

# EPUNet

## EuroPanel Users Network

November 2004 • Issue 02



The Poster Session (above and top left)  
Relaxing at the reception (inset bottom and below)

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## EPUNet 2004

### International Research Conference

Our second ECHP Users conference, EPUNet 2004, has come and gone. It was a highly successful event, hosted by the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) in Berlin in conjunction with the 6th bi-annual International Research Conference of users of its own German Socio-Economic Panel Study, the SOEP.

Some 120 social science researchers from throughout Europe, America, Australia and elsewhere attended the joint conference; the work of 68 of them based on comparative analysis of the ECHP was presented in papers and poster sessions.

Papers covered a wide range of subjects including income, inequality, labour market issues, and health, as well as survey statistics and methodology. Of the 67 papers submitted to EPUNet2004, 28 were chosen by the program committee for presentation at the Conference. A list of papers and poster sessions follows.

The Conference was held at Harnack House of the Max Planck Society in Berlin Dahlem. In addition to three days of stimulating discussion, conference participants were offered a unique opportunity to attend a private viewing of the MoMA (New York's Museum of Modern Art) collection, which was on exhibition in Berlin.

The scientific sessions were chaired by EPUNet Steering Group members, who have provided short summaries of the sessions which have been mounted on the EPUNet website (see <http://epunet.essex.ac.uk/conference/conference2004.htm>). Our thanks to them, and to all the researchers who participated in the Conference.

We look forward to seeing you at the 3<sup>rd</sup> EPUNet International Research Conference in Colchester (UK) on 30<sup>th</sup> June - 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2005. Conference details will be posted on the EPUNet website as soon as they are available.



EPUNet International Research Conference  
June 2004 Berlin Dahlem



The 3<sup>rd</sup> EPUNet International Research  
Conference will be held in Colchester (UK) on  
**30<sup>th</sup> June - 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2005**

Keep checking the EPUNet web for details or contact  
[epunet@isemail.essex.ac.uk](mailto:epunet@isemail.essex.ac.uk) for an email announcement

## Papers presented at EPUNet 2004

Demography I	
Author	Title
Kluge	The Effect of Young Adults' Nest-Leaving on Parental Happiness
Nazio, MacInnes	Work-Life Balance, the Family and Changes in Satisfaction with Leisure Time
Apt	Health Status and Life Expectancy A cross-country comparison based on the European Community Household Panel
Labour I	
Chaupain-Guillot, Guillot, Jankeliovitch-Laval	Female Part-Time Work in the European Union
Schmitt	Gender Specific Effects of Unemployment on Family Formation
Tatsiramos	Geographic Labour Mobility and Unemployment Insurance in Europe
Inequality	
Bossert, D'Ambrosio, Peragine	Deprivation and Social Exclusion
Juergens	Social Security & Social Justice
Nicaise, Groenez, Adelman, Roberts, Middleton	Gaps, Traps and Springboards in European Minimum Income Systems
Nicoletti, Peracchi	The Effects of Income Imputation on Micro Analyses
Labour II	
Betti, Lemmi, Verma	School to Work Transitions in the European Union
Deschryvere, Piekkola	Retirement Decisions of European Women & Men
Fouarge, Uunk	Exit from Short Term Unemployment in Europe
Golsch	Labour Market Insecurity and it's impact on Labour Market Entry
Wages I	
Beblo, Beninger, Heinze, Laisney	Measuring Selectivity-corrected Gender Wage Gaps in the EU
Davia	Job Mobility and Wage Mobility at the Beginning of the Working Career
Dessy	Nominal Wage Flexibility and Institutions: Micro Evidence from the Europanel
Demography II	
Aassve, Mazzucco, Mencarini	Childbearing and Well-Being
Baizan	Couples' Careers and Fertility
Smith	When Did You Last See your Father? European Fathers and the Time They Spend with Their Children
Wages II	
Knoppik & Beissinger	Downward Nominal Wage Rigidity in Europe
Perez, Sanz	Wage Changes Through Job Mobility
Cholezas, Tsakoglou	Earnings Inequality in Europe: Evidence from the ECHP
Hildebrand, VanKerm	Income Inequality and Self Rated Health Status in Europe
Methods	
Basic, Rendtel	Latent Markov Chain Analysis of Income States
Behr	Comparing Estimation Strategies in the Presence of Panel Attrition
Gallo, Mastrovita, Sicilani	The Nature of Sample Attrition in the ECHP
Debels, Vandecasteele	Modelling Attrition in the European Community Household Panel

## Poster Presentations at EPUNet 2004

Authors	Title
Callens, Marc, Christophe Croux & Dragana Avramov	Comparative Poverty Dynamics, A Multi-Level Approach
Fahmy, Eldin & David Gordon	Poverty in Britain: A European Comparative Analysis
Gash, Vanessa	The Wages and Poverty Risk of Atypical Workers in Denmark, France & UK
Hussain, Mohammad Azhar	Child Deprivation in the European Union
Kaiser, Lutz C	Standard and Non Standard Employment
Pavlopoulos, Dimitris	Wage Mobility in Europe
Sissoko, Orsini, Ganji	Why are inequalities so unequal? A panel study of the gender pay gap in Europe.

All papers and posters can be downloaded from the EPUNet web site:  
[http://epunet.essex.ac.uk/conference/conference\\_presentations.htm](http://epunet.essex.ac.uk/conference/conference_presentations.htm)

## EPUNet Grants for Short Research Visits

### Second Call for Applications

EPUNet is pleased to announce the second call for proposals for short research visits to one of the four EPUNet partner institutions.

The objective of EPUNet Research Visits is to offer the opportunity to researchers with no access to the ECHP in their home institution to work with the data on a small research project and, hopefully, have them become major users of ECHP data and other longitudinal data-sets. This should allow academic researchers, who are interested in carrying out a small research project to see where the data are likely to meet the longer-term needs of their institutions, to gain access to the ECHP data in supportive circumstances. The prime aim is to increase awareness and use of ECHP data rather than fund research as such.

#### What are EPUNet Research visits?

Researchers are offered access to the ECHP Users' Database to carry out their own analyses at one of four EPUNet partner institutions that are ECHP National Data Collection Units (see page 5). Visitors are provided with the required computing and office facilities, as well as technical and

scientific support. EPUNet Research Visits are short-term visits – usually around three weeks. Funding is available to cover travel and subsistence expenses of visitors.

#### Who may apply?

All individuals conducting research in an Institution within the EU (the EU-25 member states) are eligible. Only researchers using, or intending to use, the ECHP data for non proprietary research (who are entitled to publish the results of their work in the open literature) may apply.

#### How to apply

Interested candidates are invited to submit their application electronically using the online application form available on the EPUNet website (<http://epunet.essex.ac.uk> follow 'Research visits'). A curriculum vitae with recent publications and the description of the research project must be provided, preferably in PDF or Word format. Please read the guidelines provided on the website carefully.

#### Deadline

The deadline for this call for proposals is December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Visits can be scheduled at any time between March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005

and May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005. Applicants will be informed of the decision of the selection committee within four weeks after the deadline. Another call will be organised early next year for research visits during summer 2005.

Nevertheless, parties who would like to schedule this stay later than May 2005 may also apply now and get in touch with Philippe Van Kerm at CEPS/INSTEAD for further information.

EPUNet visits may be hosted by one of the four EPUNet partner institutes that are ECHP National Data Collection Units (see descriptions below)

Visits will be allocated across hosts by the selection committee according to availability at the various hosting institutions, geographical location of the visitors, and research interest. You can, of course, express a preference if some particular institution(s) appear(s) more appropriate.

## Institutions Hosting EPUNet Research Visits

The four EPUNet partner institutions who will host researchers wishing to investigate the potential of the ECHP data are all major producers and users of comparative data on Europe. All have experience in both the collection of national and of comparative panel data; each is an ECHP National Data Collection Unit for their respective country and has therefore provided their national data as part of the ECHP Users' Database (ECHP-UDB).

All of the institutions have been active in the creation of harmonised databases, and contribute data to, and conduct research on, many international databases. Their particular strengths are highlighted below. For more information, access their websites at the addresses given below.

**CEPS/INSTEAD** is a policy and research centre based in Differdange (Luxembourg):

Since 1998, CEPS/INSTEAD has been identified by the European Commission as one of the few EU Large Scale Facilities in the social sciences. In this context, it has provided EU grants to many researchers to come to its premises and carry out their own research using the local research facilities.

CEPS/INSTEAD offers a multi-lingual, multi-national environment where you can ask questions to staff in English, French or German. CEPS/INSTEAD has a long-standing experience in the development of panel surveys (the Panel Study Living in Luxembourg (PSELL) has run since 1985) and production of cross-nationally comparative databases.

CEPS/INSTEAD is located in Differdange, a short train ride from Luxembourg City which is home to many EU departments including the Statistical Office of the European Communities. It is only 200 km from Brussels, the capital of the European Union.

Visits can be organised at CEPS/INSTEAD at any time of the year. Accommodation is provided on site and access to computing facilities is granted 7 days per week, 24 hours per day.

<http://www.ceps.lu>  
<http://www.ceps.lu/iriss>

**ESRI** is a social and economic research centre based in Dublin (Ireland). ESRI was founded in 1960 and its mission is to produce high quality research, with a core focus on Ireland's economic and social development, in order to inform policy making and societal understanding.

The Living in Ireland Survey, the Irish component of the ECHP, was produced by ESRI, and its researchers have published extensively using the ECHP data.

## The four EPUNet host institutions

- **CEPS/INSTEAD:** the Centre for the Study of Populations, Poverty and Socio-Economic Policy (Differdange, G.-D. Luxembourg)
- **DIW:** the German Institute for Economic Research (Berlin, Germany)
- **ESRI:** the Economic and Social Research Institute (Dublin, Ireland)
- **ISER:** the Institute for Social and Economic Research (University of Essex, Colchester, UK)

## Contact for further information:

Philippe Van Kerm  
CEPS/INSTEAD  
Rue Emile Mark 44  
B.P. 48  
L-4501 Differdange

Tel: (00352) 58 58 55 610  
Fax: (00352) 58 55 88

E-mail: [epunet@ceps.lu](mailto:epunet@ceps.lu)

See: [http://epunet.essex.ac.uk/training\\_access\\_useraccess.php](http://epunet.essex.ac.uk/training_access_useraccess.php)

The working language in the ESRI is English. It is located close to the centre of Dublin. We can assist with finding nearby Bed and Breakfast or Hotel accommodation.

Visits to the ESRI can be organised at any time of the year. Access to computing facilities is normally available five days per week, from 8:00am until 8:00pm. If access is needed outside of these hours, special arrangements can be made.

<http://www.esri.ie>.

**DIW Berlin** is the largest economic research institute in Germany and home of Europe's longest running household panel survey, the German Socio-Economic Panel Study (SOEP)

DIW/SOEP staff are highly experienced in the development of panel surveys (SOEP was started in 1984) and the production of cross-nationally comparative panel databases. SOEP data contributes to the comparative panel databases ECHP, CNEF and CHER as well as to the cross-sectional LIS database.

DIW/SOEP staff are highly experienced in the analysis of panel data, also in a cross-national setting. Staff members are fluent in English, also resulting from the continuous interaction with international scholars visiting DIW over the year and providing an inspiring research atmosphere.

Being Germany's capital, Berlin is easily accessible from any major European city by air or fast train connection.

Visits can be organised at DIW Berlin throughout the year. We can assist in organising nearby accommodation. Access to computing facilities is in principle available 7 days per week, 24 hours per day, though "normal" working hours are 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday.

<http://www.diw.de>

<http://www.diw.de/gsoep>

**ISER** is a major interdisciplinary institute with an international reputation for research on economic and social policy issues using panel data methods located at the University of Essex (UK)

ISER offers an active research environment to over 50 junior and senior research visitors each year; since 1996, it has been recognised as a Large-Scale Facility in the social sciences by the European Commission.

ISER researchers are widely experienced in the collection and analysis of longitudinal and panel data; ISER is the home of the British Household Panel Survey among many other surveys and contributes to many cross-national databases and projects. ISER staff have an active publication programme, with many papers based on ECHP data.

ISER offers a stimulating research environment with its own library and access to all of the facilities of the University of Essex, which has three highly rated social science departments.

The University is located an hour from London and is easily accessible from all parts of Europe.

Access to research and computing facilities is available 7 days per week, 24 hours per day. Local accommodation can be found, either on campus or in the close vicinity.

<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk>

# Second EPUNet Training Course Report

Dublin, September 2004



EPUNet has now mounted two training courses on the use of ECHP data in research. The first of these, based on Stata, was held at ISER (UK) in May of this year and the second at ESRI (IE), based on SPSS, from 6<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> September 2004. Future courses are described below.

Ten participants from universities and research institutes in Ireland, the UK, Italy, Belgium, Greece and Hungary attended the course:

Eirini Andriopoulou  
Athens University of Economics and Business  
Simona Baldi Fondazione Rodolfo Debenedetti, Milan  
Finbarr Brereton University College Dublin, Ireland  
Hugo Figueiredo Manchester School of Management  
Naomi Finch SPRU, York  
Silja Lupsik NUI, Galway  
Renata Nemeth National Centre  
for Epidemiology, Budapest, Hungary  
Fei Peng University of Birmingham  
Stijn Rottiers University of Antwerp, Belgium  
Leen Vandecasteele Cathie Marsh Centre for Census  
and Survey Research; University of Manchester, UK

The course was designed for new users of the ECHP and was structured with presentations in the mornings and lab sessions in the afternoons.

The main course presenters were Dorothy Watson, Bertrand Maître and Bernadette Ryan. In addition, there were topical presentations by James Williams (on background of the ECHP and file structure), Richard Layte (using the ECHP to examine poverty dynamics), and Chris Whelan (using Latent Class models to examine multiple deprivation).

At the end of the course, the trainees were given a CD with the following documents:

- Complete slide presentations by course instructors
- Core ECHP documents distributed by Eurostat
- The EPUNet ECHP User Guide
- Syntax files for examples used in the lab sessions
- Syntax files for reading ECHP data into SPSS (includes variable and value labels, definition of missing values)

In addition, the materials from the course (slides and example syntax) are available on the EPUNet website at: <http://epunet.essex.ac.uk>.

## The main topics covered in the 2004 training course were:

- Background and goals of the ECHP
- Content and coverage (variables, countries, waves)
- Population, Sampling and Tracing
- Questionnaires and structure of files
- Harmonisation Issues and comparability of data
- Units of Analysis & Identifiers (Individual, Household, Couple, Family)
- Working with the UDB: Matching within waves; using different units of analysis
- Longitudinal Issues: Tracing, attrition
- Working with Weights and Grossing Factors
- Multi-country analysis: using the Country file and PPP coefficients
- Non-Response – item non-response, unit non-response and imputation
- Overview of Research using the ECHP
- Measurement error in panel surveys
- ECHP resources and other resources for panel analysis
- Looking Ahead: EU-SILC compared to the ECHP

## Forthcoming Training Courses

### EPUNet Training on the ECHP

The ECHP is a complex dataset to analyse, even for experienced researchers working with the more user-friendly User Database (UDB) format. EPUNet therefore organises Research Training Sessions for beginning and advanced ECHP users. The Research Training Sessions are intended to serve two purposes:

- Familiarise new users with the use of the ECHP data for longitudinal analysis
- Provide more advanced users with instruction in analytical techniques for panel analysis

For more information, see the EPUNet web site at <http://epunet.essex.ac.uk> where announcements of exact dates and application forms will be made available. EPUNet has already organised two such training courses.

Those currently planned for the future include the following:

- Advanced Panel Analysis  
Tilburg, The Netherlands,  
March 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
(Dates provisional)
- Course for New Users  
(using SPSS), Berlin,  
April 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005
- Advanced Panel Analysis,  
CEPS/INSTEAD, Luxembourg,  
November 2005

For information, contact:  
[dorothy.watson@esri.ie](mailto:dorothy.watson@esri.ie)



## New Features in EPUNet Databases

As users of the EPUNet services will know, the web site has several extremely useful databases.

The Register of Queries and Solutions and the Register of Derived Variables, which are maintained by the DIW in Berlin, provide ECHP users the opportunity to share the results of others in their analyses of the data. In each, there is a facility that allows users to submit new queries or describe new derived variables. Both registers are updated regularly. However, for some of the new entries the corresponding solutions are currently pending. EPUNet staff are working on these solutions and will provide them as soon as these become available.

A new feature is forthcoming in the near future: links to ECHP statistics online. This new EPUNet service will provide a collection of links leading to existing statistical analyses based on the ECHP. It will include conference papers as well as free documents provided by the EU-Datashop or other sites. Users can then easily find out whether an already existing analysis in their area of research is available online.



(top) Speaker at EPUNet 2004  
(above) Joachim Frick and (middle)  
Marcia Taylor at EPUNet 2004  
(bottom) participants at the poster session



## News From Eurostat

All of the 8 waves of the European Community Household Panel (ECHP) data are now available.

Readers might be interested in the news that, since 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004, Eurostat is providing free of charge access to all its databases and electronic publications. This relates to all aggregate data (as opposed to micro-data); much of this is derived from the European Household Panel Study data. For all relevant information, see:

[http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal/page?\\_pageid=1393,1478989,1393\\_1478996&t\\_dad=portal&t\\_schema=PORTAL](http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal/page?_pageid=1393,1478989,1393_1478996&t_dad=portal&t_schema=PORTAL)

# EPUNet Bibliography

## Now with more than 270 Publications

EPUNet's Database of Projects and Publications contains details of research projects and output based on the ECHP. The database can be searched by author, title, keywords, wave of ECHP data used, countries included and the title and text of the abstract. Or, you can download a complete listing of references to projects and publications to view later. In many cases, a more complete project description or the full paper can also be downloaded.

As of September 2004, there are 272 publications included. Below is a breakdown of the topics covered in these Projects and Publications recorded in the EPUNet-Database.

We would urge you all to add your publications to this database to increase its coverage and its usefulness to other researchers. An automatic entry form is available for your use on the EPUNet web site. Have a look, and add your own publications if they are missing. By doing so you help to improve the knowledge database for the increasing community of scientific scholars as well as actors in the political arena who are interested in results of cross-national comparative research based on ECHP data.



### Breakdown of Topics in the Bibliographic Database

Topic	Number of entries	Topic	Number of entries
Labour Force	99	Life Cycle & Ageing	24
Poverty	68	Demographics	23
Family and Children	65	Health	22
Data and Analysis Issues (quality, comparability, methodology etc.)	43	Non-monetary indicators of living standard	21
Income Distribution	38	Education	17
Social Exclusion (general)	38	Housing	8
Components of Income	29	Intra-Household Income Distribution	4
Gender	28	Social Participation	3

Note: A project or paper may deal with more than one topic.



# EPUNet

The 3<sup>rd</sup> EPUNet International Research Conference will be held in Colchester (UK) on

30<sup>th</sup> June - 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2005

This will be held in conjunction with the bi-annual conference of the British Household Panel Study and will feature papers based on analysis of the European Community Household Panel Study. The Call for Papers will be issued early in 2005. Conference details will be posted on the EPUNet website as soon as they are available.

## EPUNet Partners

Seven research institutes from Denmark, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy and the UK form the project consortium. Representatives of these institutes form the Steering Group of the EuroPanel Network. It is co-ordinated by the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex.

### ISER

Institute for Social and Economic Research  
University of Essex  
United Kingdom  
Jonathan Gershuny  
Marcia Freed Taylor

### DIW Berlin

German Institute for Economic Research  
Berlin, Germany  
Joachim Frick  
Olaf Juergens

### ESRI

Economic and Social Research  
Institute Dublin, Ireland  
Dorothy Watson  
Bertrand Maitre  
Bernadette Ryan

### CEPS/INSTEAD

Centre d'Études de Populations, de Pauvreté  
et de Politiques Socio-Économiques/International  
Networks for Studies in Technology,  
Environment, Alternatives, Development  
Differdange, Luxembourg  
Eric Marlier  
Philippe Van Kerm

### CLS

Centre for Labour Market and Social  
Research, University of Aarhus, Denmark  
Peder J. Pedersen

### TISSER

Tilburg Institute for Social and  
Socio-economic Research  
Tilburg, The Netherlands  
Ruud Muffels

### DSSR

Department of Sociology and Social  
Research, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy  
Antonio Schizzerotto

## Gaining Access to the ECHP

EPUNet does not distribute the ECHP data. Interested institutions can buy the ECHP Users' Database (UDB), which contains anonymised ECHP micro-data re-organised in a more user-friendly format after signing an ECHP research contract stipulating in detail the data use conditions, and in particular the strict confidentiality rules to be applied by any ECHP data users.

### Please contact:

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Bâtiment Bech, Office B2-417  
L 2920 Luxembourg

email: [Ian.Dennis@cec.eu.int](mailto:Ian.Dennis@cec.eu.int)

## General Enquiries

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## Website

<http://epunet.essex.ac.uk>

# EPUNet