Western Balkanmod-Initiative

Euromod Conference

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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
• ...