

LISER

ANNUAL REPORT

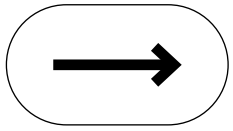


2023



LISER

Luxembourg Institute of
Socio-Economic Research



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WORD OF THE **CHAIRWOMAN** → OF LISER



CHAIRWOMAN



Véronique Hoffeld

I am delighted to share with you the 2023 Annual Report, which highlights LISER's achievements. In a world that continues to face complex and changing challenges, LISER remains steadfast in its mission to advance knowledge and contribute to society through rigorous, meaningful research. Our work addresses critical issues such as gender inequality in times of inflation, environmental transitions, housing and labour market dynamics - issues that are central to promoting a fairer and more sustainable future.

A notable feature of 2023 achievements is the institute's increasing success in securing competitive funding for its projects. This reflects not only the quality and relevance of our research, but also the hard work and dedication of our researchers. To support them, we continue to invest in training and career development to ensure that LISER remains a place where talent can flourish. Equally, we recognise that the well-being of our staff is essential to our continued success. Creating an inclusive, supportive and inspiring environment is a core part of who we are.

Collaboration is another key to LISER's success. We have strengthened our partnerships with social actors, public institutions and international organisations, increasing the impact and relevance of our work. Whether evaluating Luxembourg's minimum income scheme, investigating the digital divide or studying climate migration, our research contributes to better decision-making and helps address today's societal challenges.

As Chairwoman, I am proud of LISER's achievements and inspired by the people behind them. I would like to thank all our researchers, staff and partners. Together we are building a future where LISER will continue to innovate, collaborate and make a positive impact on society.

WORD OF THE **CEO** → OF LISER



CEO

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Aline Muller

Looking back at 2023, I am pleased to present this annual report, which showcases the progress and contributions of LISER. Over the past year, we have taken significant steps forward in addressing pressing societal challenges. From understanding the impacts of remote work across Europe to studying neighbourhood effects on health and analysing labour market dynamics, our projects provide critical insights to help navigate an increasingly complex world.

Our success is driven by our people—colleagues whose expertise, creativity, and dedication define LISER. We are committed to supporting their development through targeted training programmes, career growth opportunities, and a working environment that prioritises collaboration and balance. Their well-being is central to our future, and we will continue to invest in ensuring LISER is a place where they can excel.

Another area of focus has been collaboration. By building strong connections with societal stakeholders, public institutions, and international partners, we have enhanced the reach and relevance of our research. These collaborations enable us to tackle diverse topics, from public health and housing to migration and digital equity, ensuring that our work contributes directly to informed decision-making and societal progress.

As we look ahead, LISER's future is full of potential. This annual report is not only a reflection of what we have achieved but also a foundation for what we will accomplish in the years to come. I am deeply grateful to our staff, partners and stakeholders for their unwavering support and commitment to our mission. Together, we will continue to push boundaries, foster innovation and produce research that serves society.

NATIONAL **COLLABORATIVE** FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

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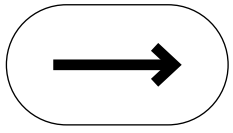
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02



The LISER's National Collaborative Projects are research initiatives led by the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER) mostly in partnership with national institutions. These projects aim to address Luxembourg's socio-economic challenges by providing analyses based on local and international data. They cover areas such as employment, health, housing, and mobility, and aim to enhance policy-making and the development of public policies tailored to the specific needs of the country.



HOMELESSNESS

Final external evaluation of the national strategy against homelessness and housing exclusion 2013-2020

Luxembourg is confronting a significant and pressing issue that echoes throughout many European nations: homelessness and housing exclusion. The challenge manifests in various forms, with individuals living on the streets, relying on temporary shelters, or existing in inadequate housing conditions. This affected population is not homogeneous; it includes young adults, the elderly, and single mothers with children, all facing distinct circumstances. In recognition of the seriousness of this situation, the Luxembourg government implemented a national strategy aimed at addressing homelessness and housing exclusion from 2013 to 2020. This multifaceted strategy was built around four primary objectives. First, it sought to provide stable and suitable housing for those living in precarious situations, including support for individuals exiting institutional care and families experiencing severe vulnerability. The second objective emphasised the need for a swift and effective response to housing emergencies. The third dimension of the strategy also focused on preventative measures to stop homelessness before it occurs, while its fourth aim was to improve existing measures and enhance governance in this area.

In 2021, the Ministry of Family Affairs, Solidarity, and Refugees commissioned the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER) to evaluate the outcomes of this national strategy. This evaluation mobilised

LISER's competencies in both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the homelessness issue. The quantitative data provided statistical insights into accommodation trends and demographic patterns, while the qualitative observations from interviews captured the nuanced experiences of affected individuals as well as stakeholders, offering deeper context to the numbers. The resulting assessment, which incorporated official documents, surveys, and interviews with civil society representatives and beneficiaries, revealed significant progress.

Indeed, the report highlighted a marked increase in accommodation options, with the introduction of hostels and social rental programmes making a tangible difference. Notable initiatives such as Housing First have provided individuals with the stable foundation necessary to rebuild their lives. The evaluation also recognised the strategy's focus on the diverse needs within the affected population, noting an increase in the number of young adults in vulnerable situations. The measures taken under the national strategy, bolstered by government-funded pilot projects, have expanded the capacity to assist those without homes. A strong emphasis has been placed on prevention, as authorities work to identify the root causes of homelessness and enhance housing access through regulatory changes.



Co-Authors

**Jordane Segura, Nathalie Lorentz, Anastase Tchicaya,
Gaetan de Lanchy and Roland Maas**



However, the evaluation underscored the necessity for further improvement to enhance the effectiveness of the fight against homelessness. The report outlined several recommendations centred on three key themes: strengthening governance, adjusting the strategy's objectives to cater to both current and emerging needs, and expanding comprehensive efforts to prevent homelessness and address housing exclusion.

Our research definitely highlights that addressing homelessness and housing exclusion in Luxembourg is a complex and ongoing challenge. It requires a sustained long-term commitment, along with significant human and financial resources. The ex-ante and ex-post policy evaluation methods developed at LISER can play a crucial role in supporting the government in this important and ethical mission.

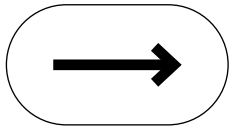


To find out more:

Image © Paul Bradbury /iStock

- LISER (2023), « *Evaluation finale externe de la stratégie nationale contre le sans-abrisme et l'exclusion liée au logement 2013-2020* », final report
- LISER (2023), « *Evaluation finale externe de la stratégie nationale contre le sans-abrisme et l'exclusion liée au logement 2013-2020* », synthesis
- Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg (2013), « *Stratégie nationale contre le sans-abrisme et l'exclusion liée au logement 2013-2020* ».

- Sorvillo Stéphanie (2017), « *Evaluation intermédiaire de l'application de la stratégie nationale contre le sans-abrisme au Luxembourg 2013-2020* », Ministère de la Famille, de l'Intégration et à la Grande Région, Service Solidarité
- LISER (2007), « *L'exclusion liée au logement des personnes prises en charge par les centres de jour, les foyers de nuit, les centres d'accueil et les logements encadrés : dénombrement et caractéristiques* », Rapport pour le Ministère de la Famille et de l'Intégration



Gender Inequality in Times of Inflation and Environmental Change: Insights from Luxembourg

Economic growth and market globalisation impact individuals' well-being through various mechanisms. Recently, two key factors have gained prominence: rising prices and environmental changes. Markets are driven by preferences shaped by environmental concerns, but these shifts also influence economic inequalities, particularly along gender lines.

This study aims to explore whether the recent price hikes have fueled gender inequalities and economic vulnerabilities in Luxembourg. It also seeks to clarify how gender-based differences in environmental attitudes could influence the adoption of sustainable policies.

Inflation, the rise in the general price level, is not constant over time and is driven by multiple factors. After historically low levels, inflation has surged to record double digits across many European countries, fueled by the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. As part of a collaboration between LISER and MEGA for the project "Inégalités de genre: Inflation et consommation (INGINCO)", we produced a report examining the effects of price increases and consumption habits in Luxembourg, with a focus on gender inequalities.

In particular, Chapter 2 focuses on the housing crisis triggered by rising prices in recent years. The study reveals that housing costs are becoming an increasingly heavy burden on

households, with a disproportionate impact on lower-income and single-parent families. Single-parent households led by women bear a heavier financial burden than those led by men (see Figure 1), with renters being the most vulnerable. Gender inequalities manifest in the deprivations associated with housing conditions, especially affecting female-led households and those with children.

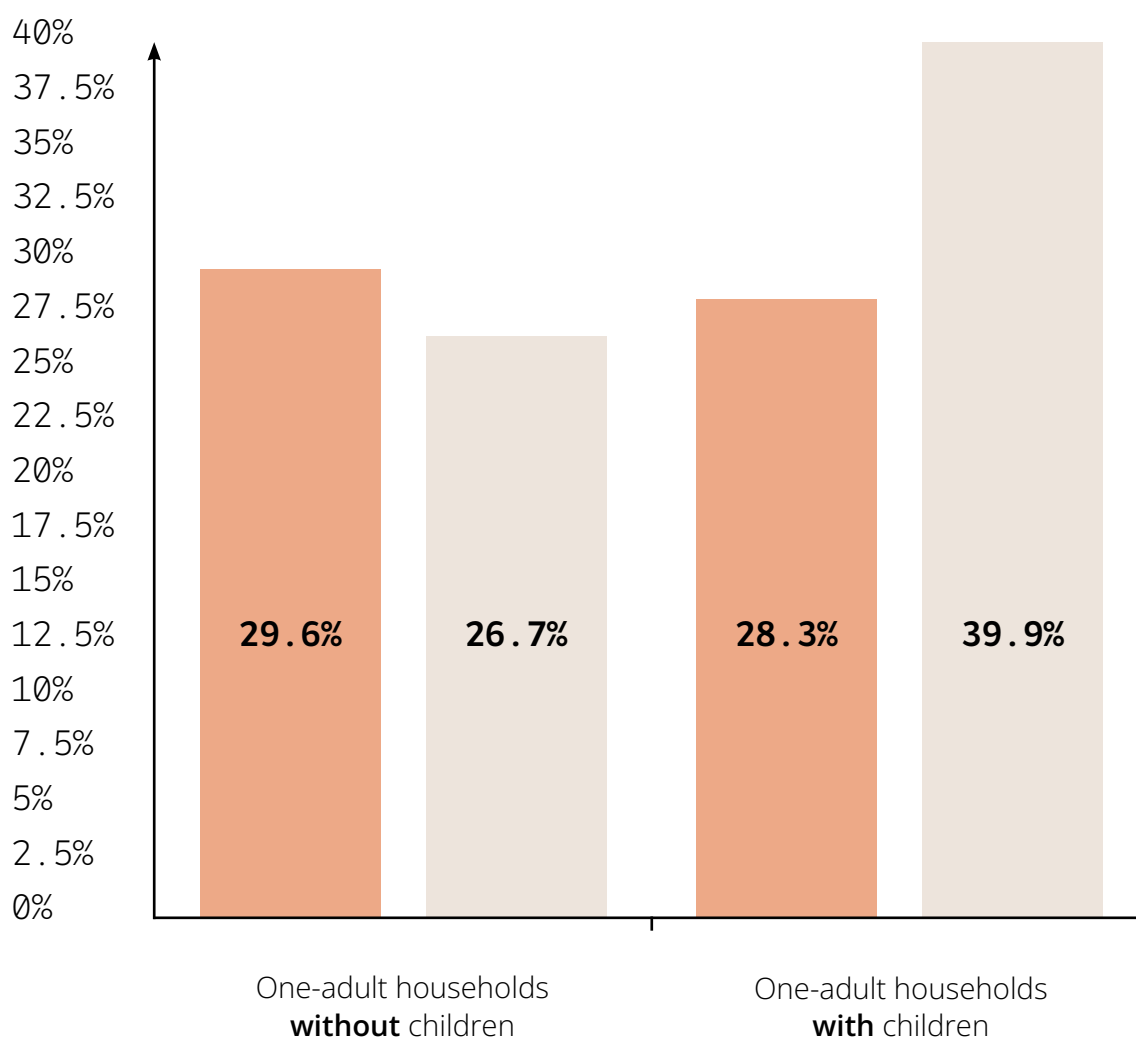
Chapter 3 analyses the impact of inflation on living conditions, revealing that economic vulnerabilities are not isolated phenomena but linked to other factors. Low-income households led by women face multiple disadvantages when dealing with inflation. While initial analysis shows no significant gender disparity in overall inflation, a focus on energy prices—such as electricity and heating—shows that female-led households are disproportionately affected, while male-led households are more impacted by other goods and services. This suggests that female-headed households are more exposed to rising prices due to prioritising essential goods and needs (Figure 2).





Figure 1

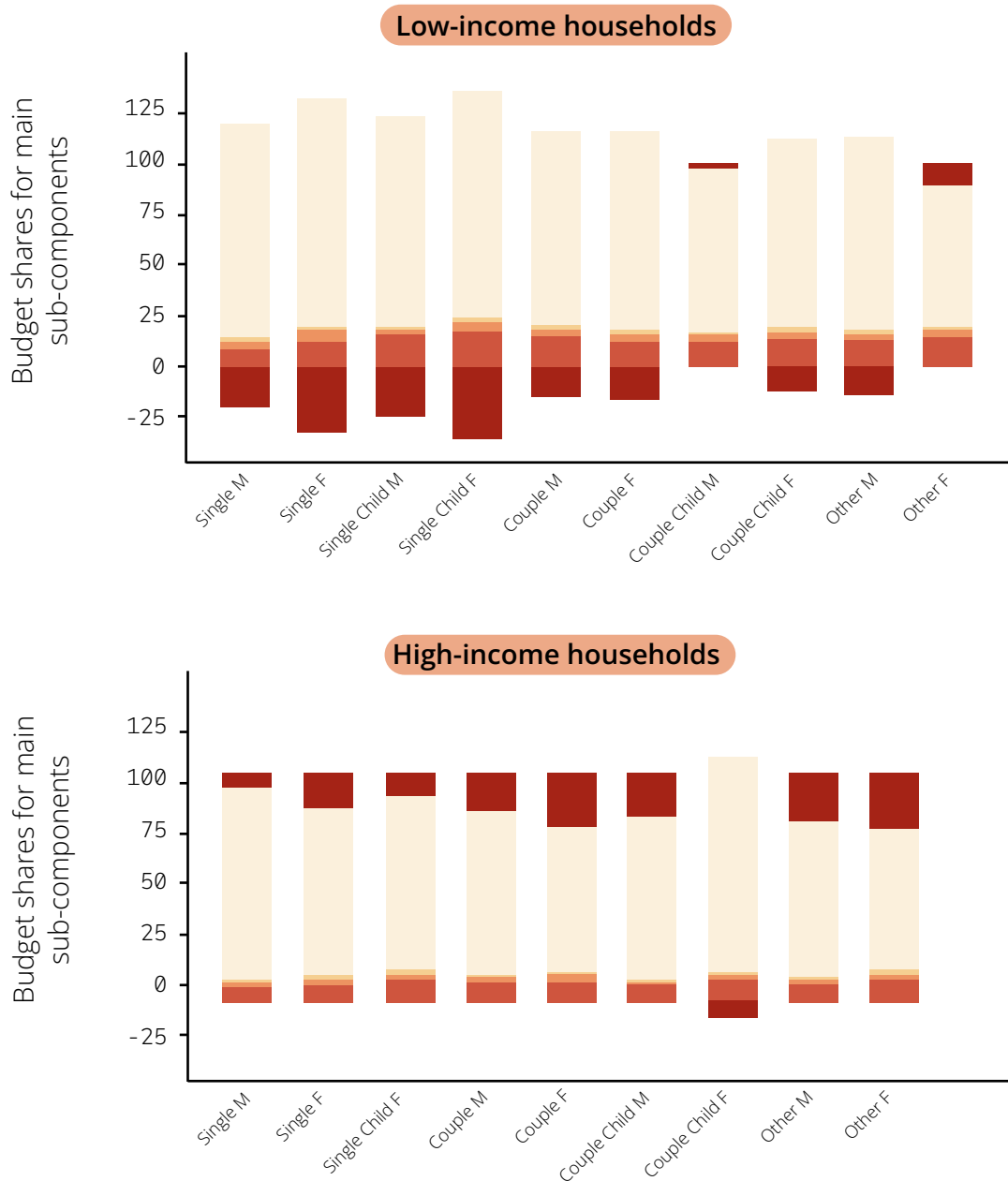
Housing expenses/income ratio, by household type and gender



Males Females

Figure 2

Income shares of major commodity spending groups and savings





Beyond consumption, tax systems and social benefits can have gender biases, often unintentionally favouring men. Chapter 4 evaluates the protection provided by Luxembourg's wage indexation system against inflation, with a focus on the fiscal drag. Middle-class households feel the strain of this mechanism the most, while female-led households are less affected by fiscal drag. This lesser impact on women is a reflection of deeper economic gender inequalities rather than a true fiscal advantage, as women are overrepresented in the poorest segments of the population.

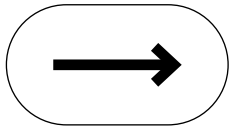
Chapter 5 explores the role of gender in the context of ecological transitions and changing consumption habits, highlighting that, on average, women adopt more eco-friendly consumption behaviours than men and express greater support for green policies. However, women face more obstacles in adopting sustainable behaviours, suggesting the need for targeted measures to reduce these barriers. We additionally provide evidence that men behave adopt more sustainable eating habits when informed about the behaviour of others.

The study's findings underscore the importance of tackling gender inequality from multiple angles, considering the intersections between housing, consumption behaviours, and environmental attitudes. The most vulnerable households, particularly those led by women, are more likely to experience multiple forms of deprivation, increasing gender inequality, especially in lower-income groups.

Addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach and effective coordination across different ministries, considering the intersectionality of economic vulnerabilities and consumption preferences. In the context

of sustainable development, targeted awareness campaigns aimed at specific population groups could help drive behavioural changes, especially among those with the least flexibility to modify their habits. Since the most vulnerable individuals have limited means to adjust their behavior, well-calibrated and targeted public policies are essential to combatting gender inequalities and promoting sustainable practices.

In conclusion, the study emphasises the need for well-designed policies that take into account the intersectional nature of vulnerabilities. Gender inequality in the context of inflation and rising housing costs, coupled with the pressures of climate change, requires a coordinated response. By integrating gender perspectives into both economic and environmental policies, Luxembourg can craft solutions that benefit all segments of society equitably, fostering a more inclusive and sustainable future.



REVIS

Evaluation of the Luxembourg minimum income scheme (Revenu d'Inclusion Sociale – REVIS) – Process, Collaborations, and Support for Beneficiaries

Luxembourg's current minimum income scheme, Revenu d'Inclusion Sociale (REVIS), came into effect on January 1, 2019, replacing the Revenu Minimum Garanti (RMG) scheme. The REVIS aims to provide basic means of subsistence to all eligible individuals, which can be combined with social and professional activation measures. The goal of REVIS is to promote social inclusion, create a coherent framework between social activation and professional reintegration, tackle child poverty and poverty among single-parent family, and simplify administrative processes.

Compared to the RMG, the introduction of REVIS brought significant changes to the process of guiding and supporting beneficiaries. These changes particularly impacted the social and professional activation aspect of the scheme, and involved a redefined role for the key stakeholders in the scheme. Notably, the Agence pour le Développement de l'Emploi (ADEM) has become a key actor in the new scheme. Additionally, new institutional tools such as ADEM's profiling instrument and new social and professional activation measures were introduced. New organisational modes were also implemented, including the introduction of regional social inclusion agents in social offices. These changes have redefined the journey of beneficiaries, from the initial application process to programme orientation, and finally to receiving dedicated support from the institution to which the beneficiary is now exclusively attached.

In this context of substantial change, the Ministry of Family, Integration, and the Greater Region commissioned LISER to evaluate the REVIS scheme on two key areas: the functioning of services, including the internal procedures collaborations of the various stakeholders, and various aspects related to the implementation of social and professional activation measures. The evaluation thus focused on the implementation of the processes in place, rather than evaluating the outcomes of the scheme, which were covered separately by the General Inspectorate of Social Security (IGSS).

The evaluation took into consideration the perspectives of four main groups of stakeholders:

1. The REVIS beneficiaries;
2. The key institutional actors (the Fonds National de Solidarité [FNS], ADEM, and the Office National d'Inclusion Sociale [ONIS], including the Agents Régionaux d'Inclusion Sociale [ARIS]);
3. The Social Offices (OS);
4. The Host Organisations (OA) that receive beneficiaries involved in activation measures.

REVIS



Co-Authors

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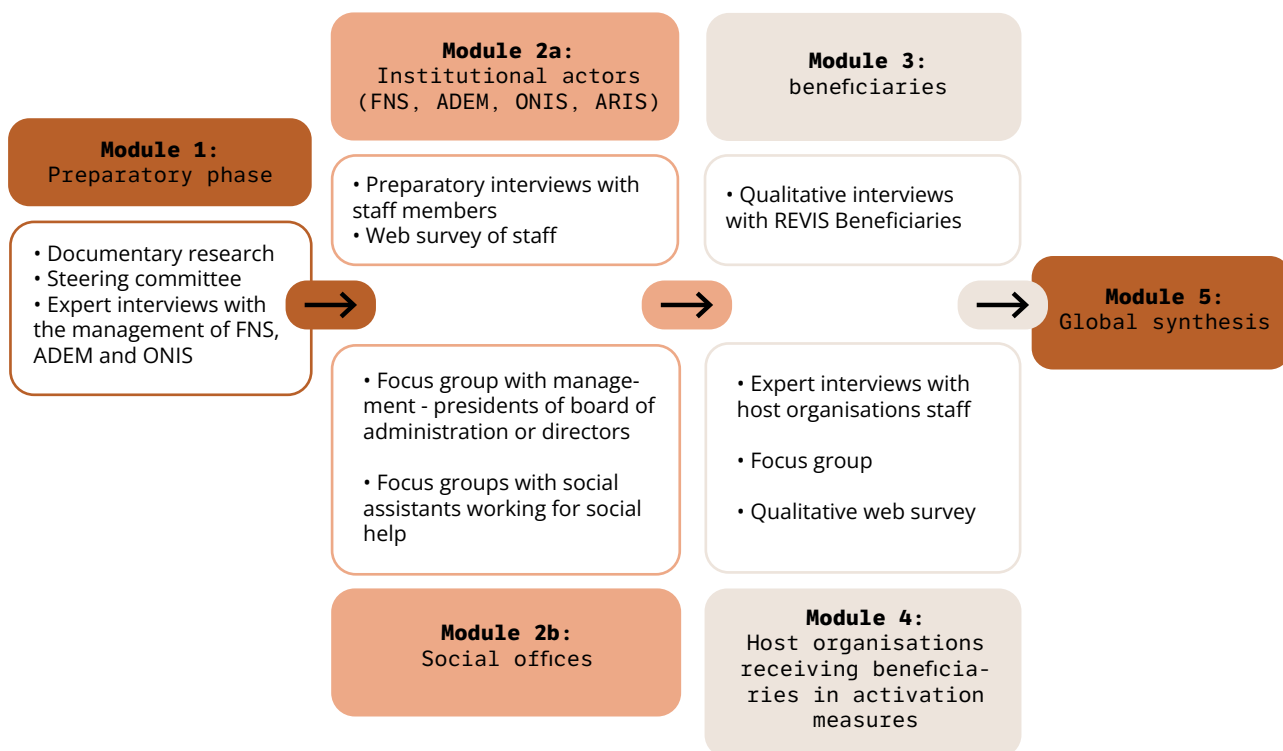


October 2021.....March 2023

- 50 individual or preparatory interviews
- 12 focus groups
- 2 web surveys



around 300 persons consulted



During an intensive data collection process spanning from October 2021 to March 2023, over 300 individuals were consulted (see diagram 1), resulting in a series of reports that examined the perspectives of each stakeholder group separately and then crossing their views in a global synthesis. The final synthesis highlighted the positive aspects of the new REVIS scheme compared to the previous RMG scheme and identified challenges that need to be addressed to improve both the programme's organisation and delivery in terms of beneficiary support. It also pointed to the importance of a continuous statistical monitoring of the characteristics of the REVIS beneficiaries and of the outcomes of the scheme as well as the need to evaluate what works or not with rigorous methods. The latter could be achieved by implementing a framework of social experimentation.

The Luxembourg Government's 2023-2028 coalition agreement makes combating poverty an absolute priority. Given that REVIS is a key tool for the government to address monetary poverty and social exclusion, the results of this comprehensive evaluation, presented at the MIFA (see photo) and in a parliamentary commission ahead of the 2023 legislative elections, provide a robust foundation to guide future improvements in programme organisation and delivery.



From left to right : Pierre Lammar (MFSVA), Max Hahn (Ministre de la Famille, des Solidarités, du Vivre ensemble et de l'Accueil), Fred Berger (IGSS), Silvia Girardi (LISER)



To learn more

For the part of the evaluation conducted by LISER, a report summarising the perspectives of various stakeholders (beneficiaries, institutional actors, social offices, and activation host organisations) on the topics covered in the evaluation can be found here:

• ***Evaluation of the Social Inclusion Income Scheme (REVIS): Presentation of the Evaluation and Summary of the Main Findings***

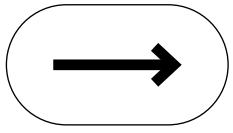
For a deeper exploration of each stakeholder's perspective, the following detailed reports are available:

• ***Annex 1: Evaluation of the REVIS System among Institutional Stakeholders***

• ***Annex 2: Qualitative Study on the Regionalisation of Social Care Introduced by the REVIS Reform - Perspective of Social Offices***

• ***Annex 3: Evaluation of the REVIS System among Beneficiaries***

• ***Annex 4: Perspective of Activation Host Organisations on Procedures, Collaborations, and Support for Beneficiaries within the REVIS Activation Measures***



TRANSITER

Enhancing Social Acceptability of Environmental Policies: The Role of the TRANSITER Observatory

The TRANSITER Observatory is a project that supports political decision-makers in Luxembourg by assessing the social acceptability of environmental policies aimed at decarbonising and increasing the resilience of the country. Faced with the urgent need for sustainable transitions due to climate change, Luxembourg must develop effective policies that gain public support. The Observatory's primary goal is to close the gap between policy design and implementation, facilitating the adoption of environmental strategies.

The TRANSITER Observatory is piloted by the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER), in partnership with CELL (Citizens for Ecological Learning and Living) and the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL). The project is jointly funded by the Department of Spatial Planning (DATer) at the Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning, and the Ministry of the Environment, Climate, and Biodiversity through the Climate and Energy Fund.

Several secular trends makes the research of the TRANSITER Observatory particularly relevant. First, citizens increasingly expect to be involved in participatory processes, as such digital participatory platforms have become more widespread. Second, the fragmented and sensationalist media landscape makes it harder for policymakers to predict how the public will react to policies. In light of this, testing the waters before implementing potentially

controversial policies has become more important than ever. Furthermore, policy problems have grown more complex and, in some cases, even "wicked" necessitating more cautious, experimental approaches (e.g., humble governance or decentralised policy experimentation).

A key component of the Observatory's work is the aggregation of diverse policy measures drawn from various sources, such as reports from the international consultation teams of «Luxembourg in Transition» alongside national and local strategic documents. By synthesising these inputs, the Observatory aims to identify a comprehensive range of policy options that are specifically tailored to Luxembourg's socio-economic and environmental context. Proposed measures include initiatives such as creating car-free buffer zones around schools, altering the menus in public canteens, or moving from a voluntary approach in phasing-out fossil-based heating systems to an obligatory one.

The participatory methodology is central to the Observatory's approach. After identifying a series of potential measures (a stage now completed, but which will be iteratively resumed during the project to include newer policy propositions), these will be evaluated by citizens via a smartphone App, using surveys as the primary tool. Currently, the App is in its final stages of development; you can see some screenshots of how it will look like.





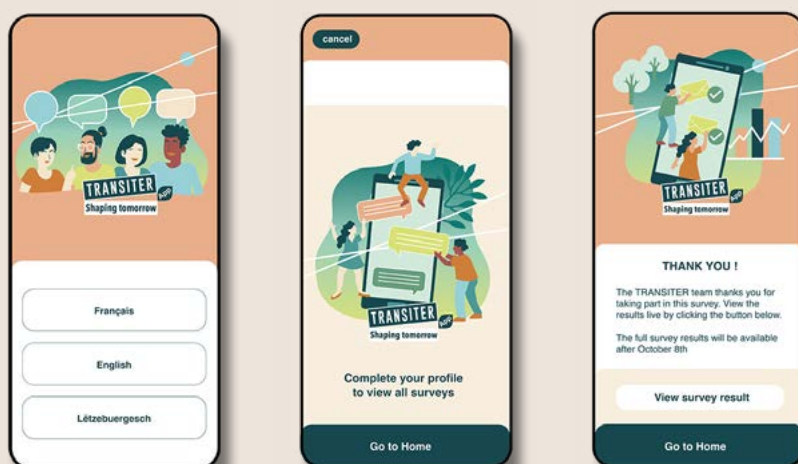
The smartphone App has been developed by the Luxembourgish company inTech in close cooperation with the TRANSITER team.

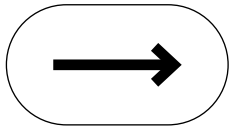
While the app serves as the main tool for collecting public opinion, the Observatory also recognises the value of deeper engagement. Policies deemed broadly acceptable or those identified as highly contentious will undergo further examination through focus groups. These focus groups will bring together citizens to engage in in-depth discussions on the trade-offs and implications of specific policies. They will explore the reasoning behind public reactions and identify barriers to policies that may appear both effective and fair. Organised around thematic areas—such as mobility, housing, and food—and incorporating geographical perspectives, these deliberations will ensure that policy choices are reflective of the diverse realities and preferences within Luxembourg. The deployment of thematic surveys is scheduled for early next year, followed by the organisation of thematic focus groups.

In addition to serving as a platform for public surveys, the app will be an important tool for

disseminating information, providing users with updates on the Observatory's activities, as well as broader developments in environmental policy. A particularly important feature of the app is the ability for users to view aggregated responses once they have submitted their own survey. Research in environmental psychology indicates that people tend to underestimate the environmental efforts of others. By allowing citizens to see collective responses, TRANSITER also aims to subtly shift social norms and public perceptions of environmental responsibility.

In summary, the TRANSITER Observatory seeks to become a key reference point in Luxembourg for understanding the dynamics of social acceptability and policy support. By offering a structured framework for evaluating public opinion and actively engaging citizens in the policy development process, the Observatory aims to address the implementation gap that often hinders environmental policies. Its overarching goal is to facilitate the adoption of effective decarbonisation and resilience measures in ways that strengthen social cohesion and enhance public trust in government decision-making.





OBSERVATORIES IN LUXEMBOURG

Local observatories: Projects with a st

LISER is leading a growing number of local observatories, such as those already in operation in Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg-City, Schiffflange and, more recently, Dudelange. These observatories serve multiple functions:

- **Social and Territorial Monitoring:** They provide ongoing analysis of demographic and socio-economic dynamics through an updated set of indicators on a sub-municipal level.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration:** They foster communication between the different city departments and other administrations, which are responsible for data collection and production. The ultimate aim is to create a cohesive vision and enhance the consistency of local policies.
- **Decision-Making Support:** They help address a growing array of needs while boosting the municipality's attractiveness.
- Ensuring a **continuous analysis of the territorial situation** with a co-constructive and long-term collaboration between LISER and the different local authorities.

These observatories are not static; they are dynamic tools designed to support local public initiatives, adaptable to evolving needs and priorities.

During the 2023-2024 period, the local councils of Esch-sur-Alzette and Schiffflange decided

to mobilise the observatories on the issue of senior citizens. The ageing of society, alongside declining birth rates and increasing life expectancy, presents significant challenges. This demographic shift raises critical questions regarding intergenerational solidarity and social protections, such as pensions and healthcare for the elderly, which are expected to see rising costs.

The phenomenon of ageing is accompanied by more varied family and marital structures than in previous generations, including separations and remarriages later in life. This shift introduces new considerations regarding the living conditions of older adults and the evolution of family support systems. Addressing ageing also necessitates a reevaluation of our social structures, highlighting the need for greater recognition of informal support from family and friends.

The growth of the elderly population is inevitable and requires comprehensive planning. Important initiatives to consider include promoting active ageing, developing tailored care facilities, renovating older housing, as well as improving public spaces and mobility services. It is essential to recognise that the profile of older adults will change significantly in the coming years, including an anticipated increase in non-Luxembourgers and those who do not speak Luxembourgish, as it is already the case in Schiffflange and Esch-sur-Alzette.



Strong societal impact

It is worth noting that in 2013, individuals aged 50 and over in Esch-sur-Alzette and Schifflange had higher incomes than other age groups. However, by 2023, their incomes are slightly below the municipal average. This suggests a relative decline in the economic standing of senior citizens, likely connected to the education level (and corresponding income) of younger workers under 50 in these municipalities.

Rising life expectancy and a growing divorce rate are contributing to a higher percentage of senior citizens living alone, which in turn increases the risk of isolation among the elderly. More than a third of people aged between 75 and 84 and 40% of people aged 85 and over in these age groups live alone in Esch-sur-Alzette. In Schifflange 34% of the 75 years and above live alone.

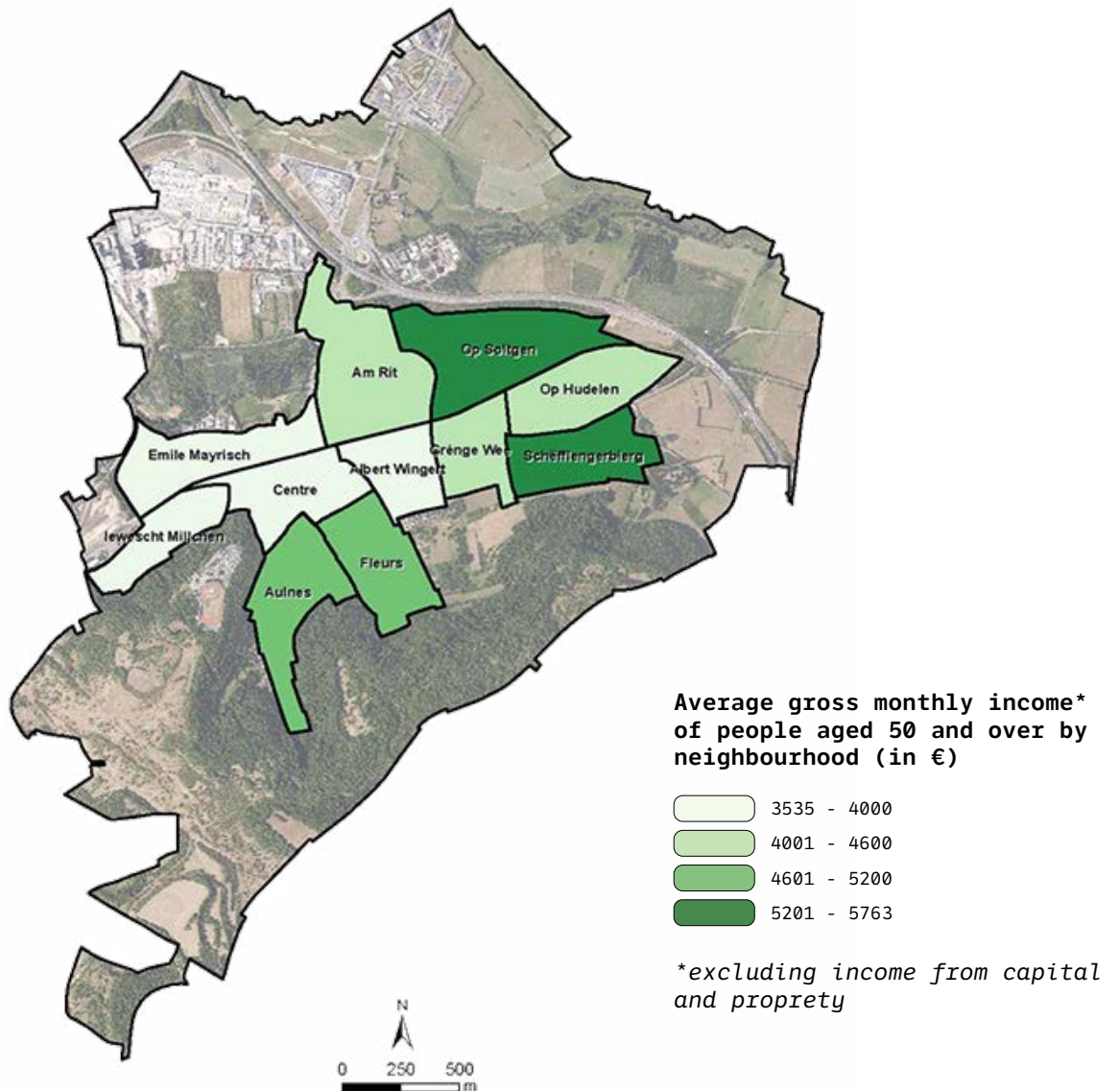
Local authorities, in partnership with the Ministry for Family, Solidarity, Living Together, and Hospitality (MFSVA) and other relevant ministries, play a crucial role in this domain. Local context and an understanding of community needs are vital for effective responses. The foundational principles of elderly care—such as home care, active ageing, social integration, and access to rights and healthcare—are best developed at the local level.

This topic remains relatively new, and local authorities must engage with it more thoroughly,

with renewed ambition and resources. With this report, the elected officials and departments of Esch-sur-Alzette and Schifflange have a valuable framework that has previously been lacking, which they can use to further their discussions and initiatives.



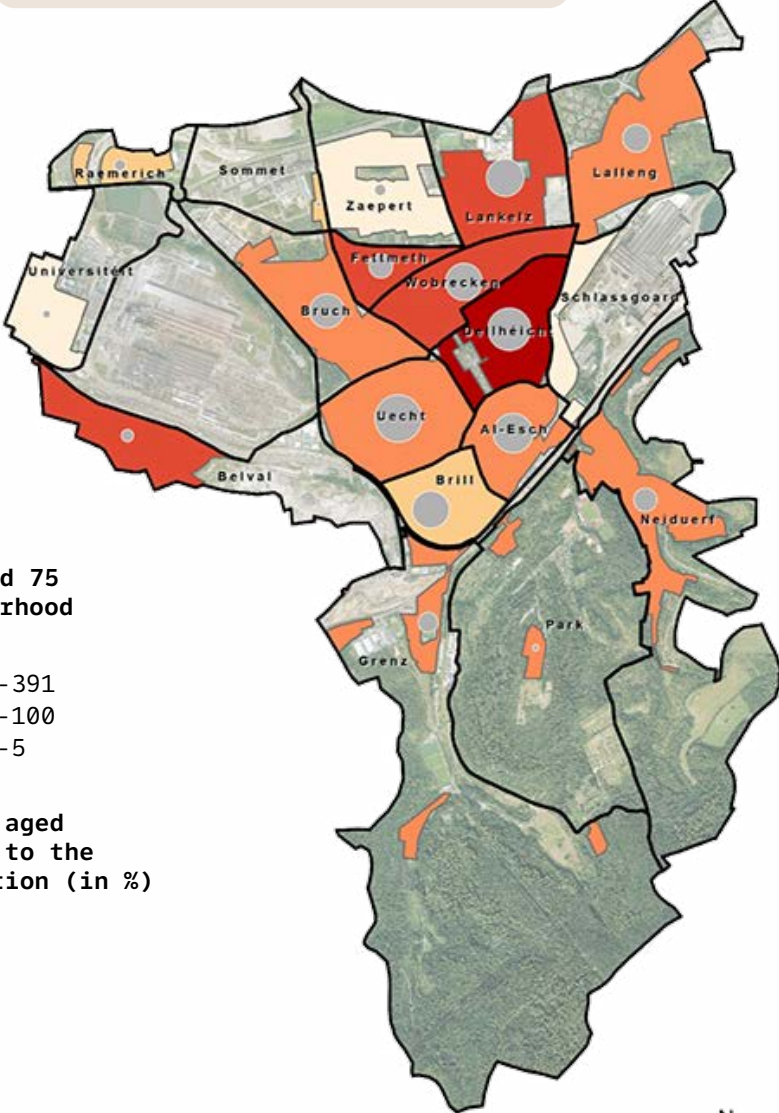
Average gross income of people aged 50 and over in Schiffflange (2023)



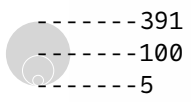
Author : Schiffflange Social Observatory, LISER 2024
Source : IGSS, January 2023.



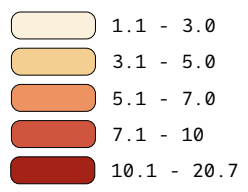
People aged 75 and over in Esch-sur-Alzette (2023)



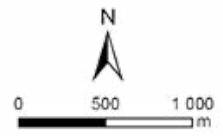
Number of people aged 75 and over by neighbourhood

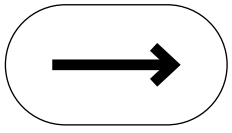


Proportion of people aged 75 and over relative to the neighbourhood population (in %)



Author : Esch-sur-Alzette Social Observatory, LISER 2024.
 Source : Municipal population register - City of Esch-sur-Alzette.
 January 2023.





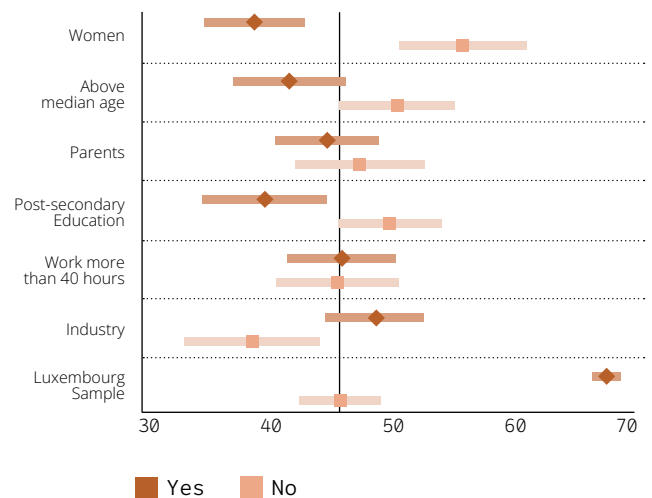
Reducing Working Hours in Luxembourg: Impacts on Society, Employment, and Competitiveness

Working time is a major factor in political and economic decisions and can have an impact on a country's economic, social, and societal outcomes. In Luxembourg, the political and societal debate on the reduction of working time (WTR) has gained momentum due to the anticipated benefits of shorter working hours, particularly in balancing family and professional life, as well as enhancing the attractiveness of the labour market.

While Luxembourg falls within the European average in terms of annual working hours, the country has maintained a 40-hour workweek since the 1970s, with some exceptions under collective agreements. Based on the 2021 European Working Conditions Telephone Survey (EWCTS), the figure below illustrates which resident workers are most likely to desire a workweek of less than 40 hours per week. On average, 46% of respondents indicated a preference for shorter workweek if hourly wages remained constant, with women and those with higher education levels showing the most support. Additionally, older workers and those in service industries also favour working less than 40 hours. However, the differences between parents and non-parents, as well as between those working more than 40 hours and those working 40 hours or less, are not statistically significant. Around 68% of workers in France, Belgium, and Germany want a workweek of less than 40 hours (64% in Germany, 69% in Belgium, and 72% in France), which

shows that interest in shorter workweeks is significantly lower in Luxembourg compared to its neighbours.

This project, carried out under an agreement between the Ministry of Labour, Employment and the Social Solidarity Economy (MTEESS), the University of Luxembourg, and LISER, proposes a comprehensive analysis of the issues and risks associated with WTR by exploring its impact on work-life balance, well-being, employment, and competitiveness, which may have a direct or indirect effects on talent attractiveness. The analysis is based on a review of literature, existing legislation and WTR reforms implemented over the last few decades in countries such as France, Portugal, Germany or Japan. The objective is to contribute to the political and societal debate in Luxembourg.



Source: European Working Conditions Telephone Survey (EWCTS) 2021

Note for the reader: 46% of full-time employees in the Luxembourg sample would like to work less than 40 hours, compared with almost 70 in France, Belgium and Germany combined.



The project revealed the complex impact of implementing WTR on all the aspects studied. In terms of work-life balance and health, WTR could improve work-life balance and well-being by reducing stress, providing more free time, and facilitating family activities. However, previous experiences with WTR show that, to secure these positive benefits, WTR should be conditioned by an effective reduction in working hours without an increase in overtime, stable wages and the avoidance of work intensification. The previous WTR reforms also show that workers in higher socio-professional categories, women, older workers, and those with higher education may benefit more from WTR, while precarious workers may be forced to work multiple jobs to maintain their income.

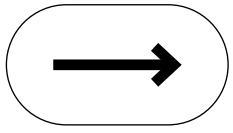
In terms of employment, past experiences show that WTR could lead to job creation, thereby reducing unemployment. However, there are several risks. Higher wages due to WTR may increase labour costs, which may lead firms to prefer overtime to hiring. Small firms may struggle with implementation due to limited resources, and labour shortages may complicate recruitment efforts. The impact of WTR can also vary greatly depending on employers' characteristics and the socio-economic context in which the reform takes place, at both macro and micro levels. Small businesses and certain sectors have been shown to be more vulnerable to the implementation of WTR. The way companies adapt to WTR is also important, as the impact of WTR can vary depending on the management policies.

What emerges from this report is that not all workers have benefited equally from the anticipated positive effects of WTR. The report also shows that employees' needs and desires for WTR vary according to job type, working

environment and career stage. It also shows that the repercussions of WTR could vary from one company to another depending on factors such as the sector of activity and company size. Depending on the structure of the reform, some industries or sectors may be more affected than others. There are also significant disparities in productivity and competitiveness between sectors of activity.

The debate on WTR should take these aspects into account when deciding whether a WTR should be based on a collective approach or a sectoral/branch approach. To implement WTR, it is also necessary to clearly set out the objectives and methods of application: What are the main objectives of a WTR? What should be the extent of the reduction of working time? Who will bear the cost of the WTR reform?

To answer these questions, studies are still needed that provide a true long-term assessment of reforms aimed at legally reducing the workweek. More comprehensive cost-benefit analyses for society as a whole are necessary, taking into account the specific features of the labour market and Luxembourg society. In the era of evidence-based policies, the implementation of predictive analyses, such as micro-simulations, could inform decision-making through a rigorous evaluation of the potential impact of WTR, considering different aspects and scenarios. A survey of workers, jobseekers, and businesses in Luxembourg would also provide more insight into their needs and aspirations regarding WTR.



DIGDIV

Digital Inclusion in Luxembourg: Explori

The aim of this project is to analyse digital inclusion, specifically to identify the underlying factors contributing to the digital divide that can be addressed to ensure that all individuals benefit from digital technology. This project was commissioned by the Ministry for Digitalisation and is based on data collected through the «Community Survey on the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) by Households and Individuals» conducted by STATEC.

The COVID-19 health crisis accelerated the spread of digital technologies, which now permeate nearly all areas of life: interacting with government services, finding housing or employment, pursuing training, staying in touch with friends and family, participating in community life, and more. As a result, the issue of digital inclusion—and conversely, the digital divide—has taken on heightened importance. Initially, the digital divide was analysed by examining access to (or adoption of) and uses of digital tools. However, recent studies increasingly consider the effects of digital technology (both positive and negative) on individuals, such as its impacts on social capital, well-being, job satisfaction, and its potential to foster feelings of isolation or stress.

Annual data from the community survey on “the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) by Households and Individuals” indicate that nearly all residents have internet access and use it. On the surface, this data might suggest that the digital divide is not a pressing issue. However, a closer look reveals that internet users are not a homogeneous

group but are instead divided into three nearly equal subgroups: low users, moderate users, and high users. Among low users, stress when using the internet and the perception that the internet complicates their lives are particularly prevalent. By contrast, users who experience neither of these difficulties are more often found among moderate internet users.

Further analysis of individual characteristics and difficulties associated with internet use reveals some notable trends. Men, for example, are less likely to feel stress when using the internet. Compared to individuals under 30, those aged 50 and above are more likely to experience internet-related stress and are more likely to feel that the internet complicates their lives. Additionally, having an educational qualification higher than lower or lower-secondary level is associated with an increased likelihood of feeling stress but a decreased likelihood of feeling that the internet complicates life. Employment, on the other hand, is negatively associated with both of these challenges.

A review of the benefits derived from internet use reveals that staying in touch with friends and family is the most commonly cited advantage, followed by better access to information and time-saving.

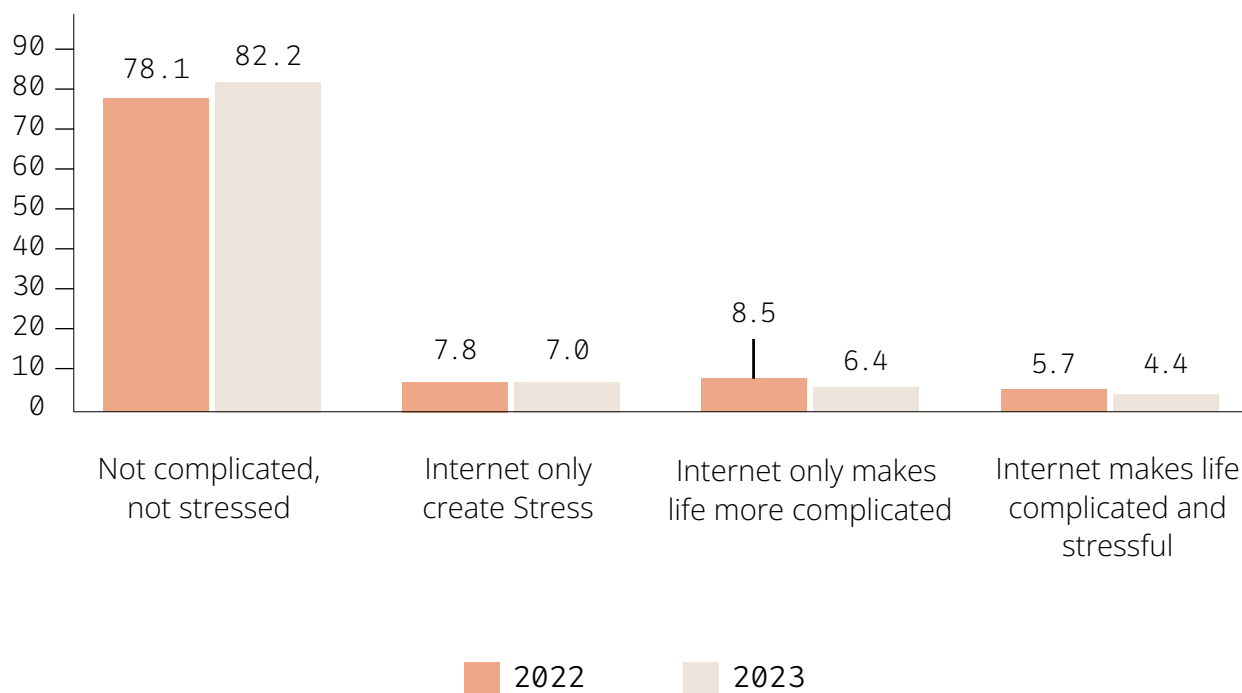
These findings emphasise that digital exclusion should not solely be assessed by counting non-internet users. Rather, it should be evaluated by examining the difficulties encountered by less experienced internet users.



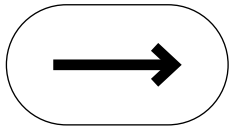


ng the Factors Behind the Digital Divide

Percentage of Internet users who report experiencing stress and feeling that the Internet makes life more complicated in 2022 and 2023 (%)



Source: Community Survey on the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), STATEC 2022, 2023; calculations by authors.



ELMI

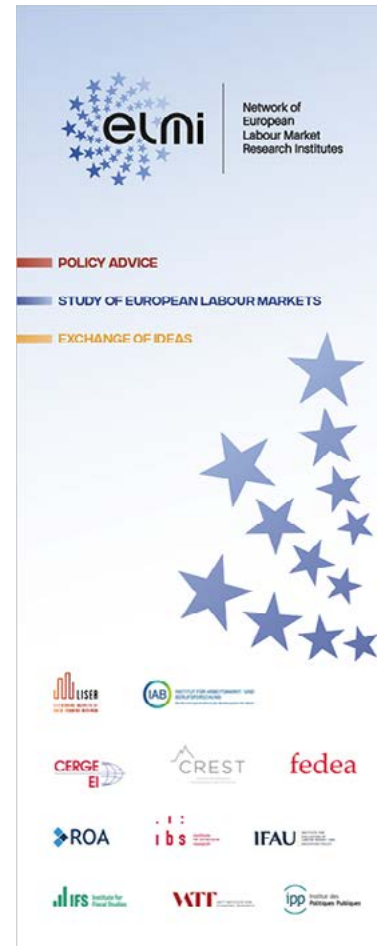
Fostering Collaboration in Labour Market Policy: The Role of the ELMI Network

The ELMI (Network of European Labour Market Research Institutes) network was founded by Prof. Christina Gathmann (LISER) and Prof. Bernd Fitzenberger (IAB) in October 2022. The network is currently composed of eleven European institutes: LISER (Luxembourg, coordination), IAB (Germany, coordination), Cergei-EI (France), CREST (France), FEDEA (Spain), IBS (Poland), IFAU (Sweden), IFS (United Kingdom), IPP (France), ROA (Netherlands) and VATT (Finland). These renowned institutes are dedicated to the study of labour markets and employment with a focus on policy advice.

ELMI has constituted a platform for the continuous exchange of ideas, data and staff. Its members have initiated common research projects and joint publications from various fields and disciplines of labour market research. ELMI organises a yearly conference and other regular events on labour market research. ELMI members regularly present policy-relevant research themes in a series of online Policy Round Tables with experts from the ELMI network and invited specialist, which were followed each time in 2023 by more than 60 participants.

For the ELMI network, 2023 was marked by the administrative consolidation of the network that was reflected by the joint elaboration of its "Structure and Activities" document defining its internal governance and the enhancing of the network's external visibility

through the elaboration of a corporate identity (e.g., website, posters). On the research side, the following international events were organised in 2023 by the ELMI network:





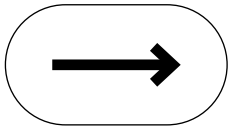
→ Events

- The 1st ELMI international conference (co-organised with the National Research Fund (FNR) through its RESCOM funding scheme) entitled “Skills for the Future: Navigating the Digital, Green, and Social Transitions in European Labour Markets” was organised by LISER. The conference took place on the 30 and 31 October 2023 at the Halle des Poches à Fonte in Esch-sur-Alzette/Belval and benefitted from the keynote speeches by two leading scholars, Prof. Christina Gathmann (LISER) and Prof. David Hémons (University of Zurich). More than 90 national and international policy experts and researchers from various fields of study participated in the conference that received positive feedback in the national press (e.g., RTL news, Tageblatt, and Wort articles).
- Prof. Bernd Fitzenberger from ELMI member IAB gave a presentation entitled “Labour Market Shortages and Current Policy Responses” during a first 2023 ELMI Policy Round Table on the 16 of February 2023.
- On the 11 of April 2023, Prof. Gathmann and Prof. Fitzenberger contributed to an ELMI-related interview to the **IAB Forum**.
- On the 13 of September 2023, a second ELMI Policy Round Table was organised by ELMI member CERGEI-EI. Dr. Filip Pertold provided a presentation entitled “Analysis of the interactions between social policy and the pension system in the Czech labour market.
- The network contributed to the 35th Annual Conference of the European Association of Labour Economists (EALE) on 21-23 September 2023.

→ For more info about the network: www.elmi-network.eu



Prof. Christina GATHMANN at the 2023 ELMI Conference © LISER



INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Data Platform for the Housing Observatory

Project plan:
Standard, transparent
and systematic approach
to deliver outputs

Context and Objective

For many years, LISER has been actively engaged in collecting, producing, storing, mapping, and analysing a wealth of data within the frameworks of the "Housing Observatory" and the "Spatial Development Observatory". Despite the cross-cutting nature of these themes, the data collected by the two observatories remained separate. This separation limited the efficiency and potential synergies that could be achieved, particularly in supporting the work of the Ministries of "Housing" and the Ministry of "Energy and Spatial Planning."

To address this gap, LISER initiated a project aimed at pooling these databases. By consolidating the data into a single platform, the goal is to provide regularly updated, comprehensive information with various levels of spatial detail. This approach not only promotes economies of scale but also simplifies analysis and enhances decision-making processes for key stakeholders, particularly the relevant ministries.

Observatories

Requirements

- Processing identification data (*variables*; type, format) and applied methodologies
- Sources and suppliers identification

Acquisition

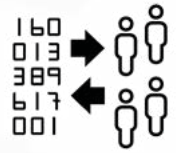
- Exchanges and of the data sources
- Update of the s catalogues

General Principles Guiding the Project

The data platform project was initiated by the Ministry of Energy and Spatial Planning, highlighting its strategic importance at the national level. It represents a co-creation effort between LISER's "Urban Development and Mobility" (UDM) research department and the "Information Systems" (IS) service. This collaborative approach aims to leverage the strengths of both teams to create a robust and efficient platform.

The project is guided by the following principles and objectives:





Center & Observatory of Spatial Development

Data Platform OH - ODS

storage
ce
sources'

Processing

- Indicators production
- Programming (versions, etc)

Indicators validation

Storage

- Data management (access rights, data retention, periods, etc.)
- Update and delivery of the data catalogue (inc. Metadata)

User Interface Access

- Access to the platform
- Ad hoc Data requests and exports

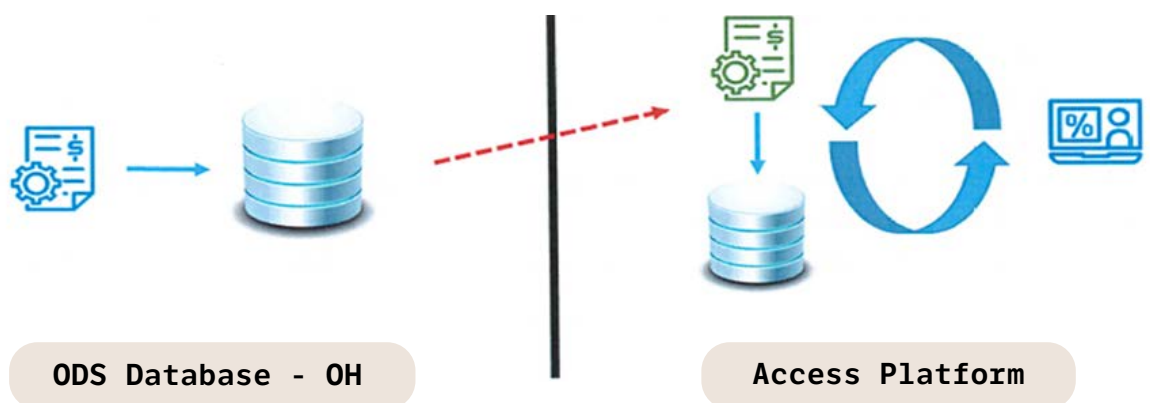
• **Efficiency Through Technology:** The platform aims to enhance efficiency in producing and utilising dedicated data by adopting appropriate and advanced technological solutions.

• **Centralized Data Storage:** Cleaned and harmonised data from multiple sources are stored in a single, unified database, ensuring consistency and integrity across datasets.

• **Simplicity in Maintenance:** The platform is designed to be easily maintainable and updatable, with an emphasis on managing the entire data life cycle effectively, thus allowing for future scalability and adaptability.

• **Automated Indicator Generation:** The system enables the automatic generation of tailored indicators using precise queries, and these indicators can be regularly updated to meet evolving needs.

• **User Accessibility:** Data and indicators can be exported efficiently for end-users, ensuring that relevant information is accessible in a timely manner.



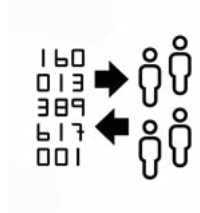
Organisation of the Data Platform

The platform is structured around two key components:

1. Database: The centralised database includes 250 variables encompassing spatial and socio-economic data. All data within the database are cleaned, harmonised, and updated, accompanied by relevant metadata to provide users with comprehensive and reliable information.

2. (Web) User Interface: An intuitive and user-friendly interface has been developed, allowing users to select documented indicators easily. The interface supports data visualisation and export functions according to predefined access rights, ensuring that information is accessible while maintaining data security and integrity.





Benefits of the Collaboration

The collaboration between the Ministry of Energy and Spatial Planning, LISER's UDM research department, and the IS service has led to several key benefits:

- **Quick Access to Information:** The platform provides rapid access to information through a data catalog, significantly reducing the time required to retrieve and analyse data.
- **Reduction of Redundancy:** By centralising data, the platform minimizes redundancy, leading to greater efficiency and improved integrity in data collection, cleaning, and processing.
- **Timely Indicator Generation:** The platform enables the quick generation of indicators for specific time periods and at different spatial scales. This flexibility supports precise research analysis, aiding in the development of targeted and effective policies.
- **Improved Alignment with Sponsor Needs:** The platform leverages transversal skills to ensure that the outputs align with the needs of the sponsor, optimising the use of resources and expertise to deliver a product that meets specific requirements.

In conclusion, the data platform developed for the Housing Observatory and the Observatory of Spatial Development represents a significant step forward in data integration and analysis at LISER. By combining resources and expertise, the platform offers a centralised, efficient, and scalable solution that supports evidence-based decision-making, ensuring that the relevant ministries and stakeholders have access to high-quality, up-to-date information.

NATIONAL **COMPETITIVE** FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

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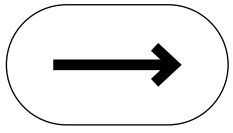
03

COMPETITIVE

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LISER's National Competitive Projects are research initiatives funded through competitive national grants, primarily from Luxembourg's National Research Fund (FNR). These Innovatives and of high scientific quality projects focus on advancing innovative research in areas critical to Luxembourg's social, economic, and spatial development. Through rigorous scientific investigation, these projects aim to strength the scientific quality of Luxembourg public research in line with the country's research priorities adopted by the Government.



MET'HOOD

The Role of Residential Environments in Shaping Cardio-Metabolic Diseases and Associated Behavioural Risk Factors

Cardio-metabolic (CM) diseases are the leading cause of death in Luxembourg. While traditional factors like age, gender, and genetics play a role, it is now recognised that our living environment significantly impacts health. The rising prevalence of CM diseases over recent decades is closely linked to urban changes, including urban densification (i.e., the increase in population density per square kilometre) and urban sprawl (i.e., the expansion of urban areas into natural land). These shifts have led to greater reliance on motorised transport, fast food consumption, and sedentary lifestyles—all of which contribute to CM issues.

Identifying modifiable elements of the urban environment that support healthier CM profiles—such as promoting physical activity and healthy diets—is crucial for creating healthy urban areas. Moreover, access to health-promoting resources like green spaces, active mobility infrastructure, and healthy food stores is uneven across different neighborhoods and social groups. These disparities contribute to unequal CM health profiles, with lower-income areas often facing greater risks. Addressing these spatial and social inequalities is key to improving overall public health.

MET'HOOD Study: Understanding the Link Between Residential Environment and Cardio-Metabolic Health in Luxembourg

MET'HOOD (Time-Varying Residential Neighbourhood Effects on Cardio-Metabolic Health) is a project funded between 2021 and 2023 by the National Research Fund (FNR) CB/20/BN/14787166. It results from a unique collaboration between LISER and LIH. The project is a longitudinal study (2008-2018), based on the ORISCAV-LUX cohort (Figure 1), investigating the impact of changes in the built, natural, and socio-economic environmental characteristics of residential neighbourhoods in Luxembourg on physical activity, diet, and the metabolic syndrome (i.e., a cluster of biological CM risk factors).

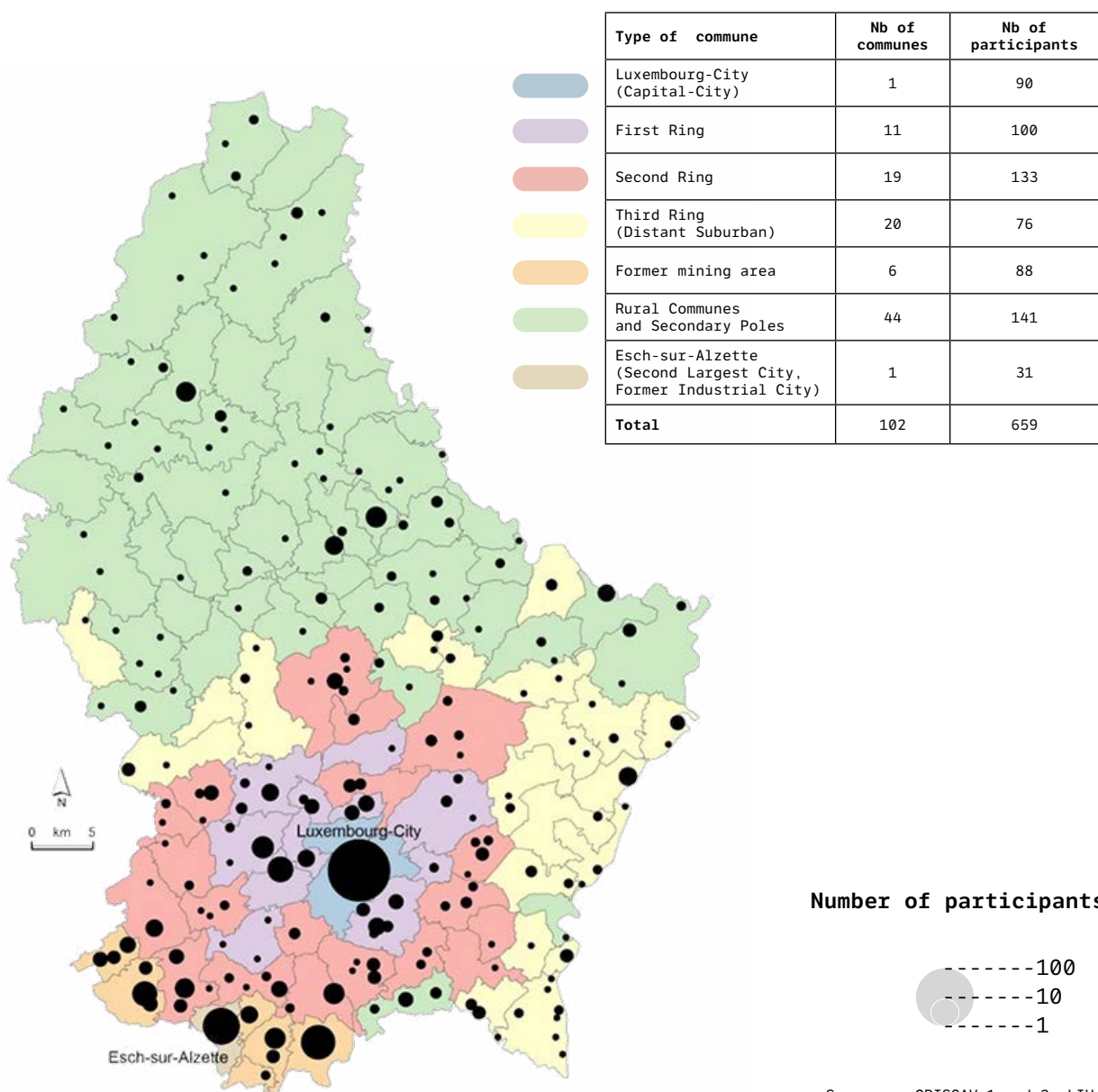
Combining expertise in geography and epidemiology, and with support from local and national health and urban planning experts, MET'HOOD aimed to provide evidence for policy development regarding the influence of specific environmental features on CM risk factors, and social disparities thereof.





Figure 1

Distribution of ORISCAV-LUX participant by communes.



Sources : ORISCAV 1 and 2, LIH
Typology of Communes, LISER

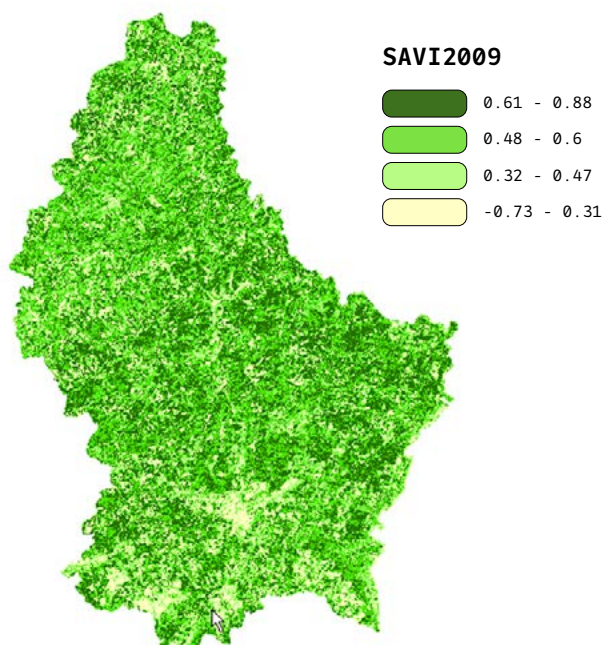
Greener Neighbourhoods: A Tool for Preventing Metabolic Syndrome

One of the project's first focuses was the relationship between exposure to green spaces (Figure 2) in residential neighbourhoods and the evolution of metabolic syndrome over 10 years. To quantify the spectrum of metabolic abnormalities, metabolic syndrome was calculated as a continuous score based on five cardiovascular risk factors: abdominal obesity, elevated fasting blood glucose (pre-diabetes), high triglycerides, low HDL («good») cholesterol,

and high blood pressure. Results (n=395) showed that a 10% increase in vegetation density in residential areas over 10 years was significantly associated with a higher HDL level (+1.42 mg/dL). Additionally, individuals with low to medium exposure to green spaces in 2008 benefited the most (i.e., lower metabolic syndrome score) from an increase in vegetation density over time (figure 1).

Figure 2

Distribution of ORISCAV-LUX participant by communes.



Source: Landsat 7 surface reflectance (2009)



Figure 3

Visualisation of different vegetation measures, including tree canopy, vegetation composition and vegetation density in the municipality of Luxembourg.



Tree cover density representing tree canopy

Source:
Copernicus Land use Monitoring



Green Land Use Mix, representing the mix of vegetation types

Source:
LIS-L Land Use 2018



Soil adjusted vegetation index representing vegetation density

Source:
Landsat 9

Greener neighbourhood: are all types of green promoting physical activity?

While exposure to green spaces is further expected to promote physical activity and reduce sedentary behaviours, little is known on how different types of green (density, diversity and vegetation type, see Figure 3) may impact physical activity and sedentary behaviors over time. The analyses (n=651) have

shown an unexpected negative association between tree cover density and physical activity, as well as the mix of various green types and physical activity, especially among men. No association was observed between exposure to green spaces and sedentary behaviours.

Denser Neighbourhoods: A Less Clear Link with Metabolic Syndrome

Another topical issue is the potential effect of urban densification over 10 years on the evolution of metabolic syndrome. While compact cities where various services (medical services, jobs, schools, supermarkets, leisure, etc.) are accessible within a 15-minute walk and connected by dense transportation networks, are perceived as beneficial for health, the results were mixed. The analysis (n=510) showed that a 17% increase in the Urban Densification Index over 10 years was associated with higher triglyceride levels (+0.05 mg/dL), lower HDL levels (-1.29 mg/dL), and worsening metabolic syndrome scores. These associations were only significant for participants living in already dense urban areas at the start of the study.

Food Landscape: Fewer Healthy Outlets is Linked to Lower Diet Quality

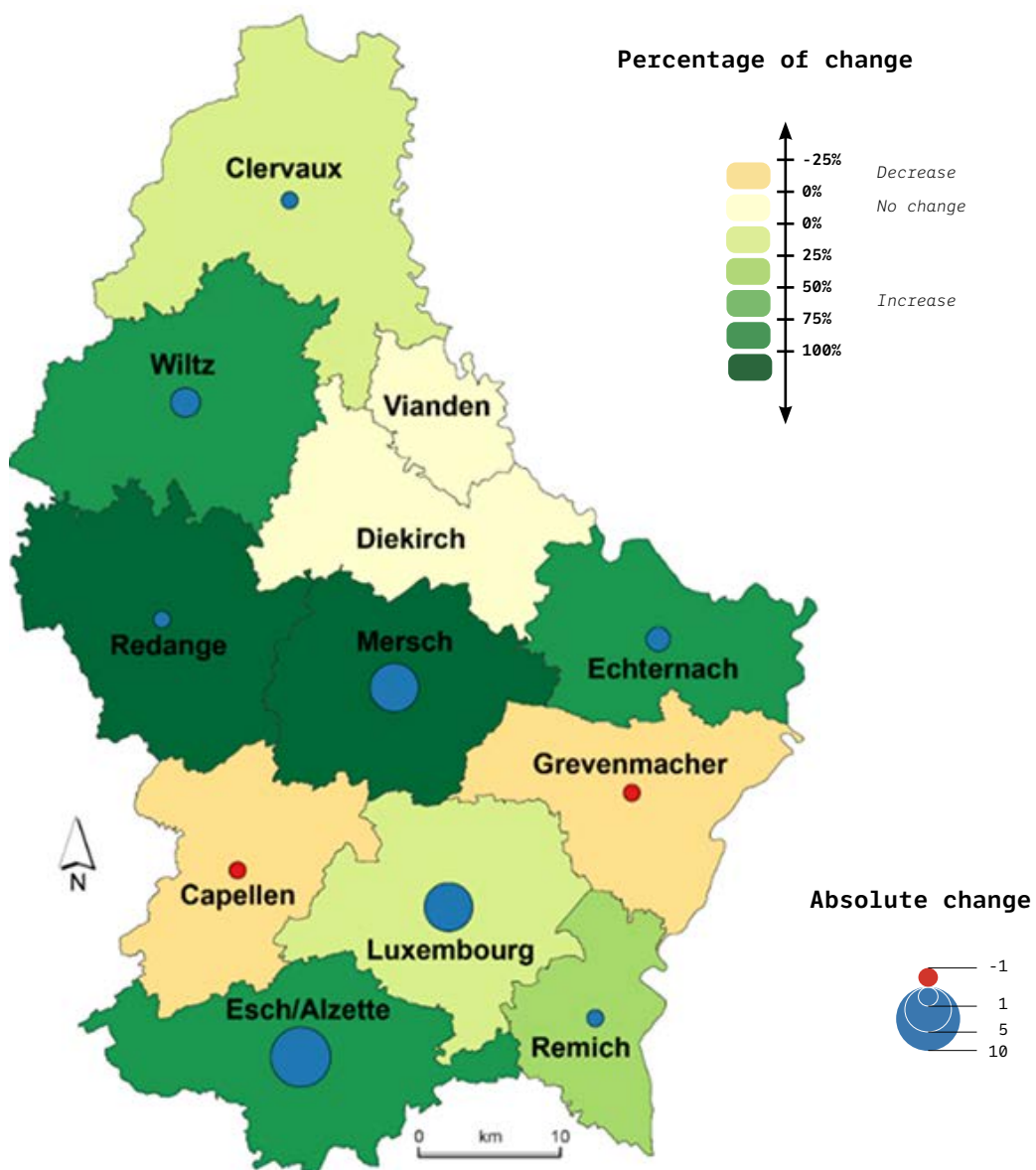
Lastly, the project examined how food environments (Figure 4) influence dietary habits over time. The aim was to explore the relationship between 10-year exposure to local food environments and diet quality among Luxembourg residents. Results (n=566) showed a 56.3% increase in less healthy food outlets over time. Overall, higher exposure to less healthy outlets was linked to poorer diet quality, particularly for urban residents. This study suggests that the rise in less healthy food may have worsened urban residents' diet quality.



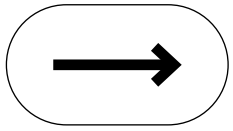


Figure 4

Evolution of the distribution of supermarket over 9 years in Luxembourg.



LISER 2021
Sources: Observatoire du Développement Spatial,
LISER (2008 - 2017)



EUFIRST

Globalisation, Inequality and Populism Across Europe

The EUFIRST project addresses the growing prominence of right-wing populism in Europe, exploring its complex relationship with migration flows and broader political and social dynamics. By developing new methods for defining and measuring populism, the project uncovers the key drivers and consequences of populist trends, particularly in relation to migration, education and economic performance.

Defining and Measuring Populism

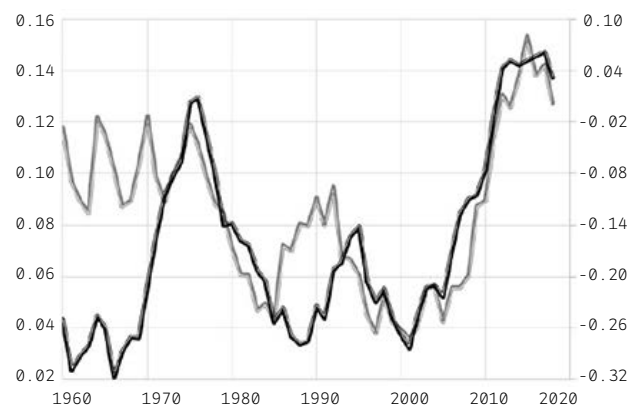
Using data from the Manifesto Project database (1960-2018), this project introduces an innovative method to measure populism. A core achievement is the creation of a dynamic

populism score, which tracks the extent of anti-establishment rhetoric and commitment to defending “the people” across elections. This allows for a nuanced analysis of how populism evolves over time and across countries. Using this time-varying populism score for each party, we construct two measures of populism at the country level: the volume margin, which sums the vote shares of all populist parties (a standard measure in the literature), and (ii) the mean margin, which weights the populism score of all parties by their vote shares. The mean margin better captures the fact that populist ideas often permeate traditional parties, which may not be classified as explicitly populist.

Long term trends in populism in the EU (1960-2018)



(a) Election w. RW-LW populist



(b) Margins of populism



The team distinguishes between left-wing populism, which focuses on economic concerns, and right-wing populism, which focuses on cultural and national identity. Right-wing populism has risen significantly in recent years, particularly in Europe, as the project's time-varying populism score shows.

Determinants of Populism: Migration, Human Capital, Segregation

A key finding of the EUFIRST project is the role that globalisation shocks – especially trade and migration – play in fueling populist sentiment. The skill composition of immigration is a critical factor. Low-skilled immigration and imports of low-skilled, labour-intensive goods have been shown to increase support for right-wing populism, particularly in times of economic crisis or in regions with high internet penetration. In contrast, high-skilled immigration and imports reduce populism. Moreover, educational attainment is a powerful buffer against populist tendencies. Thus, the project also shows how the brain drain - the emigration of highly educated voters - can change political institutions in the long run, in both contemporary and historical contexts. Finally, the project examines how factors such as segregation and local immigration intensity affect voting patterns. In the city of Milan, it was found that the presence of immigrants from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region increases support for far-right populist parties, while greater segregation between migrants and natives attenuates this effect.

Consequences of Populism: Selection of Migrants

The project also sheds light on the negative economic and institutional effects of populism. Empirical evidence suggests that populist

governance leads to lower bureaucratic quality, higher debt, and financial mismanagement. A study of Italian municipalities shows that populist mayors prioritise political promises over fiscal responsibility, leading to less efficient local governance. In addition, populism reduces the attractiveness of regions for young, educated natives, contributing to «foot-voting,» where skilled Italian natives leave populist-controlled areas, thereby increasing local political polarisation.

At the broader cross-country level, the project finds that an increase in the average margin of right-wing populism reduces the inflow of high-skilled immigrants and increases high-skilled emigration. We observe smaller or negligible effects on low-skilled immigrants and voters. This shift in the composition of the population further entrenches populist ideologies and exacerbates political and social divisions. These effects are not necessarily linked to the election of populist leaders, but reflect the broader influence of populist ideology on political parties and voter attitudes.

Vicious Cycles of Populism

A critical finding of the project is the self-reinforcing nature of populism. Once populists gain power, their policies often weaken bureaucratic institutions and exacerbate economic instability, making it harder to implement reforms and reversing democratic progress. This, in turn, deepens public dissatisfaction with the status quo and creates fertile ground for further populist gains. Even after populists leave office, the political polarization and distrust they sow persists, setting the stage for new populist movements – as seen in countries like the U.S.

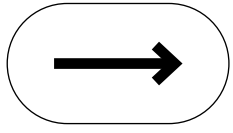


Co-Authors

**Frédéric Docquier, Eugenio Peluso,
Massimo Morelli, Hillel Rapoport**

More importantly, the EUFIRST project examines the ongoing interaction between populism and population dynamics. Inflows of low-skilled migrants tend to bolster right-wing populist support, as they are perceived as a threat to native jobs and culture. At the same time, populist governments' resistance to high-skilled immigration perpetuates a low-skilled electoral base that reinforces right-wing populism. This cycle undermines both economic performance and the long-term health of democracy. In sum, the EUFIRST project makes significant contributions to understanding the causes, measurement, and consequences of populism, with a particular focus on its interaction with migration flows. Through rigorous empirical analysis and the development of new metrics, the project provides policymakers and academics with essential tools to address the populist challenge and its far-reaching implications for societies across Europe and beyond.





CRHOUSINQ

Cross-Border Mobility, Housing Market Developments, and Inequalities

The CRHOUSINQ project examines the relationships between economic concentration, labour mobility, housing market dynamics, and inequality in the Greater Region of Luxembourg. Given Luxembourg's rapid growth and limited population absorption capacity, the sustainability of its economic success is uncertain. The project also examines the inclusiveness of this growth trajectory by identifying both the beneficiaries and the losers of this process, as well as exploring attitudes towards immigration.

The CRHOUSINQ project provides insights into Luxembourg's labour market, housing trends, and societal attitudes toward immigration in the context of rapid economic growth. The research shows how labour and housing market developments concentrate human capital in core regions, affect the income distribution of native residents, and shape labour market complementarities between native and foreign workers. Overall, positive attitudes towards immigration reflect its perceived economic benefits, although concerns about the scale of immigration remain.

Is Housing Market Development Deglomerative?

In economic geography, core regions benefit from labour market pooling, where the concentration of workers increases productivity. However, it also increases demand for land and property, driving up real estate prices and raising costs for firms and workers. This can lead to deglomeration forces that discourage

further migration to the core and limit regional disparities. Focusing on French-born workers in the Greater Region, we examined how wage and housing price differentials affect migration and commuting patterns by educational attainment. Rising wages primarily attract highly educated workers to the core, while rising housing prices discourage low- and medium-skilled workers, but not high-skilled workers. This reinforces the positive selection of migrants, concentrating human capital in the core and widening the regional skill gap. Thus, housing market forces are not deglomerative when it comes to human capital accumulation. Both forces contribute to the agglomeration of skills up to a certain saturation point.

Impact of Cross-Border Workers on the Income of Natives

Another study examines the impact of immigration and cross-border commuting on the real income distribution of native Luxembourgers. First-generation immigrants make up about 50% of the population, and daily commuters from neighboring countries almost double the labour force. These inflows are crucial for the Luxembourg economy, affecting average productivity, driving skill-biased technological change, and increasing real estate prices. Our model predicts how these labour flows affect labour market outcomes and house prices, with different effects across skill levels. Low- and medium-skilled native landlords experienced the largest gains (+31% in real income), while tenants in this group

experienced a 24% increase due to complementarities with high-skilled commuters. In contrast, high-skilled landlords saw an increase of only 8% and high-skilled tenants saw a decrease of 7%. The labour and housing markets play an important role in explaining these dynamics, creating many winners but also a few losers.

Roots of Labour Market Complementarities

Luxembourg's financial sector has undergone significant innovation over the past decades, driven by technological advances such as digitalisation and AI. This has increased the global demand for financial services and has had an impact on other sectors through inter-industry linkages. Meanwhile, the public sector has followed the rest of the economy and remained stable in terms of GDP share, providing a buffer for native workers. Many local workers, who are fluent in Luxembourg's three languages, have shifted to public sector jobs, benefiting from better wages and security. This shift has helped mitigate the potential negative effects of immigration and cross-border commuting on segments of the labour market and explains why a majority of natives have likely benefited from cross-border labour inflows. Meanwhile, private firms have increasingly relied on immigrants and commuters to meet rising labour demand in response to economic changes.

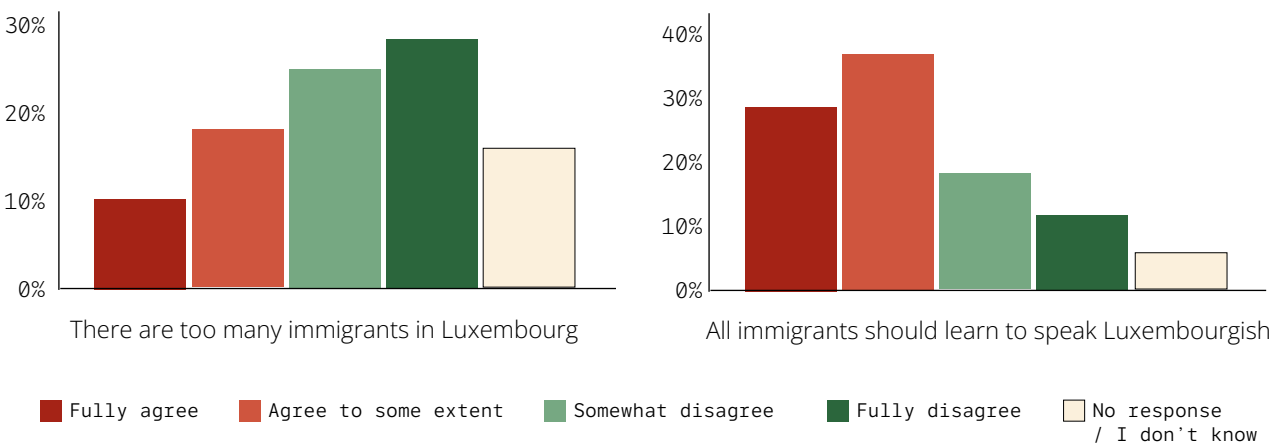
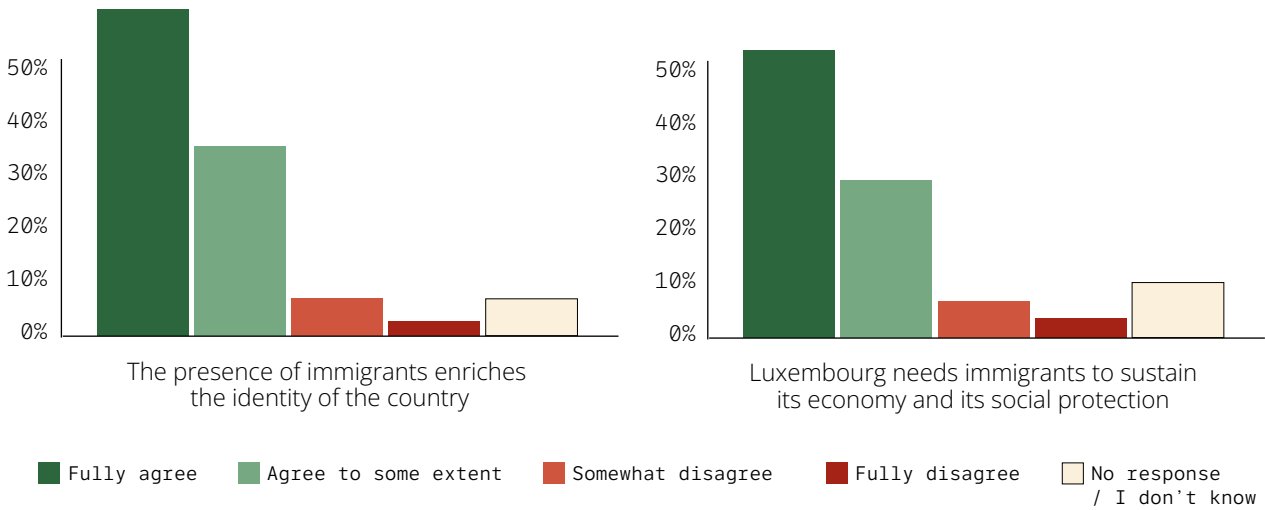
What About Attitudes Towards Immigration?

To understand whether these benefits are perceived by the population, we combined administrative records with results from our National Survey on Racism and Ethno-Racial Discrimination. Most respondents recognise that immigration enriches

Luxembourg's national identity and economy. Positive attitudes are most common among Portuguese immigrants, followed by non-EU immigrants and those from neighboring countries. Second-generation immigrants are also more supportive of immigration than other native Luxembourgers. Interestingly, the total share of immigrants in a respondent's immediate neighbourhood does not significantly affect attitudes about the economic or cultural impact of immigration, regardless of the neighborhood's ethnic composition. Native Luxembourgers generally hold positive views of immigration, likely influenced by labour market complementarities and income from real estate ownership. The only drawback is that exposure to the recent influx of non-European immigrants has increased concerns among some natives about immigration levels, suggesting that acceptance of diversity and multiculturalism might take time.



Attitudes towards immigration in Luxembourg



INTERNATIONAL
COLLABORATIVE
FLAGSHIP
PROJECTS

52 CLIC:ME

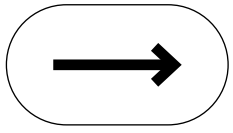
04

INT. COLLABORATIVE

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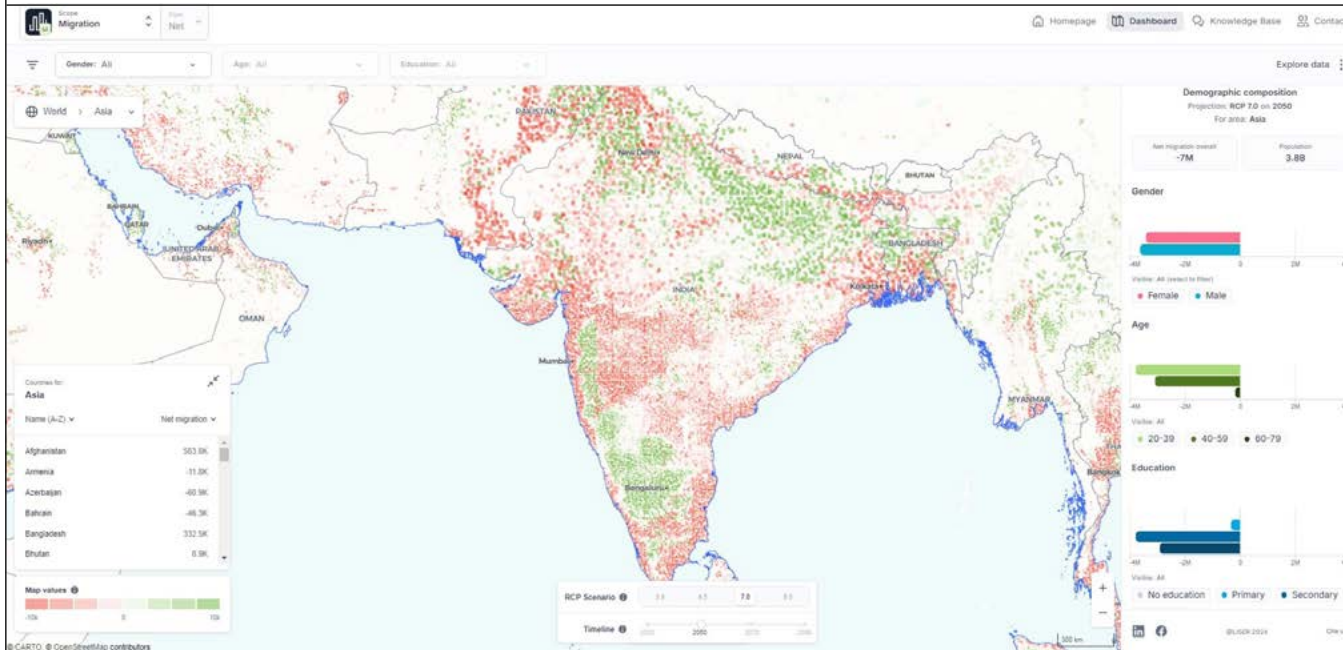


LISER's International Collaborative Flagship Projects are prominent research initiatives designed to address significant global challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration with international partners. In these projects researchers' team, deliver high quality and valuable studies that contribute to the development of the international knowledge in social sciences, economics, and public policy. These flagship projects aim to produce high-impact research outcomes that inform policy decisions and promote sustainable development at international levels. The collaborative nature of these initiatives enhances LISER's visibility and influence in the global research community.



CLIC:ME

Climate Change: Migration and Economics



Migration driven by climate hazards is a key topic in international policy discussions. LISER takes an active role in shaping these discussions. Leading this effort are Michal Burzynski and Aleksandra Szymanska through the CLIC:ME project, which was launched in 2023 as an extension of their earlier academic research. We developed a quantitative model of the world economy that projects demographic, economic and migratory dynamics over the 21st century at a fine spatial scale of 5x5 km raster grid. By factoring in climate-related shocks, this model allows to project climate migration patterns at all spatial scales, as well as across different climate and socio-economic scenarios.

The model has become a key policy tool for the Global Centre for Climate Mobility (GCCM), a United Nations initiative that engages in high-level consultations with head of states

and international stakeholders. The focus of this particular project, coordinated by the Columbia University, New York, is the Greater Caribbean region, which is subject to significant damages due to various climate-related challenges over the course of the 21st century. The results from our model frame the foundation for discussions among 25 member countries of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). Apart from communicating the findings to policymakers, the GCCM and LISER teams have also consulted them with various stakeholder groups in the region, including representatives of indigenous people, youth and women, as well as urban and coastal communities. Members of all these groups have gained a clearer understanding of the specific hazards they are exposed too and their potential consequences for internal and international mobility of people in the future.



By providing extents to which climate change will induce human mobility in and beyond the Greater Caribbean region, our work helps deepen the understanding of the complex relationship between climate and migration. Our model identifies the hazard hotspots and translates climate damages into economic losses, which may influence migration decisions (although oftentimes prevent). One key finding that we emphasise is the issue of “climate immobility”, when people, particularly in rural, less developed and poor areas of the Caribbean, are unable to relocate despite facing climate disaster. This lack of mobility leaves many communities vulnerable, leading to a decline in quality of life and increase in poverty.

The insights about future changes in climate and their consequences for economies and populations at the global, national and local levels have to be efficiently transmitted to all relevant stakeholders. The cooperation with the United Nations and national governments is one example in which we can reach the relevant audience, but arguably, this channel is narrow. Therefore, as a way of fulfilling the LISER’s mission to bring scientific findings to the broad society, we develop a prototype of an online tool that is capable of illustrating all outputs of our modelling in a user-friendly manner. The CliC:ME open access dashboard (available at: clicme.liser.lu) presents only a handful of functionalities, but gives a broad overview of how the logic of the final version of the online tool will look like. The interactive dashboard allows users to explore comprehensive data on climate change-driven migration by zooming into areas of interest and analysing the data at national, regional and local levels up to 5x5km raster grid. This key feature allows the users to identify climate hazards hotspots efficiently, as well as to notice those places, which

are prone to climate-induced in- and out-migration, along with consequential impacts for the measures of amenities, income and poverty. Moreover, our tool allows for analysing the effects across different socio-demographic characteristics (age, gender, education groups) as well as across time and climate scenarios, which will be available in the full version.

The issue of climate-induced migration has to be analysed from various perspectives, standpoints and attitudes. In that form, it has to be discussed across all relevant stakeholders to design and implement effective adaptation mechanisms and policies in sending and receiving areas of the world. To achieve this goal, we plan to pursue a rich array of related projects to improve our understanding of the way in which climate shocks translate into peoples’ decision to move. Apart from modelling short-term, temporary and forced displacement caused by sudden-onset disasters, we aim to bridge the macroeconomic perspective with specific implementations that include the role of key market: labour, insurance, and emission cost markets. The future is in our hands, and LISER aims to be involved in key global, national and local discourses on climate change, its economic implications and migration.



INTERNATIONAL **COMPETITIVE** FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

56 HFAC
60 WINWIN4WORKLIFE

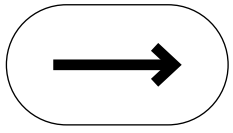
05

HORIZON EUROPE

54



LISER's International Competitive flagship Projects are research or development projects funded by international organisations, often as part of competitive programmes. These projects aim to foster collaboration between institutions, researchers, and businesses from different countries to address global issues or stimulate innovation such as climate change, social inequality, and digital transformation. By leveraging advanced methodologies and data-driven insights, LISER's flagship projects contribute to the development of impactful policies and practices that promote sustainable development and enhance the well-being of citizens. These initiatives underscore LISER's commitment to advancing knowledge and shaping evidence-based solutions at the International level.



HFACT

Health Financing for Universal Health Coverage in Challenging Times: leaving no one behind – the HFACT project

The HFACT project is a 5-year, £7m project funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in the UK. Professor Marc Suhrcke co-leads the project from LISER, jointly with Professor Indrani Gupta from the Institute of Economic Growth in New Delhi, India. This major initiative focuses on the design, implementation, and evaluation of health financing policies across four emerging economies: Brazil, India, Indonesia, and South Africa. With a central goal of helping countries achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), HFACT works to ensure that all individuals, especially underserved populations, have access to essential health services without facing financial hardship.

The Global Challenge of UHC

Despite global commitments toward UHC, many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) face significant challenges in reforming their health financing systems. Fragmented financing, inadequate resource allocation, and inequitable access to healthcare remain common obstacles. Moreover, vulnerable populations, such as those living in poverty or in remote regions, are often excluded from formal healthcare systems. HFACT addresses these critical challenges by developing research-based, evidence-driven solutions for more inclusive and sustainable health financing models.

HFACT's Research Framework

HFACT adopts a multi-dimensional approach to health financing research. It involves comprehensive data analysis, primary data collection, modelling, and evaluating the effectiveness of existing health financing policies. The project places a strong emphasis on understanding the unique healthcare contexts of each target country, aiming to generate actionable insights that inform policy reforms.

The research and capability efforts are captured within four policy themes, supported by four methods areas (see Table 1). The policy themes have been developed in conjunction with a coalition of stakeholders in each country to both reflect their national priorities.

Country-Specific Focus

Each of the countries participating in the HFACT project faces its own distinct health financing challenges:

- **Brazil:** Brazil's public healthcare system, SUS, has been pivotal in advancing UHC, but resource limitations and inefficiencies still pose barriers to equitable access. HFACT is investigating ways to improve financial allocations to underserved regions.
- **India:** With its large and diverse population, India's health financing landscape is complex.





Table 1

Policy themes and methods areas of HFACT

Policy Themes	Methods Areas
Raising resources for health	Policy impact evaluation
Resource allocation	Equity analysis
Ensuring healthcare access for left-behind groups	Economic evaluation & decision analysis
Gpvernance and intersectorality	Political economy analysis

HFACT's focus is on improving financial protection, especially for rural and impoverished populations who remain vulnerable to healthcare-related financial shocks.

- **Indonesia:** As the largest country in South-east Asia, Indonesia has made strides toward UHC through its national health insurance scheme. HFACT evaluates how to enhance the scheme's efficiency and reach to marginalised communities.

- **South Africa:** In a nation with stark inequalities in healthcare access, HFACT explores solutions to reduce disparities and ensure that health financing systems cater to both urban and rural populations.

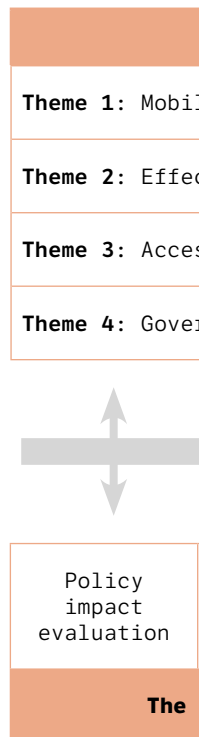
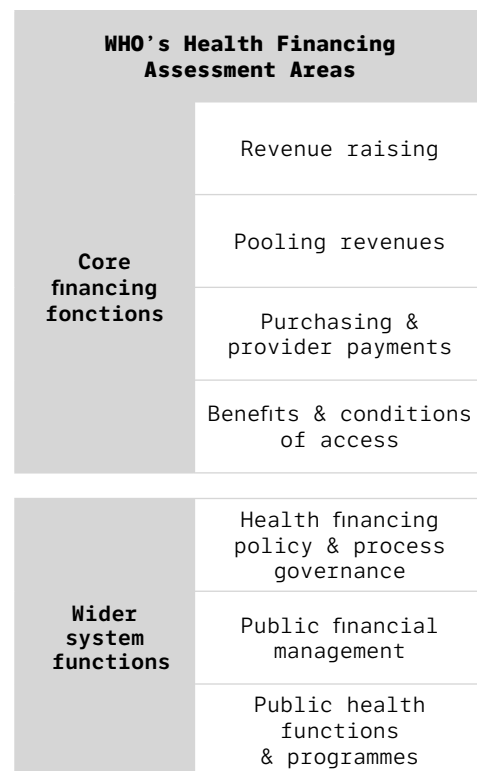
Engagement with Policymakers and Stakeholders

An integral component of HFACT is its engagement with national and regional policy-

makers, as well as civil society organisations. Through stakeholder engagement, the project ensures that research findings are translated into meaningful policy actions. This collaborative approach helps bridge the gap between academic research and real-world implementation, fostering stronger partnerships between governments and healthcare providers.

Building Research Capacity

Beyond its policy impact, HFACT is committed to strengthening the research capacity within the target countries. By building local expertise, the project contributes to long-term sustainable health financing solutions that are grounded in local realities. HFACT provides training and capacity-building opportunities to researchers and institutions in Brazil, India, Indonesia, and South Africa, empowering them to lead health financing research in their own contexts.



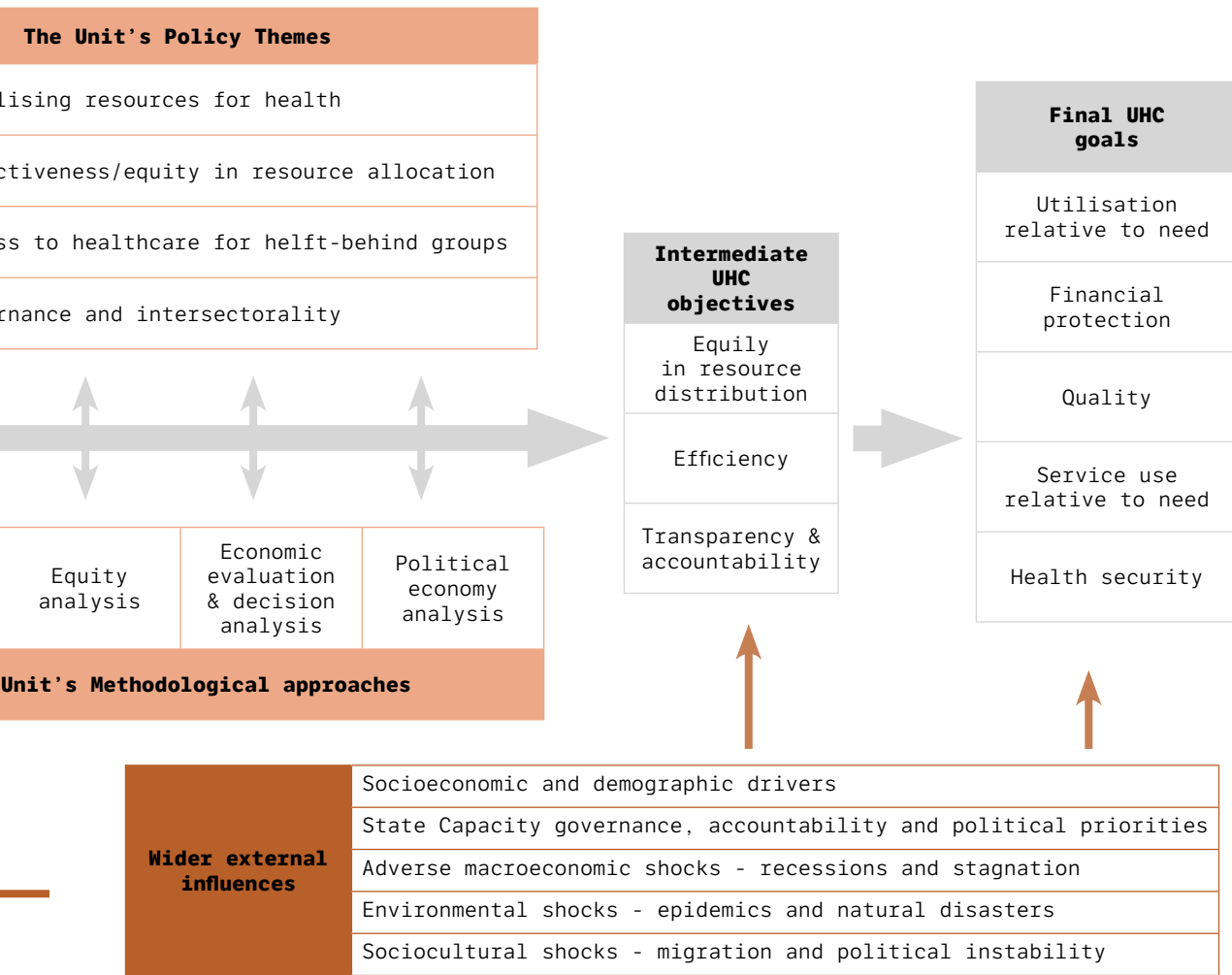
Key Achievements and Future Directions

Since its inception in 2022, HFACT has made significant contributions to health financing research and policy development. Some of its key achievements include:

- Comprehensive country-level analyses of health financing models and their impacts on UHC.
- Development of policy recommendations tailored to the specific needs of Brazil, India, Indonesia, and South Africa.

- Establishment of strong networks of collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and civil society stakeholders.

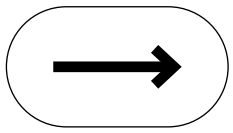
Looking ahead, HFACT continues to build on its research agenda with a focus on adapting health financing systems to the evolving healthcare needs of populations. The project's future initiatives include deeper exploration of the links between health financing and other social determinants of health, such as education and employment, and expanding its research partnerships to additional countries facing similar challenges in achieving UHC.



Conclusion

HFACT represents a pioneering effort to address the complex and multifaceted challenges of health financing in low- and middle-income countries. By combining rigorous research, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement, the project is shaping the future of health financing and ensuring that no one is left behind in the quest for Universal Health Coverage.

→ For more information visit [HFACT's website](#).



WINWIN4WorkLife

Balancing Remote Work's Social, Economic and Environmental Impacts: WinWin4WorkLife Project's Mission to Shape Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

The COVID-19 pandemic has given a new perspective to the debate on remote working arrangements such as working-from-home. While remote work was previously considered as an opportunity to achieve a better work-life balance, there are now mostly concerns about its social, economic and spatial impacts. It is not always clear how to combine office work with working remotely while maintaining productivity, a healthy work-life balance, gender equity as well as avoiding empty business centres in cities and further suburbanisation of work and families. Having a good understanding of these impacts is imperative as countries seek to foster inclusive and sustainable growth, making sure to increase the number of employees, employers and communities benefitting from

remote work while simultaneously reducing populations who run the risk of losing out and limiting negative spatial and environmental impacts. As remote work brings together the private and work sphere, WinWin4WorkLife will address these concerns from an interdisciplinary approach (economics, geography, urban planning, sociology, health, law) using mixed methods. This will add value to the EU political priorities of the Green Deal, a Europe fit for the digital age and an economy that works for people – leaving no person and no place left behind.

Employers were often optimistic about remote work at the start of the pandemic, but now – at least in some places – they are calling back



WINWIN4WORKLIFE



e (Horizon Europe)



c, and Spatial Impacts: The WinWin4Work- ve, Sustainable Work Futures in Europe

their employees to come to the office more often. Amazon, for example, recently announced a complete return to the office from early 2025, with working-from-home only allowed in extenuating circumstances. Employees, on the other hand, often prefer remote work. Such differences between employers and employees highlight uncertainties about the future of work. In order to better understand changing work environment and needs, WinWin4WorkLife will collect new evidence from 5 European countries (Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia) combining employer and employee surveys with time use diaries and in-depth interviews. By taking into account a multilevel data structure, WinWin4WorkLife will be able to identify how

different factors at the individual, organisational and regional level affect a healthy work-life balance and gender equity in remote work. Moreover, during the pandemic, there were relevant signs that remote work could have significant spatial effects. Some employers revised their workspace capacity needs and decided to downsize the main office in combination with setting-up new satellite office locations. Remote workers changed their daily activity and travel patterns and some decided to move further away from their employer. In certain places, we see companies and households even moving out of cities. Remote work can thus become a threat to the vibrancy of our cities and increase pressure on rural areas. At the same time, remote work can also be a





solution for these rural areas, some of which are facing a shrinking and ageing population. However, the extent of these spatial changes, as well as the opportunities and threats for urban, rural and cross-border areas are not yet fully understood. By developing forecasting models, WinWin4WorkLife will predict spatial and environmental impacts of remote work for a selection of 5 urban, rural and cross-border areas, including the metropolitan areas of Munich (Germany) and Lisbon (Portugal), the rural South Savo region (Finland), Bratislava-Žilina-Košice cities (Slovakia) and the well-known cross-border area of Luxembourg (Luxembourg). These case studies represent different housing and labour markets, welfare systems and cultural norms towards remote work. As a result, WinWin4WorkLife will be able to assess regional and cultural differences in the social, economic and spatial impacts of remote work. This will be supplemented with a mapping of taxation and social security regulations in cross-border areas and hypothetical analyses of tax-benefit systems within the Luxembourg-centred cross-border regions. In doing so, WinWin4WorkLife will assess consequences of remote work for cross-border working.

Understanding social, economic and spatial impacts of remote work is one thing. Making informed policy choices about the implementation of remote work is another thing. WinWin4WorkLife will therefore use foresight, a systematic, participatory and scenario-building process that engage stakeholders and citizens in co-creation environments to actively shape futures and policy trajectories for remote work. Visions of the future of remote work in the selected urban, rural and cross-border cases will be created in a Delphi consultation of a wide variety of experts and stakeholders and further discussed in a series of local workshops in these 5 case studies.

WinWin4WorkLife brings together a consortium of 15 partners across Europe dedicated to better understand how to balance work and life to create a win-win for both employers and employees, in both urban, rural and cross-border areas. The project started in February 2024, initiating a 3.5 year exploration of remote work in Europe.



More information:
winwin4worklife.eu



Author
Veronique van Acker

PUBLICATION

Long-term effects of hiring subsidies
for low-educated unemployed youth

06

Assessing the Impact of Hiring Subsidies on Youth Employment: Insights from Belgium's Win-Win Plan for Low-Educated Youths Post-Great Recession

Economic recessions generally affect the labour market position of young people more strongly than that of adults. Following the 2008 Great Recession and the European sovereign debt crisis, the youth unemployment rate in the EU-27 increased from 16.0% in 2007 to 24.4% in 2013, with the low-educated youth (below a high school degree) being particularly affected, facing an unemployment rate increase from 19.5% to 31.0%.

The empirical literature demonstrated that recessions can have long-lasting consequences on the youths' careers. To counter these impediments to successful careers of youth, different policy interventions are often proposed such as training, job search assistance, monitoring, and direct job creation. Finding the most appropriate policy responses is listed high on the policy agenda. One frequently used policy is hiring subsidies. While the empirical literature has extensively studied hiring subsidies for long-term unemployed, much less is known about the effects of subsidies targeted at the recruitment of low-educated youth.

In this project, we fill the gap by studying the effects of a very generous one-shot hiring subsidy implemented in Belgium during the recovery from the Great Recession on various labour market outcomes, both in the short and long run. This scheme, called the Win-Win Plan, targeted unemployed youth with at most a

high school degree. A firm hiring a high school dropout (graduate) younger than 26 was eligible for a monthly subsidy of €1,100 (€1,000), which represented on average 48% (41%) of wage costs. The subsidy was granted for two years for hiring in 2010 and for one year in 2011.

To estimate the effect of the Win-Win subsidy, we rely on a sample drawn from Belgian social security data of about 10,000 unemployed young adults with at most a high school degree, living in 2010 in the southern part of Belgium. To identify the causal effect of the policy, we exploit the age-discontinuity at 26 years old.

Our estimate shows that the transition rate to private sector employment within one year after entry in unemployment jumps by 10 percentage points at 26, the age from which these youth are no longer eligible for the Win-Win recruitment subsidy (Figure 1). In the long run, the subsidy exhibits very different effects according to the education level of the job-seekers. For high school dropouts the positive effect is short-lived and does not persist beyond the end of the subsidy period. In contrast, for high school graduates this positive effect on private employment does persist. Seven years after entry into unemployment, high school graduates accumulated on average 2.8 more quarters in employment, which





is a relative increase of 28% with respect to the counterfactual of no Win-Win plan (Figure 2).

We find also evidence that the additional employment experience in the private sector is at the expense of lower-quality public sector employment as well as self-employ-

ment. Furthermore, we demonstrate that the hiring subsidy is completely ineffective near the border of Luxembourg, which confirms the theoretical prediction that place based policies are counterproductive in regions with a tight labour market, even if this market is across a country border.

Figure 1

Transition Rate to Private Sector Employment 1 Year After Unemployment Entry

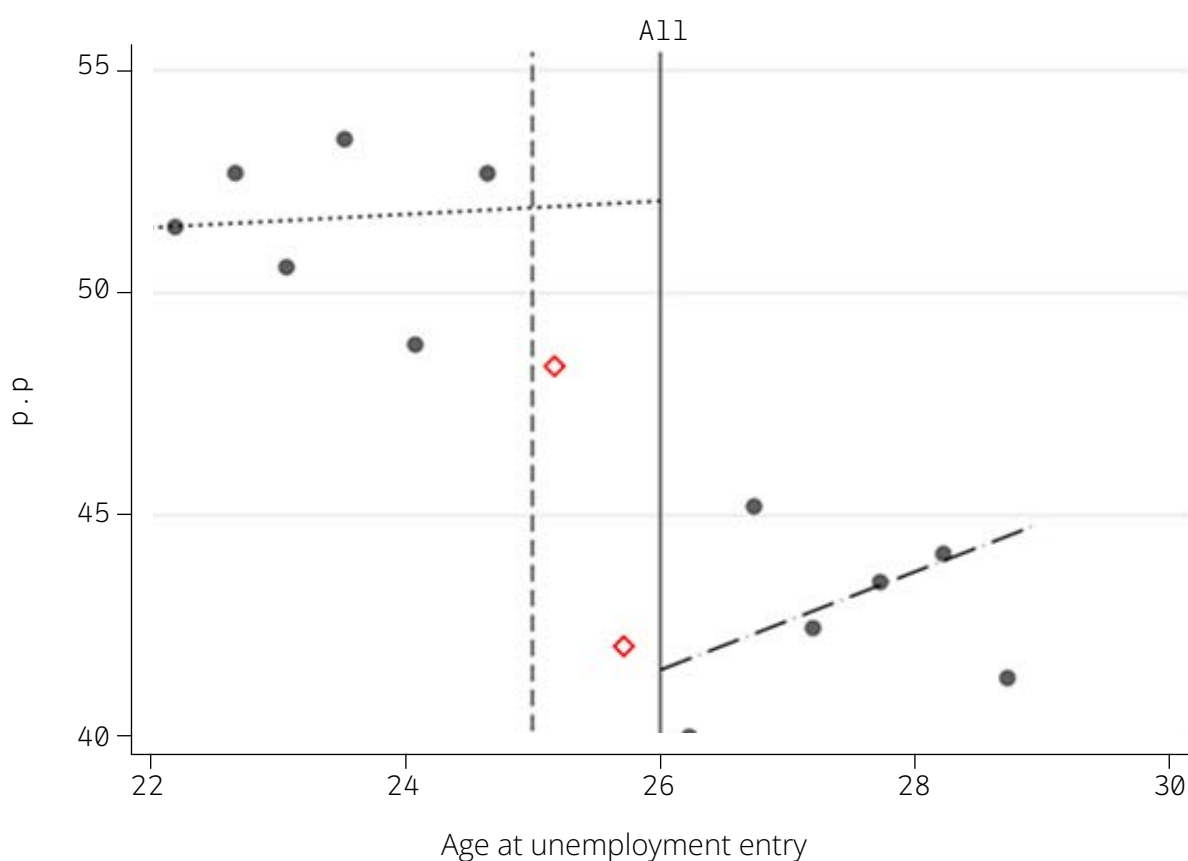
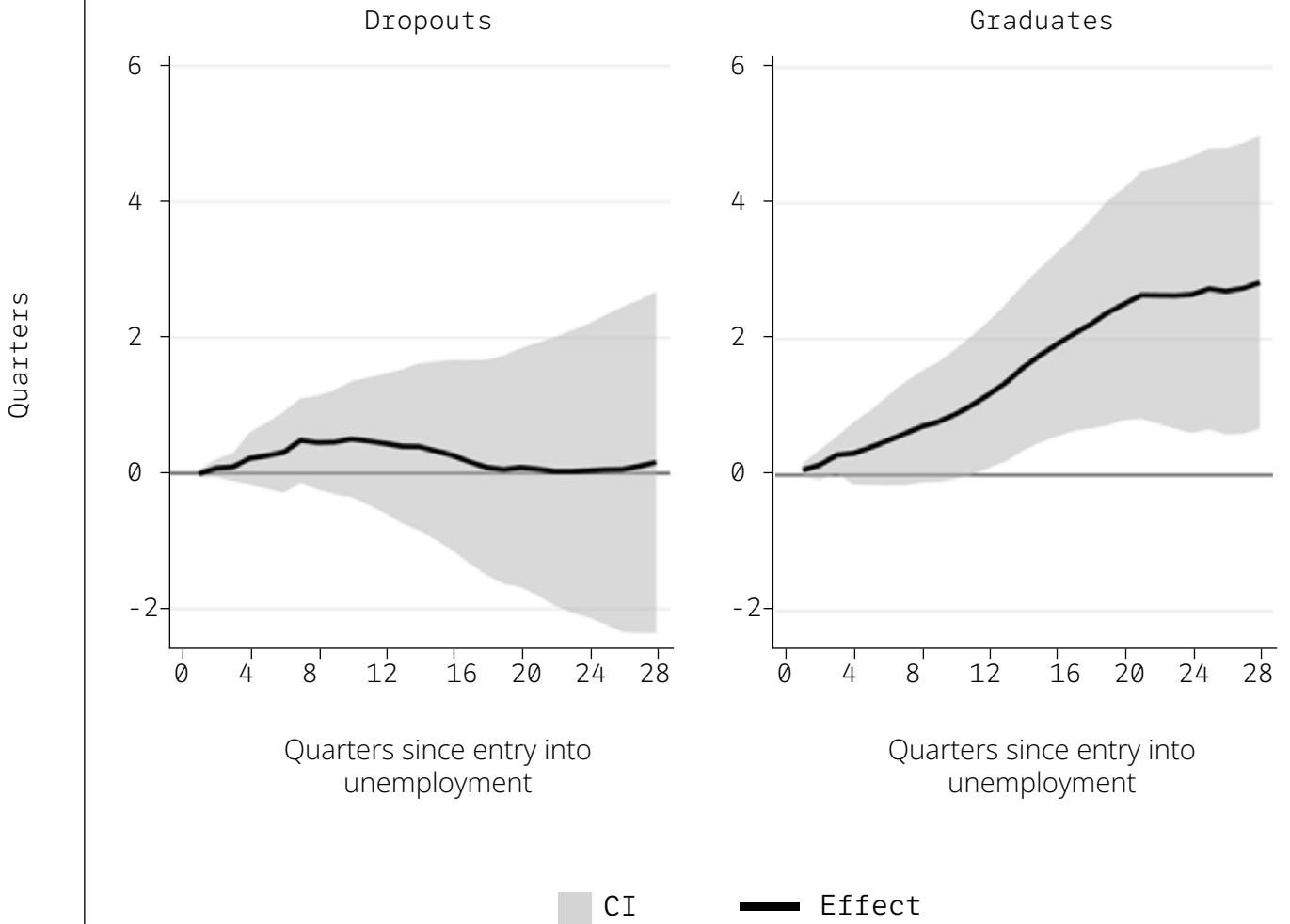


Figure 2

Evolution of the Subsidy Effect on the Cumulative Number of Quarters in Private Sector Employment by Educational Level





Our results imply that targeting a pure hiring subsidy at high school dropouts during the recovery from a recession can at most accelerate the transition to temporary jobs and cannot persistently improve the labour market position of this group. A minimum skill level seems to be a condition for the effectiveness of “work first” policies. For high school graduates, our policy conclusions are more positive. Even if the reform did not increase overall employment, it did open up the opportunity for youth to substitute in the long run better-paid jobs in the private sector for low-paid jobs

in the local public sector and self-employment. Nevertheless, policymakers should be aware that these beneficial effects are only evident in slack labour markets. Furthermore, they should acknowledge that the inefficacy associated with labour market tightness, in the absence of mobility restrictions, can be influenced by conditions across the border. In a scenario marked by pressure on public spending, identifying factors that optimise the cost-effectiveness of public policies should be a top priority for both policymakers and researchers.



This project was funded by the **CORE-FNR programme (CrossEUwork - 11700060)** and published in the ***Journal of Public Economics***.

Albanese A., Cockx, B., and Dejemeppe, M. 2024. Long-Term Effects of Hiring Subsidies for Low-Educated Unemployed Youths. ***Journal of Public Economics***, 235,105137.

FINANCIALS & KEY FIGURES

69 TOTAL ASSETS
70 TOTAL LIABILITIES
71 PROFIT & LOSS
ACCOUNT
74 KEY FIGURES

07

FINAL STATEMENT (IN EUR)

- 31/12/2023

TOTAL ASSETS	2023	2022
FIXED ASSETS		
Intangible	13,081.29	37,636.78
Tangible	779,409.96	808,624.45
Financial	4,100.00	4,100.00
	796,591.25	850,361.22
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors		
Trade receivables due and payable within one year	6,849,278.33	4,475,981.31
Other receivables due and payable within one year	606,322.68	490,005.43
Cash at bank, cash in postal cheque accounts	9,017,115.96	9,054,646.46
	16,472,716.97	14,020,633.20
Deferred charges - Prepayments	409,030.49	309,579.37
TOTAL ASSETS	17,678,338.71	15,180,573.79

LISER © 2023



The audit report issued on **April 22nd, 2024** on the financial statements as at **December 31st, 2023** of LISER was based on the French version of those financial statements.

FINAL STATEMENT (IN EUR)

- 31/12/2023

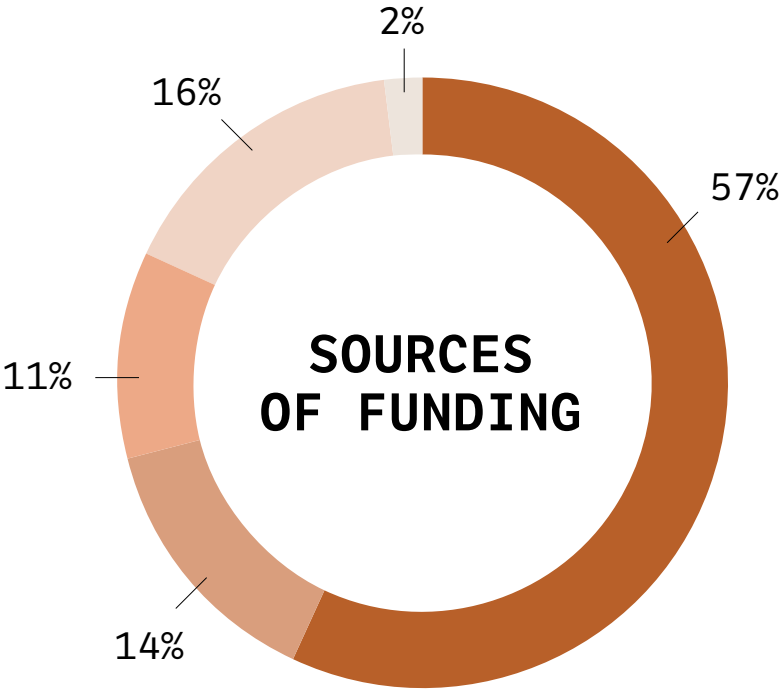
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2023	2022
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Retained earnings	5,821,922.00	5,718,775.38
P/L of the financial year	811,237.26	103,146.62
Investment	792,491.25	846,261.19
	7,425,650.51	6,668,183.20
PROVISIONS	683,635.03	693,112.43
NON SUBORDINATED DEBTS		
Trade creditors due and payable within one year	1,878,017.64	1,425,961.92
Other debts		
• Tax debts	378,724.83	388,716.94
• Social security debts	937,323.75	483,908.43
• Other creditors due and payable within one year	672,278.52	364,612.54
	3,866,344.74	2,663,199.83
Deferred income	5,702,708.43	5,156,078.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES	17,678,338.71	15,180,573.79






FINANCIALS

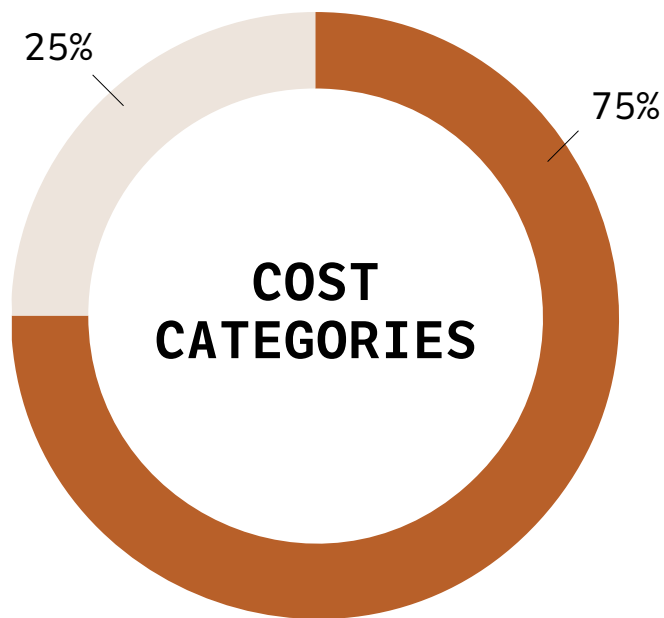
PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT	2023	2022
Net Turnover	27,094,142.26	23,819,520.41
Other Income	295,333.97	380,799.41
Use of merchandise & consumables	(221,911.32)	(178,424.76)
Other expenses	(5,758,376.94)	(5,104,219.45)
Staff costs		
• Salaries and wages	(17,550,251.50)	(16,045,699.14)
• Social security on salaries and wages	(2,337,339.30)	(2,115,798.68)
Value adjustment on tangibles and intangibles	(295,942.25)	(263,029.64)
Other operating expenses	(432,304.88)	(375,595.95)
Other interest & financial income	18,300.96	855.26
Interest payable & similar financial expenses	(413.74)	(15,260.84)
PROFIT OF THE YEAR	811,237.26	103,146.62



**FINAL STATEMENT (IN EUR)
- 31/12/2023**



 Block Grant 15,530,000.00 57%	 Collaborative funding 4,500,369.15 16%
 National competitive funding 3,847,562.45 14%	 Other Revenues 432,067.60 2%
 International competitive funding 3,097,777.99 11%	



■ **Personnel Cost**
19,887,590.88 | 75%

■ **Other Expenditures**
6,708,949.05 | 25%

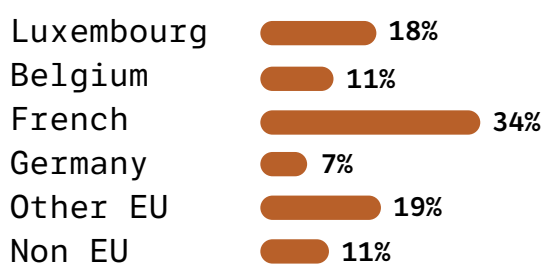
KEY FIGURES



The audit report issued on **April 22nd, 2024** on the financial statements as at **December 31st, 2023** of LISER was based on the French version of those financial statements.

KEYS FIGURES (2023)

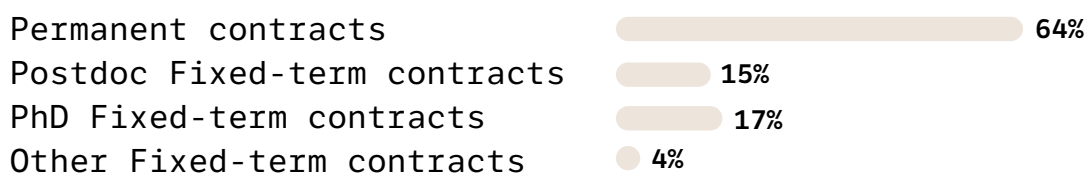
NATIONALITIES OF STAFF MEMBERS



STAFF CAREERS



TYPES OF CONTRACTS



GOVERNANCE



76 MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

08



The board of directors is nominated by the government and is **composed of nine external members** of different professional backgrounds. Its mission is **to define LISER's strategic** orientations and oversee its activities.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Véronique Hoffeld
– Chairwomen
Partner - Attorney
at Law, Luxembourg

Tom Bauler
Chair for Environment
& Economy, Université
Libre de Bruxelles

Carole Reckinger
Social Policy Analyst,
Caritas Luxembourg

Jean-Marc Goy
– Vice Chairman
Conducting Officer
Senior Counsel at
Capital Group,
Luxembourg

Jim Clemes
Registered architect
and urban planner
managing partner,
Jim Clemes Associates,
Luxembourg

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Embassy of Luxembourg
in Lisbon

Valérie Ballouhey
-Dauphin
Independent Director

Claude Lüscher
Founder of Licent
Sàrl, Luxembourg

Nico Weydert
Honorary Deputy
Director at STATEC, Lux-
embourg

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Christiane Huberty
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Carole Blond-Hanten
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Delegation

Aline Muller
CEO



CONTENT

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GRAPHIC DESIGN

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**SCIENTIFIC
INNOVATION
FOR SOCIETAL
VALUE**