

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Institute of Higher National Studies of Ecuador

and

University of Essex

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a partnership between the Institute of Higher National Studies of Ecuador (IAEN) and the University of Essex (Essex) in the production of a tax-benefit micro-simulation model for Ecuador, based on the existing EUROMOD platform (<https://www.euromod.ac.uk/about/what-is-euromod/how-euromod-works>), and as part of a larger project funded by UNU-WIDER (<https://www.wider.unu.edu/project/southmod-simulating-tax-and-benefit-policies-development>). Nothing in this MOU is designed to form a legally binding commitment but the parties will act in good faith in accordance with the MOU.

Purpose

The objective of this MOU is to both formalize and support the role of IAEN in the process of building a tax-benefit micro-simulation model for Ecuador, completed in conjunction with, and under the supervision of, the University of Essex.

Obligations

UNU-WIDER is funding the larger project - in which tax-benefit microsimulation models for selected developing countries in Africa (Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia) and also elsewhere (Ecuador and Vietnam) will be built in addition to those that already exist for South Africa and Namibia - of which the creation of a tax-benefit micro-simulation model for Ecuador is one component.

Broadly, University of Essex undertakes to:

- (a) Produce a feasibility study for the work, outlining the Ecuador tax-benefit policy system and reviewing potential input data for the model (completed);
- (b) Create the input dataset for the model, based on data from the National Survey on Income and Expenditures of Urban and Rural Households (ENIGHUR);
- (c) Implement the Ecuador tax-benefit policy system within the EUROMOD platform;
- (d) Validate the results of simulations produced by the model against external published statistics;
- (e) Produce a “country report” describing the policy system, the implementation of the policies in the model, the input data used and the validation of the results. The “country report” will be published as a UNU-WIDER working paper;
- (f) Lead in a training course that will cover how to use and update the model.

Broadly, IAEN undertakes to:

- (a) Review the information about tax-benefit policy system, specified as part of the simulations in EUROMOD, and described in the feasibility study, and provide additional information about tax-benefit policies if necessary (completed);
- (b) Provide external statistics to validate the results of the simulations;
- (c) Collaborate in the production of the “country report”. The researchers of the IAEN will be named as coauthors in the resulting UNU-WIDER working paper;
- (d) Participate in the project workshop organized by UNU-WIDER, taking place the 10th and 11th October 2016 in Helsinki, Finland;
- (e) Collaborate in the organization of and participate in a 2- or 3-day training course to be held in Ecuador that will cover how to use and update the model and will be funded by the larger project. The course will be led by two members of the Essex team and is expected to be attended by up to 25 participants. The content of the training course will be discussed between Essex and IAEN to target the particular needs of the participating audience;
- (f) In the long term, become responsible for the update of the model.

Timetable

The work is expected to take eight (8) months, with a draft model and country report available by the end of September 2016 and a final model available by the end of 2016. The training course should be scheduled in December 2016 or January 2017.

Duration

This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from both partners and will remain in effect until modified by the mutual consent of both partners or terminated by either of the partners.

The parties will sign two (2) original copies of the MOU in English. In this regard, the IAEN as the graduate university of the Ecuadorian State reserves the right to translate into Spanish this MOU, however the official version of this agreement is still the present document originally written in English.

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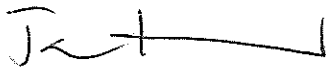
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Date: 27 SEP 2016

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Date: 12 OCTOBER 2016

Dr. Jack Kneeshaw
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On behalf of University of Essex