



Western Balkanmod-Initiative

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EUROMOD

- Represents a unique research tool for EU-28
- Not only of relevance to the European Commission and to social scientists but also increasingly of value to policy practitioners
- Embodies a knowledge base of different and changing national policy structures and tax/benefit systems
- Offers a comparative framework

Status Quo of t-/b-microsim. in WB

- Already existing models (each a spin-off of EUROMOD)
 - Bosnia & Herzegovina: BiHMOD
 - Macedonia: MAKMOD
 - Serbia: SRMOD
- Without established models
 - Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro

Already existing models

- 'Stand-alone'-models: implemented to different modelling conventions/standards and at different points in time
- Do not work with current EUROMOD software and have not been updated regularly
- Distinction/difference between
 - building a model based on EUROMOD platform/approach and
 - doing it in a way that enables full comparability with EUROMOD as the EU-28 model

Aims of the WBM-initiative I

- Western Balkan countries become increasingly relevant for research at an extended European level
- Set up research/policy-maker network on t/b MS
 - Link researchers from Western Balkan States with each other and with EUROMOD-modellers/stakeholders
 - Organisation of mutual scientific and learning exchange between stakeholders
 - Transfer of knowledge in building and implementing tax-benefit models

Aims of the WBM-initiative II

- Establish the scientific basis for a comparative research infrastructure
- Involve political stakeholders, researchers, data providers and institutions from the Western Balkan countries in the long-standing EUROMOD collaboration
- Enhance visibility and usability of models/modules
- Help policy makers and researchers in the Western Balkan region (and beyond) to assess fiscal and distributional outcomes of policy reforms

Aims of the WBM-initiative III

- Check and improve modelling possibilities and applicability of EUROMOD conventions
 - Standardise the approach to coding policy systems across all the countries
 - Ease later maintenance, updating and development of the models
- Reduce the resources necessary to potentially produce harmonised policy modules for the Western Balkan States using EUROMOD as platform/framework
- Provide the base for a later potential harmonised six-country model

Discussion

- Added value
- Next steps to take
- Funding
- ...