It is about data and empirical observations rather than just theorising about peoples' behaviours. We observe them under controlled conditions that allows causal inference about what-causes-what, like in the typical scientific method. »

What do you think can be the future challenges of a small country like Luxembourg, with a highly heterogeneous population in terms of country of origins and cultural background?

« From a scientific point-of-view, I think Luxembourg is a great laboratory to understand why high heterogeneity works. Luxembourg is a prosperous and peaceful place. If people see similarities over differences, play by the rules, and are cooperative, it will work out well. Luxembourg is a small but diverse country and it is fascinating how through its people accepting multiple identities, out comes a common shared identity. »

Prof. Simon Gaetcher received his doctorate in Economics in Vienna. Before coming to Nottingham he worked at the Universities of Vienna, Linz, Zurich, and St. Gallen. He is also affiliated with the CESifo network (Munich), and the Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA Bonn).

Currently a professor of Psychology of Economic Decision Making at the University of Nottingham, Prof. Gaechter is an expert in human cooperation, with publications in top journals such as Science, Nature, Econometrica and the American Economic Review. He recently completed an ERC (European Research Council) grant investigating how incentives, social and cultural context, and gender and personality differences, shape strong reciprocity and, as a consequence, cooperation. LISER sat down with Prof. Gaechter to learn more about the burgeoning field of behavioral and experimental economics.





Another example of a visiting scholar is Prof. Vassil Kirov from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, who works closely with one of our researchers, Patrick Thill from the Labour Market department.

During one of his visits, he agreed to give a seminar on the digitisation of work and employment: theoretical and methodological challenges. More specifically, how will “virtual work” shape society and the labour market?

LISER hosted a training lecture by Prof Vassil Kirov on the impact of digitalisation on employment through the lenses of sociological approaches. Among the participants figured researchers and students from LISER, STATEC, the University of Luxembourg and HEC Liège. The objective of the lecture was to present and critically discuss the theoretical debates in sociology related to the digitalisation of work and employment.

Patrick Thill, researcher at LISER, opened the lecture by emphasising that digitalisation has figured among the top priorities on Luxembourg’s policy agenda and that the impact on employment, professions, training, and the labour market more broadly require further scientific attention.

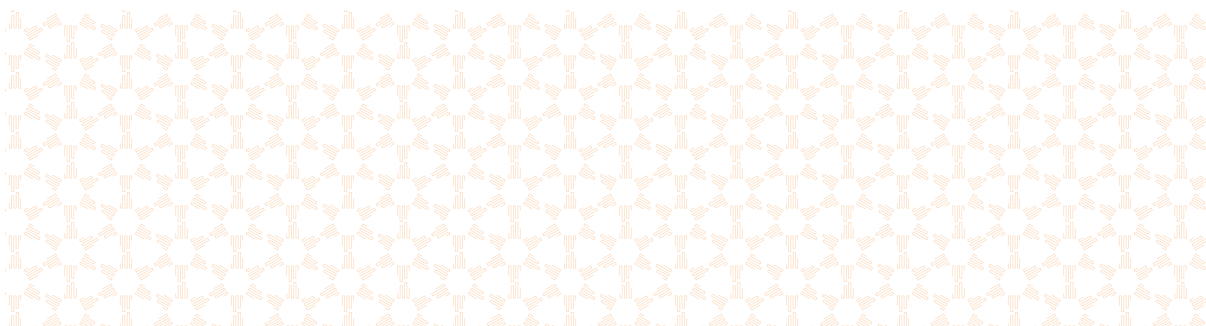
Firstly, Prof Kirov addressed the dilemma of digitalisation as a disruption vs. incremental change. The critical case of the

rising Gig economy was mobilised to illustrate the ambiguous effects of digitalisation on employment. While digitalisation can have a positive effect by developing new forms of employment and working arrangements (virtual work), it also bears the risk of contributing to the fragmentation and precarization of work (i.e. risk of increased atypical work).

Secondly, Prof Kirov presented a series of methodological challenges from the sociological research on digitalisation. Based on examples from recent research on a number of sectors in Europe (such as financial sector, manufacturing, public services), participants identified research gaps and a lack of appropriate methodological solutions. Several participants raised the question during a discussion as to

how to measure digitalisation, which constitutes a particular challenge for academia. Participants concluded that the exploration of innovative methods includes the utilisation of big data, the adaptation of existing surveys, the introduction of new indicators, as well as the combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods to study digitalisation.

*“How will virtual work
shape society and the labour
market”*



When...

... LISER ORGANISES A SUMMER SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS

The fourth edition of the Summer School on “Methodologies for Impact Evaluation” was held at LISER on the 10th-12th July 2017 and co-sponsored by the European Social Fund Project (ESF), the Ministry of Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy of Luxembourg, ARCO (Action Research for CO-Development). It was primarily directed to consultants, doctoral post-doctoral students, as well as academics interested in methods used in evidence-based policy making.



Decisions in social policy, economics and other social sciences critically depend on appropriate evaluations of policies and programs.

Professors Donald B. Rubin, Fabrizia Mealli and Alfonso Flores-Lagunes were among the instructors of the summer school. Participants had the opportunity to appraise cutting-edge methodologies directly from scholars who are pushing the methodological boundaries. The school was also a valuable opportunity for networking with other impact evaluation professionals coming from diverse fields. In particular, all the keynote speakers were able to relate and interact with the audience to create a comfortable environment.

The summer school was then followed by two day International Workshop on “Causal Inference, Program Evaluation and External Validity” (13-14 July, 2017), focused on advances in the design and analysis of experimental and observational studies for causal effects. Participants came from Spain, Italy, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, Netherlands, USA and the United Kingdom. They were invited to present novel papers related to analyses characterised by atypical data structures, interference among units, and external validity of program evaluation studies.



When...

... LISER TRAINS PHD CANDIDATES

34

*PhD candidates supervised by
our researchers in 2017*

Three of our doctoral students express their motivation to undertake a doctorate, as well as their experience at LISER (research environment, their supervisor, etc...)



Silvia GIRARDI

and KU Leuven – that allowed me to develop theoretical and methodological competences which were particularly beneficial at the start of my PhD. During IMPALLA, I learned about LISER and I met many of the researchers I am currently working with, both in Luxembourg and at KU Leuven.

I am very fortunate to be working towards my PhD at LISER as I came across generous researchers willing to share their time, experience and guidance. Despite PhD roads being challenging, the supportive environment I am surrounded with, makes it possible to pursue it along the way. I am also particularly enjoying the interactions with colleagues having different a disciplinary background than mine. This is demonstrated by the fact of having had the chance to work with colleagues from other research department and the fact that LISER researchers have expertise in both quantitative and qualitative methods. I find this particularly interesting given the nature of my PhD embracing multiple methods and working with people with various disciplinary backgrounds (sociology, economics and social policy) in different research institutions. I also find it a privilege to have resources to attend training schools to gain competences needed for my PhD. This allows me to get to know experts in my field and have my work known by attending international conferences. »

« I decided to embark in a PhD because I wanted to develop my research competencies and intellectual autonomy to be able to contribute to society by generating useful knowledge and in-depth understanding of the functioning of current policy tools, like income support and activation policies, that could improve the situation of the most vulnerable groups in society.

Before starting my PhD at LISER, I had been working for quite some years at the Research Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies (IRVAPP) in Trento (Italy). While there, I had the chance of attending the master programme in Social Policy analysis (IMPALLA) – organised at the time by LISER





Gary ROBINSON

« I come from Ireland, where I initially completed a BA in Business and German at the Dublin Institute of Technology. Following a career in IT, I returned to higher education somewhat later in life to do a Masters in Global Political Economy at the University of Sussex, UK. I completed this in 2012 and spent a few years teaching at a university in South Korea. Having enjoyed the MA and university teaching immensely, I felt sure that I wanted to continue in this direction and to pursue a PhD. Returning to Europe in 2017, I briefly worked as an academic technologist in the UK and

during this time, saw the PhD position as part of the FINWEBS project at LISER advertised. I jumped at the chance to apply as it closely matched my qualifications, experience and research interests. Despite managing to get myself locked in the fire escape stairwell at LISER just before the interview, my application was successful.

Moving to another country for the third time in less than a year was a challenge but communication with LISER in advance and accommodation provided in the guesthouse made it a lot easier. Already speaking German helped with the move and LISER's assistance with finding lessons to (re)learn French was welcome. A PhD here is more like a 'normal' job with fixed office hours but I find this good for maintaining the discipline to conduct self-directed work and to also have a separation between work and private time. The facilities provided are more than satisfactory, particularly the great coffee in the kitchen which also aids interaction with colleagues. I benefit greatly from frequent valuable communication with my supervisor and also from the assistance of the education co-ordinator with enrolling in classes at the University of Luxembourg and other useful training and events. »



Estelle MENNIKEN

« I am a first-year PhD candidate in the field of urban geography at LISER. I pursued my bachelor studies in geographical sciences at the University of Namur in Belgium and my master studies in geography and spatial planning at the University of Luxembourg, where I opted for a specialisation in spatial analysis and modelling.

My previous work experiences as a student assistant in academic research teams gave me the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into the practical organisation of research projects and motivated me to get involved in this area. In addition to contributing to scientific knowledge, I find it

extremely stimulating and rewarding to conduct research on improving the understanding of societal phenomena and thus to potentially affect societal outcomes. Moreover, I am very curious and excited about discovering new interpretations of geographical observations in general, and about my research topic in particular, which I have the freedom to develop within my group. Working on a PhD thesis is also an investment in myself. It allows me not only to acquire scientific and technical expertise in a very specific area, but also to develop important personal skills useful for any future career path, like learning how to approach problems globally, to find relevant information, to work independently, to prioritise activities, and so on.

I really appreciate the collaboration between LISER and the University of Luxembourg. It gives me the opportunity to benefit from doctoral training and to network with more researchers working on the same topics as me in a single place. It also opens the way for the exchange of different perspectives. Finally, the regular working rhythm at LISER is helpful to foster constant progress throughout this PhD journey. »





Youssef ABOUBAKAR
Université de Liège, Belgium

Foreign direct investments in African countries - A multilevel analysis

Fanny BASTIAN
Université de Lorraine, Nancy, France

L'importance des relations avec les partenaires sociaux dans les démarches RSE

Carole BLOND-HANTEN
Université de Louvain, Belgium

Place et rôle des partenaires sociaux dans la mise en oeuvre de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes au Luxembourg: une approche sociologique

Monique BORSENBURGER
University of Essex, UK

Social cohesion in Europe and risks of cleavages

Marie-Sophie CALLENS
University of Leuven, Belgium

Attitudes towards integration and perceived ethnic threat

Tim CASSIERS
University of Leuven, Belgium

Competition versus cooperation in cross-border metropolitan regions

Pierre-Olivier CHASSET
Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne,
France

MOBITWEET: Monitoring daily experiences of transport users with Twitter.
Application to Luxembourg

Jiangu CHEN
Université de Strasbourg, France

La relation entre mobilité quotidienne, résidentielle et sociale (3M). Le cas des transfrontaliers franco-Luxembourgeois.

Vincent DAUTEL
Université de Strasbourg, France

L'innovation et la croissance intra-régionale de l'emploi : analyses empiriques à l'échelle de l'entreprise au sein du Luxembourg

Joost De KRUIJF
Utrecht University, The Netherlands

E-biking in the Netherlands

Leen De PAEPE
University of Ghent, Belgium

The influence of the social environment on residential selection and travel behaviour in the context of mobility biographies

Fanny ETIENNE ROBERT
Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena,
Germany

Evolution du pouvoir normatif des partenaires sociaux dans la réglementation du temps de travail: approche comparative Luxembourg, France et Allemagne

Silvia GIRARDI
University of Leuven, Belgium

W.I.S.E.: What Influences Social assistance Exists?

Laura HERZOG
Université de Berne, Switzerland

Trans-boundary cooperation in the management of a common pool resource problem. The case of micro-pollutants' regulation in the river Rhine

Valentine JUDGE
Université de Franche-Comté Besançon,
France

Modelling urban sprawl in cross-border areas. The example of Strasbourg-Kehl

Bora KIM <i>University of Leuven, Belgium</i>	An enquiry into the causal links between disability, socioeconomic disadvantages and poor outcomes in the labour market
Sarah KUYPERS <i>University of Antwerp, Belgium</i>	Two sides of the same coin? An investigation into the joint distribution of income and wealth and its applications to the analysis of poverty, inequality and redistribution
Emilie LEROND <i>Université de Bourgogne, France</i>	Evaluation de l'occupation du sol et des mobilités. Approche fondée sur la géovisualisation pour l'aide à la décision en aménagement
Monika MAMINSKAITE <i>University of Cambridge, UK</i>	Effects of contemporary labour force patterns on economic voting throughout Europe
Luc MATABARO BORAUZIMA <i>Université de Liège, Belgium</i>	Market structure, Risk taking behavior and performance in the banking industry
Zidan MAO <i>Utrecht University, The Netherlands</i>	Modality, Activity Participation and Well-Being
Gintare MAZEIKAITE <i>Maastricht University, The Netherlands</i>	Drivers of health inequality: evidence from European countries
Estelle MENNIKEN <i>University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg</i>	Urban form, transport and environmental impact
Jimmy MERLET <i>Université Rennes 1, France</i>	RSE, innovation et transformation numérique
Ana Elena MEZA GONZÁLEZ <i>Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium</i>	Determining factors for diet quality in Mexico
Arip MUTTAQIEN <i>Maastricht University, The Netherlands</i>	Differences in Income/Expenditure Distributions Inequality and Polarization: Theory and Empirical Analysis in Developing Countries in Asia
Marion PATTE <i>Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France</i>	Le Vieillessement en Santé : Rôle de l'environnement résidentiel et de l'espace d'activité chez les personnes âgées. Le cas du Grand-Duché du Luxembourg
Julien PONCELET <i>Université de Liège, Belgium</i>	Essays on Empirical Market Finance
Gary ROBINSON <i>Université du Luxembourg et Ghent University, Belgium</i>	Stabilising an unstable industry: The role of agency in interconnecting international financial centres



Kader SOMA
Université de Liège, Belgium

Economic Analysis of Western African Economic and Monetary Union intra and extra-trade

Nora STAMBOLIC
Université de Lausanne, Switzerland

Cross-border metropolitan integration and multinational firms' networks: the cases of Luxembourg and Copenhagen-Malmö

Patrick THILL
Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

Dynamics and limits of Europeanization? The implementation of European employment policies as regards youth unemployment in Luxembourg

Min YANG
Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Urban migrants' mental health and impact of urban environment

Haoran YANG
Utrecht University, The Netherlands

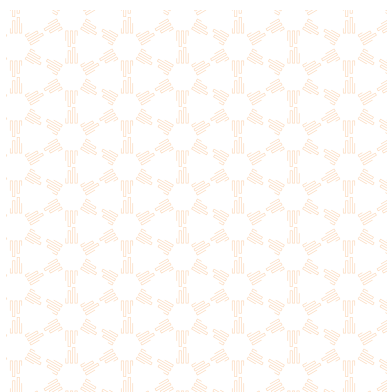
High speed railways in China

When...

... OUR DOCTORAL STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND THEIR THESIS

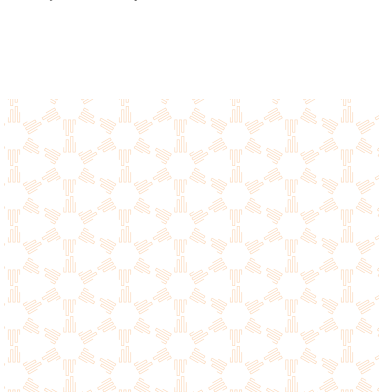
Kader SOMA
Université de Liège, Belgium

Analyse économique des échanges intra et extra-communautaires de l'union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine



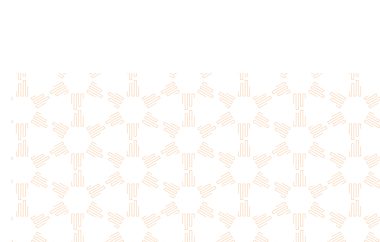
Julien PONCELET
Université de Liège, Belgium

Essays on Empirical Market Finance



Vincent DAUTEL
Université de Strasbourg, France

Essays on the impact of innovation on local employment growth: application to Luxembourg



When...

... LISER RECRUITS YOUNG TALENT

In 2017, LISER continued its policy of investing in human resources, an essential element for the Institute's development and performance. The recruitment of post-doctoral researchers is a cornerstone of its recruitment policy. The Institute offers these young talents a stimulating environment for career development and exchanges with peers, generating synergies and fostering collaboration.

Four post-doctoral researchers joined LISER in 2017.



Francesco FALLUCCHI
University of Nottingham, UK



Iryna KYZYMA
*Centre for European Economic
Research (ZEW), Germany*



Sofie WALT
University of Graz, Graz, Austria



Joël MACHADO
University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg



PUBLICATIONS 2017

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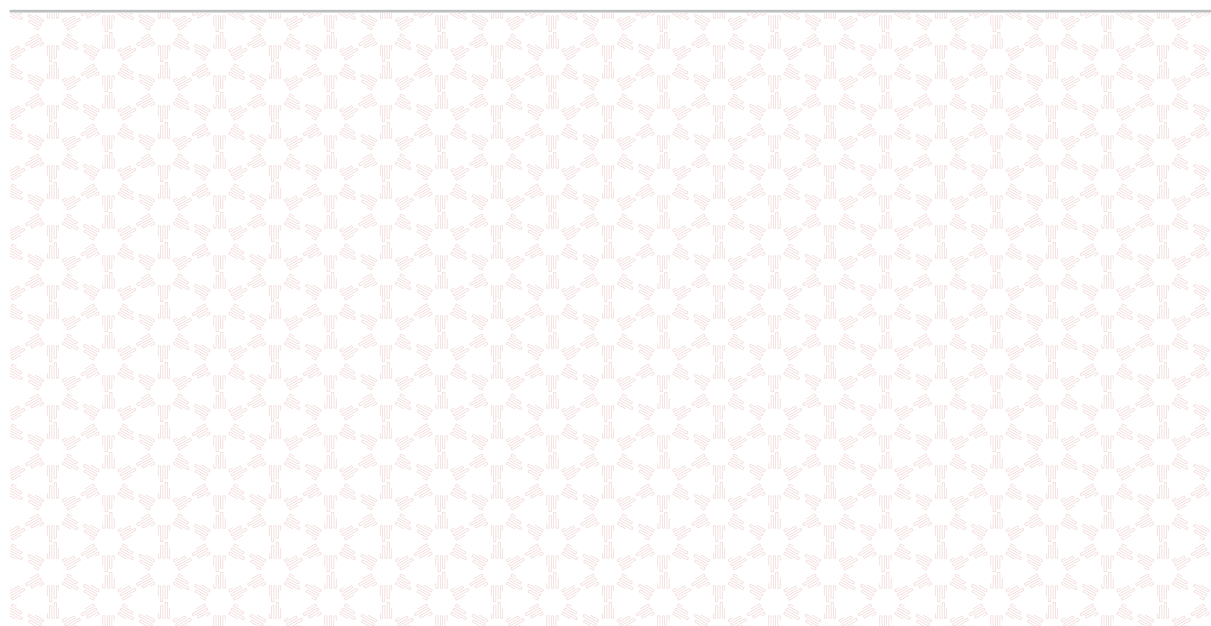
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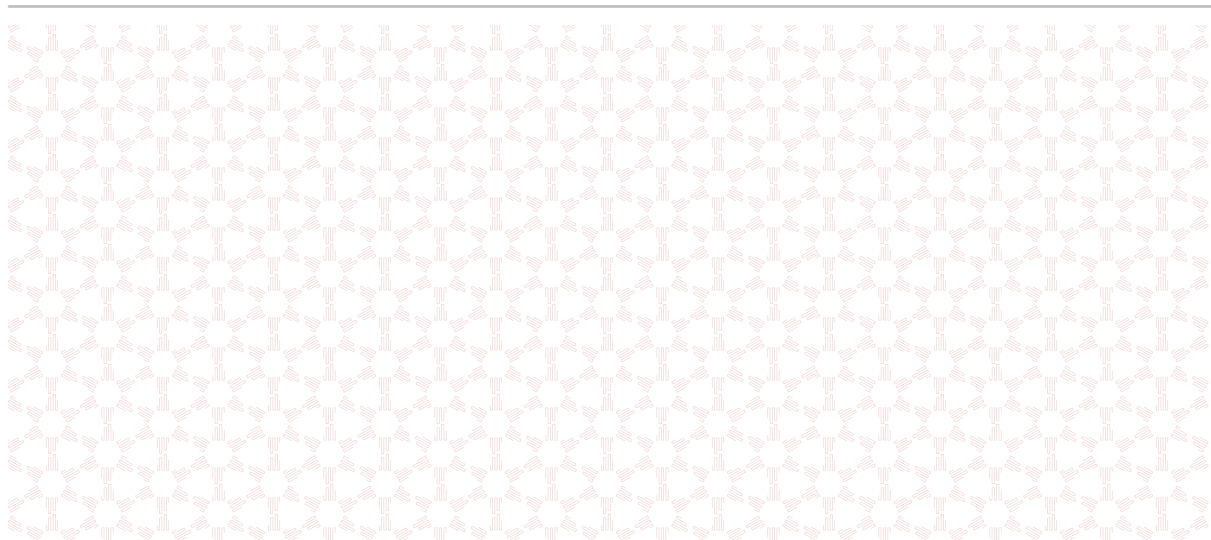
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AUDIT REPORT



Rapport d'audit

Au Gouvernement du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg
Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research

Notre opinion

A notre avis, les comptes annuels ci-joints donnent une image fidèle de la situation financière du Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (l'« Etablissement ») au 31 décembre 2017, ainsi que des résultats pour l'exercice clos à cette date, conformément aux obligations légales et réglementaires relatives à l'établissement et à la présentation des comptes annuels en vigueur au Luxembourg.

Ce que nous avons audité

Les comptes annuels de l'Etablissement comprennent :

- le bilan au 31 décembre 2017 ;
- le compte de profits et pertes pour l'exercice clos à cette date ;
- les notes aux comptes annuels, incluant un résumé des principales méthodes comptables.

Fondement de l'opinion

Nous avons effectué notre audit en conformité avec la Loi du 23 juillet 2016 relative à la profession de l'audit (la Loi du 23 juillet 2016) et les normes internationales d'audit (ISA) telles qu'adoptées pour le Luxembourg par la Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF). Les responsabilités qui nous incombent en vertu de ces loi et normes sont plus amplement décrites dans la section « Responsabilités du Réviseur d'entreprises agréé pour l'audit des comptes annuels » du présent rapport.

Nous estimons que les éléments probants que nous avons recueillis sont suffisants et appropriés pour fonder notre opinion d'audit.

Nous sommes indépendants de l'Etablissement conformément au code de déontologie des professionnels comptables du conseil des normes internationales de déontologie comptable (le Code de l'IESBA) tel qu'adopté pour le Luxembourg par la CSSF ainsi qu'aux règles de déontologie qui s'appliquent à l'audit des comptes annuels et nous nous sommes acquittés des autres responsabilités qui nous incombent selon ces règles.



Responsabilités du Conseil d'Administration pour les comptes annuels

Le Conseil d'Administration est responsable de l'établissement et de la présentation fidèle des comptes annuels conformément aux obligations légales et réglementaires relatives à l'établissement et la présentation des comptes annuels en vigueur au Luxembourg, ainsi que du contrôle interne qu'il considère comme nécessaire pour permettre l'établissement de comptes annuels ne comportant pas d'anomalies significatives, que celles-ci proviennent de fraudes ou résultent d'erreurs.

Lors de l'établissement des comptes annuels, c'est au Conseil d'Administration qu'il incombe d'évaluer la capacité de l'Etablissement à poursuivre son exploitation, de communiquer, le cas échéant, les questions relatives à la continuité d'exploitation et d'appliquer le principe comptable de continuité d'exploitation, sauf si le Conseil d'Administration a l'intention de liquider l'Etablissement ou de cesser son activité ou si aucune autre solution réaliste ne s'offre à lui.

Responsabilités du Réviseur d'entreprises agréé pour l'audit des comptes annuels

Les objectifs de notre audit sont d'obtenir l'assurance raisonnable que les comptes annuels pris dans leur ensemble ne comportent pas d'anomalies significatives, que celles-ci proviennent de fraudes ou résultent d'erreurs, et de délivrer un rapport d'audit contenant notre opinion. L'assurance raisonnable correspond à un niveau élevé d'assurance, qui ne garantit toutefois pas qu'un audit réalisé conformément à la Loi du 23 juillet 2016 et aux ISA telles qu'adoptées pour le Luxembourg par la CSSF permettra toujours de détecter toute anomalie significative qui pourrait exister. Les anomalies peuvent provenir de fraudes ou résulter d'erreurs et elles sont considérées comme significatives lorsqu'il est raisonnable de s'attendre à ce que, individuellement ou collectivement, elles puissent influencer sur les décisions économiques que les utilisateurs des comptes annuels prennent en se fondant sur ceux-ci.

Dans le cadre d'un audit réalisé conformément à la Loi du 23 juillet 2016 et aux ISA telles qu'adoptées pour le Luxembourg par la CSSF, nous exerçons notre jugement professionnel et faisons preuve d'esprit critique tout au long de cet audit. En outre :

- nous identifions et évaluons les risques que les comptes annuels comportent des anomalies significatives, que celles-ci proviennent de fraudes ou résultent d'erreurs, concevons et mettons en œuvre des procédures d'audit en réponse à ces risques, et réunissons des éléments probants suffisants et appropriés pour fonder notre opinion. Le risque de non-détection d'une anomalie significative résultant d'une fraude est plus élevé que celui d'une anomalie significative résultant d'une erreur, car la fraude peut impliquer la collusion, la falsification, les omissions volontaires, les fausses déclarations ou le contournement du contrôle interne ;
- nous acquérons une compréhension des éléments du contrôle interne pertinents pour l'audit afin de concevoir des procédures d'audit appropriées aux circonstances et non dans le but d'exprimer une opinion sur l'efficacité du contrôle interne de l'Etablissement ;
- nous apprécions le caractère approprié des méthodes comptables retenues et le caractère raisonnable des estimations comptables faites par le Conseil d'Administration, de même que les informations y afférentes fournies par ce dernier ;



- nous tirons une conclusion quant au caractère approprié de l'utilisation par le Conseil d'Administration du principe comptable de continuité d'exploitation et, selon les éléments probants obtenus, quant à l'existence ou non d'une incertitude significative liée à des événements ou situations susceptibles de jeter un doute important sur la capacité de l'Etablissement à poursuivre son exploitation. Si nous concluons à l'existence d'une incertitude significative, nous sommes tenus d'attirer l'attention des lecteurs de notre rapport sur les informations fournies dans les comptes annuels au sujet de cette incertitude ou, si ces informations ne sont pas adéquates, d'exprimer une opinion modifiée. Nos conclusions s'appuient sur les éléments probants obtenus jusqu'à la date de notre rapport. Cependant, des événements ou situations futurs pourraient amener l'Etablissement à cesser son exploitation ;
- nous évaluons la présentation d'ensemble, la forme et le contenu des comptes annuels, y compris les informations fournies dans les notes, et apprécions si les comptes annuels représentent les opérations et événements sous-jacents d'une manière propre à donner une image fidèle.

Nous communiquons aux responsables du gouvernement d'entreprise notamment l'étendue et le calendrier prévu des travaux d'audit et nos constatations importantes, y compris toute déficience importante du contrôle interne que nous aurions relevée au cours de notre audit.

PricewaterhouseCoopers, Société coopérative
Représentée par

Luxembourg, le 23 mars 2018

Christiane Schaus



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ACTIF	2017	2016
ACTIF IMMOBILISÉ		
Immobilisations incorporelles et corporelles	573.011,28	551.322,03
Immobilisations financières	2.100,00	2.100,00
	575.111,28	553.422,03
ACTIF CIRCULANT		
Créances		
Créances résultant de ventes et prestations de services dont la durée résiduelle est inférieure ou égale à un an	2.513.479,62	4.233.454,84
Autres créances dont la durée résiduelle est inférieure ou égale à un an	272.585,84	447.228,43
Avoirs en banques, avoirs en compte de chèques postaux, chèques et encaisse	5.443.201,73	3.114.052,90
	8.229.267,19	7.794.736,17
Comptes de régularisation	144.758,84	176.300,19
Total du bilan (actif)	8.949.137,31	8.524.458,39
CAPITAUX PROPRES ET PASSIF	2017	2016
FONDS PROPRES		
Excédents budgétaires cumulés	3.819.145,98	3.146.993,04
Résultat de l'exercice	613.381,54	672.152,94
Subventions d'investissement	573.010,63	551.322,03
	5.005.538,15	4.370.468,01
PROVISIONS		
Autres provisions	531.706,57	534.137,13
DETTES NON SUBORDONNÉES		
Dettes sur achats et prestations de services dont la durée résiduelle est inférieure ou égale à un an	1.211.632,99	1.326.362,46
Autres dettes		
Dettes fiscales	267.544,72	268.865,65
Dettes au titre de la sécurité sociale	335.055,86	325.082,88
Autres dettes dont la durée résiduelle est inférieure ou égale à un an	12.493,70	27.534,27
	1.826.727,27	1.947.845,26
Comptes de régularisation	1.585.165,32	1.672.007,99
Total du bilan (capitaux propres et passif)	8.949.137,31	8.524.458,39



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IMPRESSUM

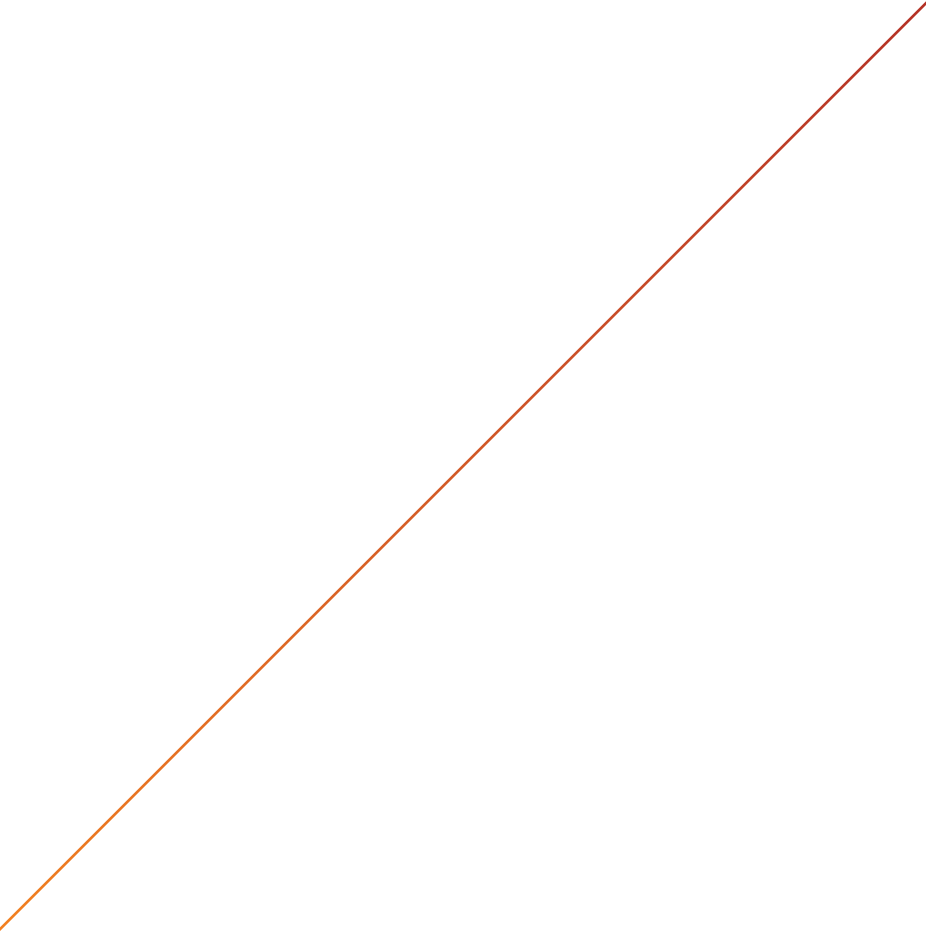
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LUXEMBOURG INSTITUTE OF
SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH

11, porte des Sciences
Campus Belval
L-4366 Esch-sur-Alzette

T +352 58 58 55-1

www.liser.lu