

# Measuring non-take-up of social benefits in France: focus on the RSA and the PA

**Expert workshop 'non-take-up and coverage' of social benefits  
11, 12 and 13 March 2020  
FPS Social Security - Brussels**

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ÉQUIPE DE RECHERCHE SUR L'UTILISATION  
DES DONNÉES INDIVIDUELLES EN LIEN  
AVEC LA THÉORIE ÉCONOMIQUE

Sous la co-tutelle de:  
UPEC • UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-EST CRÉTEIL  
UPEM • UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-EST MARNE-LA-VALLÉE

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# Aim of the project

- Provide a regular and contemporary measure of the non-take-up of social benefits in France
  - Initially the non-take-up of « *Revenu de Solidarité Active* » (*income of active solidarity*) and « *Prime d'Activité* » (*activity bonus*)
- *Revenu de solidarité active*
  - *The last « safety net »*
  - A differential allowance designed to supplement a family's initial resources in order to reach a guaranteed income threshold (or lump-sum “amount”)
- *Prime d'activité*
  - A work income supplement designed to help the working poor classes

# Motivation of the project

- There is a strong public need to foster this kind of indicator
- Non-take-up of social benefits issue has aroused the interest of economists and sociologists in France since the early nineteen-twenties
  - But there was a lack of reliable quantitative studies and relevant data on this phenomenon (Math, 1996; van Oorschot, 1996; van Oorschot and Math, 1996; Simon, 2000; Reinstadler, 2000; Terracol, 2002).
- Only one specific survey addressing the non-take-up of the RSA was conducted in 2010-2011
  - Domingo, Pucci (2011) ; Chareyron (2018) ; Chareyron and Anne (2017)

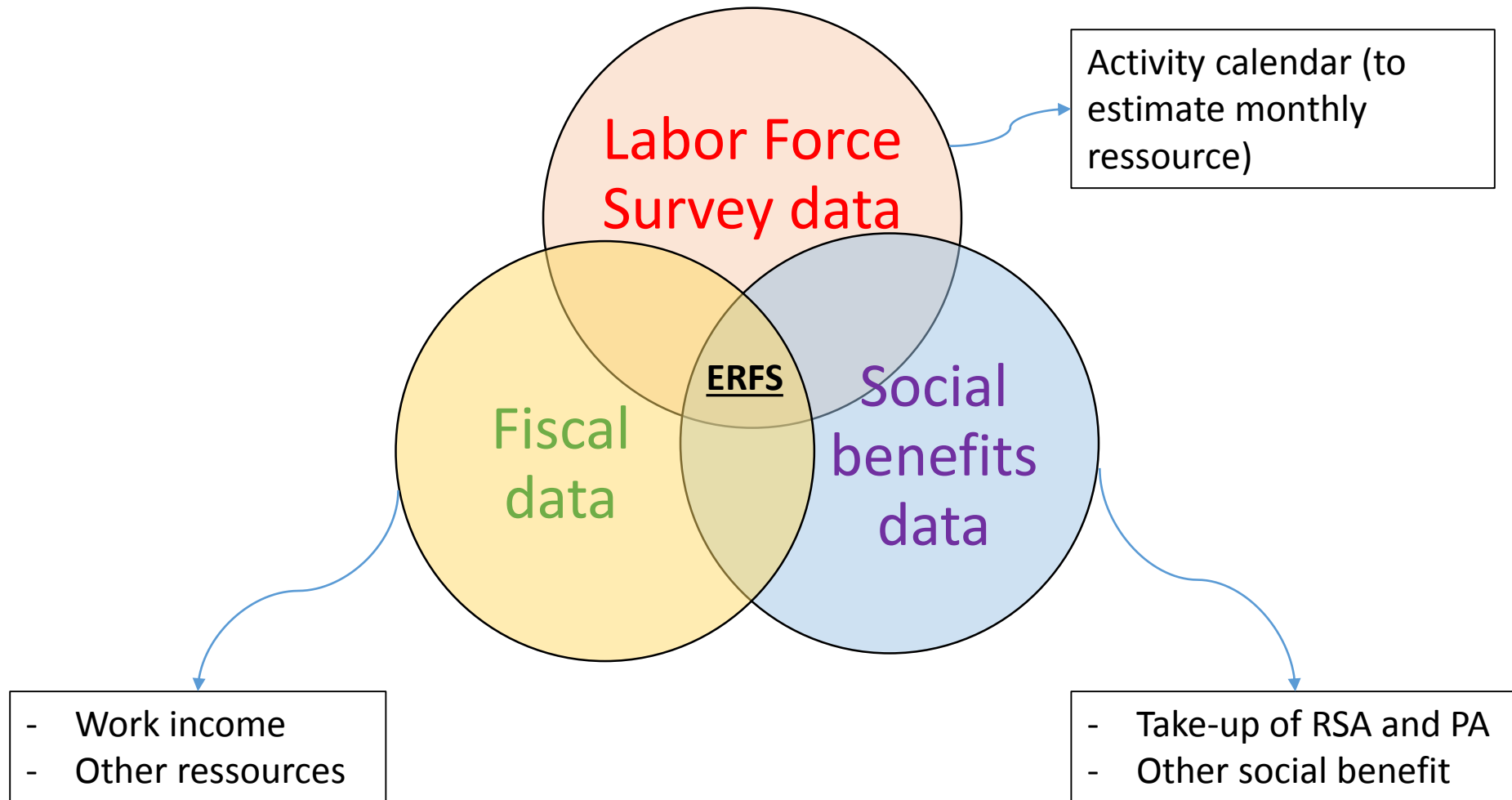
# Why isn't it obvious to measure non-take-up of French social benefits ?

- Eligibility
  - Family structure
    - In couple or not, with children or not
  - Resources (work income, other social benefits, assets)
    - For the RSA et PA : assessed every three months
- Take-up
  - Beneficiaries of social benefits from social security organisations

=> A specific survey is costly to consider all these dimensions on a regular basis (OECD, 2004 ; Bargain et al. 2012)

# Tax and Social Income Survey (ERFS) (1)

*A relevant tool ?*



# Tax and Social Income Survey (ERFS) (1)

## *Advantages and limits*

<b><i>ADVANTAGES</i></b>	<b><i>LIMITS</i></b>
<b>Availability of the majority of information to simulate eligibility</b>	<b>No infra annual variation of the eligibility criteria</b>
<b>Availability of the take-up</b>	<b>Beneficiaries in ordinary household</b>
<b>Available every year since 2005</b>	<b>Available with a lag of 2 years</b>

# The microsimulation model INES (*based on ERFIS data*)

- Contemporary measure
  - « Aging » data (inflation, socio-demographic population structure)
  - Simulation of the non-take up behaviour based on administrative targets (-)
- Public policy evaluation
  - Impact of socio-fiscal policy on non-take up behaviour

# What has been done until now ?

- The assessment of the relevance of ERFS
  - Compare the number of beneficiaries and amounts of benefits with exhaustive administrative data
- Modeling the take-up behaviour
  - Preliminary simulation of eligibility
  - Useful to improve the non-take-up assumptions in Ines



# Determinants of take-up behaviour of RSA (1)

- Taking-up RSA ( $Y_i = 1$ ) is dependent of a set of variables ( $Z_i$ ) on
  - Family characteristics ( $F_i$ )
  - Individual characteristics ( $X_i$ )
  - Spatial characteristics ( $T_i$ )
  - Control covariates ( $D_i$ )

$$\text{logit } P(Y_i = 1|Z_i) = \alpha_1 \cdot F_i + \alpha_2 \cdot X_i + \alpha_3 \cdot T_i + \alpha_4 \cdot D_i + \alpha_0$$

# Determinants of take-up behaviour of RSA (2)

characteristics	Determinants	Impact on take-up
F	Social allowance (family / housing)	+
	Asset	-
	Having positive work income	-
	Being in couple	n.s.
	Having 1 person in charge	+
	Having 2 persons in charge	n.s.
	Having 2+ persons in charge	-

Source: ERFS 2017

# Determinants of take-up behaviour of RSA (3)

characteristics	Determinants	Impact on take-up
X	Age	-
	+ Baccalaureat	-
	- Baccalaureat	n.s.
	Farmer	-
	Self-employed	-
	Executive	n.s.
	Intermediate profession	n.s.
	Employee	n.s.
	Laborer	n.s.
	Unemployed	+
	Foreign	-
	Having another beneficiary of RSA in the same housing	+

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# Determinants of take-up behaviour of RSA (4)

characteristics	Determinants	Impact on take-up
T	Live in Paris urban area	-
	Live in other urban area	n.s
	Live in Poor District of a city	+
D	Amount of eligible right	+
	Time of eligible right	+

# What are the next steps ?

- Improving the eligibility simulation in ERF5 in order to provide a non-take-up measure in 2017
- Doing the same exercise until ERF5 2011 in order to compare with the results obtained from the specific survey conducted in 2011
- Determining the sources of discrepancies in the INES model in order to improve it, mainly the simulation of the take-up behaviour

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