

Belmod NEWSLETTER

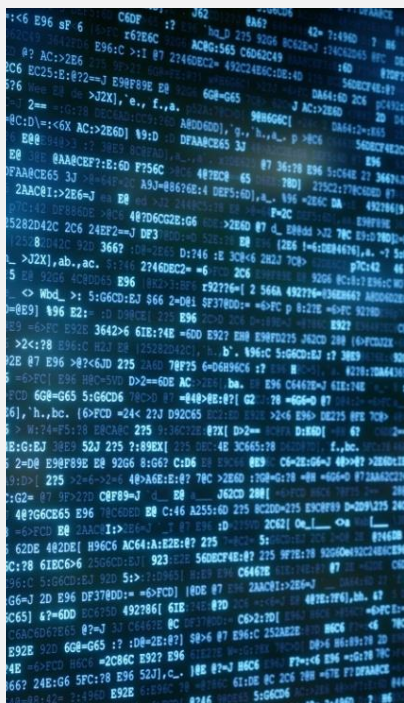
Dear reader,

Below you will find a new BELMOD newsletter. Did you miss the previous one? We publish all newsletters on our [website](#). Do you have any questions? Remarks? Suggestions? Contact us via belmod@minsoc.fed.be.

Enjoy reading!

The BELMOD team

New dataset & nowcasting project



In recent months, we worked hard on our new administrative dataset. This dataset contains year **2019 socio-economic data** from about 473,500 households, or 1,410,000 individuals – **over 10% of the Belgian population**. The sample is disproportionately stratified to generate reliable results for both the national and regional levels (including the Brussels Capital Region and the German-speaking region). The main data source is the Datawarehouse Labour Market & Social Protection (DWH LM & SP) of the Crossroads Bank for Social Security (CBSS). In addition, the input dataset includes data from the IPCAL database of the FPS Finance (tax data) and soon from the STIPAD/CADNET database (information on real estate assets).

Given the long process that precedes each new dataset, our data tend to lag slightly behind reality. To address this, we are working with the **University of Antwerp** on a **nowcasting method**. This method adapts characteristics of our dataset to the evolution of the labour market over the following years. Together with the updating already implemented in the model, this will contribute to even more valid results.

TSI project 2024-2025

The European Commission provides tailor-made technical expertise to develop and implement reforms through the **Technical Support Instrument (TSI) programme**. Together with Estonia, Greece, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain, we submitted the project proposal '**Boosting the cooperation on the usage of distributional impact assessment through microsimulation**' and recently received formal approval. This multi-country project will allow us to further develop our microsimulation techniques. The different modules are currently being further developed by the JRC and the OECD. We are already looking forward to the modules on QUEST (DG ECFIN's macroeconomic model) and EUROLAB (JRC's Labour Supply-Demand model).



BELMOD papers on the way!

We are currently working on two BELMOD papers, which will be published on our website this summer. We're pleased to provide you with a sneak peek in advance:

- On 1 January 2024, the **cumulation scheme in the income replacement allowance** was reformed, allowing a higher work income exemption for two years. Among other questions, we examine the following: what effect does the reform have on the household income of different types of families in the short term? And what in the longer term? What if the disabled person stops working afterwards? What are the payback effects?
- As part of the **Federal Poverty Reduction Plan**, the income replacement allowance, the income guarantee for the elderly and the income support, among others, were increased on top of indexations and welfare adjustments. The BELMOD model was used to estimate the impact of these increases. Did they reduce the risk of poverty? Only among beneficiaries, or among the entire Belgian population? How intense is poverty still for those below the poverty line?

Keep an eye on our newsletter to find answers to these questions!



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