

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: RESEARCH STAYS AT LIS AND LISER¹

Belval Campus, Esch/Alzette, Luxembourg, 2024

The LIS Cross-National Data Center in Luxembourg (LIS) and the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER) invite applications to a joint visiting researchers programme. We are inviting individual researchers of all seniority levels (or small teams of researchers) interested in spending between 2 and 8 weeks on the Belval Campus (Luxembourg) to undertake research based on LIS/LWS data around the theme of **Policies to Fight Inequality**.

CONTEXT

This call for proposals is in the context of the (LIS)²ER initiative – an institutional collaboration between the LIS Cross-National Data Center in Luxembourg (LIS) and the Luxembourg Institute for Socio-Economic Research (LISER). Both institutions are located in the Maison des Sciences Humaines at Belval Campus in Luxembourg.

The collaboration aims to foster collaborative research on **Policies to Fight Inequality**. Grants for research visits is one of the instruments in place to this end. Research proposals can be submitted by individual researchers or by small teams of up to three researchers. Applicants from any level of seniority will be considered and we hope to strike a balance between junior and senior visitors.

Visitors will be hosted on LIS or LISER premises and will have privileged access to LIS and LWS microdata on-site in a secure data access lab for the duration of their visit.

We expect visitors to engage with local researchers at the LISER, LIS and the University of Luxembourg – all based on campus. (Potential or foreseen collaboration with local researchers will be a key criterion for the selection of proposals.)

RESEARCH AREA

While we invite applicants to propose a research in any topic, the objective of our project is to promote and develop data-driven knowledge about policies to fight inequalities and to deepen our understanding of ‘what works’ in reducing inequalities, building upon 40 years of household data from high-, middle- and more recently low-income countries collected in LIS.

Countries pursue different policy goals with alternative policy instruments, and government turnover leads to changes in policy objectives and implementations over time within the same country. In principle, such variations in policy decisions across countries and over time can be

¹ The call has been updated on 29th of January to clarify the research visit expected outputs.

exploited to measure policy impacts on inequality and poverty. While a large literature describes variations in inequality and poverty, there is much less research on variations in policy packages (incl. welfare policies, tax policies, labour market regulation, educational policies) and on their impact of inequality and poverty estimates.

In the US, a wealth of research has exploited variations across states and over time to assess the impact of policy decisions on a wide range of dimensions. (Recent analysis of the Earned Income Tax Credit impact on inequality and poverty reduction is one of many examples.) In a related manner, we would like to invite proposals aiming to undertake distributive policy impact analysis that exploits cross-country and over-time variations in policy and distributive outcomes, including possibly the development of new, consistently comparable “measurements” of policy packages. We also welcome research which analyzes the impact of policy changes and institutional variations onto several other social dimensions, such as wealth accumulation, education, labour market participation, employment, household formation, etc.

The current structure of the LIS and LWS Databases, covering a large array of countries over a long-time span (4 countries covered over 5 decades, becoming 12 over the last 4 decades, 26 over the last 3 decades and 36 over the last 2 decades) allows for studying the policy stances over the following domains: taxation (progressivity, income pooling, deductibility); unemployment insurance; social assistance; pension provision; and family benefits.

EXPECTED OUTPUT

We expect visitors to give a seminar to present the results of the analyses undertaken during their stay. At the end of their stay, visitors could have the opportunity to give an interview about their research, which will be diffused in the research channels in Luxembourg. After the visit, visitors are encouraged to produce a note that could be included in the *LIS Inequality Matters* Newsletter and the *LISER Policy Brief Series*. Also, any research paper that might result from those analyses could be included in both the *LIS* and *LISER Working Paper Series*.

TIMING

In this call, we are happy to consider applications for research visits of any duration **from 2 to 8 weeks** and for **any time period** from March 2024 onwards (except the period mid-July to mid-August).

However, **we are particularly interested in applications for visits taking place in early-June to mid-July 2024**. We are planning a number of activities on site in the course of that period (see below) and we therefore encourage researchers to be in residence for some time during this period.

MID-SUMMER 2024 – THE (LIS)²ER RESEARCH FESTIVAL

To build up critical mass and maximize interactions and collaboration potential we encourage visits taking place (in full or in part) in the period early-June to mid-July 2024.

To complement regular seminars organized at LISER and the University of Luxembourg, a series of dedicated events will be scheduled in that period.

- Internal seminars will be scheduled every Friday to allow visitors to present their research projects and results to the local research community
- A workshop on Poverty and Vulnerability with external speakers and stakeholders will be organized during this period

- The LIS Summer Workshop will be held July 1–5 2024, including the LIS Summer Lecture.

FUNDING

The selected visiting fellows will have free access to the research infrastructure (office space (shared), access to LIS/LWS microdata on secure data lab).

Accommodation will be arranged for the duration of the stay either on Belval Campus or in the neighbouring city of Esch/Alzette.

One return trip to Luxembourg is covered (economy class, up to 500 EUR).

A daily stipend of 30 EUR is also provided as a contribution to local living expenses.

Note: Participation to the LIS Summer Workshop is possible, subject to the participation fee of circa 450 EUR (the exact amount will be announced on the LIS Web-site by mid-February).

CALENDAR

Deadline for submission of proposals: February 5, 2024. Communication of decision: February 15, 2024. Earliest start date: March 1, 2024.

APPLICATION

Applications should be emailed to lis2er@lisdatacenter.org by February 5, 2024.

The application should consist of a research proposal, contact details, description of the desired duration and period of stay, and the CVs of applicants.

The research proposal should (in up to three pages) outline the main research question, methods and expected outcome. The application should state how LIS/LWS data would be exploited.

Foreseen or potential collaboration with local researchers (at LIS, LISER or the University of Luxembourg) should be mentioned in the proposal.

CONTACT:

For questions and inquiries, please email lis2er@lisdatacenter.org or contact Teresa Munzi (munzi@lisdatacenter.org), Petra Sauer (petra.sauer@liser.lu), Alessio Fusco (alessio.fusco@liser.lu) or Philippe Van Kerm (philippe.vankerm@uni.lu).

THE LIS CROSS-NATIONAL DATA CENTER IN LUXEMBOURG (LIS) AND THE LUXEMBOURG INSTITUTE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH (LISER)

LIS (<http://www.lisdatacenter.org>) is a cross-national data and research center located in Luxembourg which serves a global community of researchers, educators, and policy makers. By providing access to harmonized household-record data covering numerous rich and middle-income countries, LIS has gained reputation as a data provider to researchers on inequality and social policy. Its local group is composed of about 10 staff involved in the preparation of the datasets, in assisting users and in conducting research.

LISER (<http://www.liser.lu>) is a publicly funded research institute located in Luxembourg and dedicated to applied empirical research in economic, social and spatial sciences. The Institute attracts top researchers from all over the world and high-level student training is a vibrant part of the Institute's activities. LISER staff consists of approx. 200 employees, about 60% of the staff being researchers; mainly from the fields of economics, geography and sociology. The vision of the institute

is to be a socio-economic research institute internationally recognised, focused on scientific excellence and societal impact, able to contribute through multi-disciplinary and intersectoral research, in an active and inclusive way to a sustainable and inclusive society at national and international level.

Both institutions are located on the new Belval campus in the south of Luxembourg (Cité des Sciences, Luxembourg), and have close links with the University of Luxembourg, in particular with the Faculty of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences (<https://www.uni.lu/fhse>), located in the same building.