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BELMOD NEWSLETTER

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the very first BELMOD newsletter. With this newsletter we want to keep interested parties informed about the developments and results of the BELMOD model, also after the project has come to an end. Do you have any questions? Any remarks? Suggestions? Contact us via belmod@minsoc.fed.be.

Enjoy reading!

The BELMOD team

Practical information

- Simultaneous translation French-Dutch will be provided. It is not possible to attend the presentation in English.
- You can register via [this link](#).
- The presentation is organised by the FPS Social Security, in collaboration with the University of Antwerp.
- The event takes place online via Zoom from 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm.
- More information can be found on the [website](#) (in French or Dutch).

Presentation of BELMOD on 3 February

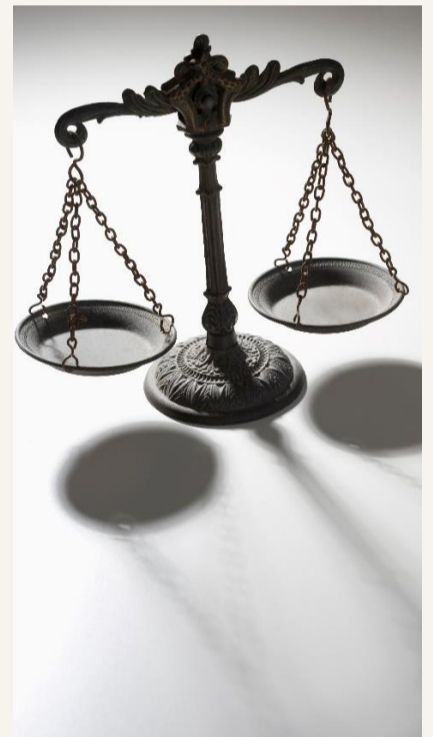
As a policy maker you make many decisions. Before you make changes, you want to know what the consequences will be. Will you achieve the desired effect? What is the budgetary impact? A microsimulation model can provide an answer to such questions. The FPS Social Security will present its own microsimulation model BELMOD on **3 February 2022**.

With BELMOD, policymakers can calculate the effect of changes in taxes and benefits. How are these calculations done? How was this model developed? What is the added value of BELMOD for ex-ante policy evaluations? What are concrete examples of simulations? How do I get access to BELMOD? Register for the presentation and get answers to all these questions!

Calculation tool: how much does working pay?

The coalition agreement of 30 September 2020 provides for measures to encourage people who are not active on the labour market to take the step towards work. To this end, the existing financial thresholds for benefit recipients will be eliminated.

In 2022, the FPS Social Security will develop a calculation tool with the help of BELMOD. This calculation tool is a web application that allows the long-term disabled and people with a disability to estimate the impact of working on their net family income. In this way, benefit recipients get more certainty about how much working pays off after a period of replacement income. The web application will make it possible to estimate, for a given gross salary and family situation, the net monthly income (after withholding tax), the net sickness and disability benefit, the allowances for persons with a disability and the annual income after the settlement of the personal income tax. The latter also means that the interaction with other benefits such as family allowances can be calculated. Curious about the follow-up? Keep an eye on our newsletter!



First simulations with BELMOD

In order to promote the take up of social rights, a further simplification and harmonisation of the regulations is required. By simplifying and harmonising means testing, the identification and/or granting of social rights can become more automated, which makes the search for potential beneficiaries more efficient.

In the framework of the BELMOD project, a comparative analysis was made of the means tests linked to the integration allowance, the income guarantee for the elderly, the allowances for persons with a disability, the increased allowance for medical care and the allowance from the social heating fund (heating allowance). Based on this comparative research, a stakeholder consultation was organised in cooperation with the Combat Poverty, Insecurity and Social Exclusion Service and the Belgian Anti-Poverty Network. The conclusions of this [stakeholder consultation](#) provide more insight into the preferred direction of harmonisation of the assistance schemes. The BELMOD team will further analyse different scenarios that were discussed at previous stakeholder meetings in order to gain insight into their budgetary impact and the impact on the number and profile of beneficiaries. We expect the first results in January 2022.

Wilt u de nieuwsbrief in het Nederlands ontvangen? Wilt u zich uitschrijven? Stuur ons een [mailtje](#).

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