



GINI GROWING INEQUALITIES' IMPACTS



Project funded under the Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities theme

March 2010

GINI AT A GLANCE

AIMS

The core objective of GINI is to deliver important new answers to questions of great interest to European societies: What are the social, cultural and political impacts that increasing inequalities in income, wealth and education may have? For the answers, GINI combines an interdisciplinary analysis that draws on economics, sociology, political science and health studies, with improved methodologies, uniform measurement, wide country coverage, a clear policy dimension and broad dissemination.

Methodologically, GINI aims to

- exploit differences between and within 29 countries in inequality levels and trends for understanding the impacts and teasing out implications for policy and institutions,
- elaborate on the effects of both individual distributional positions and aggregate inequalities, and
- allow for feedback from impacts to inequality in a two-way causality approach.

The project operates in a framework of policy-oriented debate and international comparisons across all EU countries (except Cyprus and Malta), the USA, Japan, Canada and Australia.

ADVISORY BOARD

Tony (A.B.) Atkinson
Nuffield College & LSE

Gøsta Esping-Andersen
University Pompeu Fabra

John Hills – LSE & CASE

Suzanne Mettler – Cornell University

Marco Mira d'Ercole – OECD, Paris

Haya Stier – Tel Aviv University

Jane Waldfogel – Columbia University & LSE

Richard Wilkinson – University of Nottingham

PARTNER INSTITUTES

Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies (AIAS), University of Amsterdam
www.uva-aias.net

London School of Economics / CASE
www.lse.ac.uk

University College Dublin
www.ucd.ie

University of Milan
www.unimi.it

TÁRKI, Budapest
www.tarki.hu

Antwerp University
www.ua.ac.be

POLICY INTEREST

The new European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, László Andor, announces the official start of the project at the Opening Conference at the London School of Economics on 19 March 2010.

GINI very much welcomes feedback (at gini@uva.nl) from interested policy makers at government, social partner organisations or NGOs active in the field of inequality. The GINI website features a Policy Portal.

INEQUALITY IMPACTS AND ANALYSIS

Social impacts of inequality include educational access and achievement, individual employment opportunities and labour market behaviour, household joblessness, living standards and deprivation, family and household formation/breakdown, housing and intergenerational social mobility, individual health and life expectancy, and social cohesion versus polarisation.

Underlying long-term trends, the economic cycle and the current financial and economic crisis will be incorporated.

Politico-cultural impacts investigated are: Do increasing income/educational inequalities widen cultural and political 'distances', alienating people from politics, globalisation and European integration? Do they affect individuals' participation and general social trust?

WWW.GINI-RESEARCH.ORG

Is acceptance of inequality and policies of redistribution affected by inequality itself? What effects do political systems (coalitions/winner-takes-all) have?

Finally, it focuses on costs and benefits of policies limiting income inequality and its efficiency for mitigating other inequalities (health, housing, education and opportunity), and addresses the question what contributions policy making itself may have made to the growth of inequalities.

A MULTIPLE RESEARCH TEAM

GINI is fielding a team of almost 80 highly experienced researchers comprised of

- six Core Teams in Amsterdam, Antwerp, Budapest, Dublin, London and Milan, who organise the work and provide the backbone of the project, and develop the main approach for their own six countries;
- up to 25 individual Associates who will add valuable expertise on specific issues for developing the main approach;
- another 20 Country Teams that extend the main approach to 23 more countries.

This working party will profit from the support and advice of an outstanding Advisory Board.

ORGANISATION OF THE WORK

The three-year duration is split into two parts.

During the first two years, four working groups will address

- Inequality analysis (coordinators: Daniele Checchi and Wiemer Salverda)
- Social Impacts (Brian Nolan and Abigail McKnight)
- Cultural and Political Impacts (Herman van de Werfhorst and István György Tóth)
- Policy Effects (Ive Marx)

These groups, comprised of Core Team members with the support of Associates, will develop the analysis and produce the four Analysis Reports.

In addition, they will, on the basis of country reports for their own six countries, develop the format to be adopted for all Country Reports. The latter will be prepared during the last of the three years.

A Mid-Term Conference serves as the linking pin between the two parts.

EXPECTED OUTPUT

GINI intends to produce:

- Review of the literature
- 70 to 80 Discussion Papers
- 26 Country Reports covering 29 countries
- 4 Analysis Reports
- 1 Final Report
- Dissemination booklet,
- Database,

and a host of academic publications.

COUNTRY TEAMS

USA: Tim Smeeding and Lane Kenworthy, Canada: Robert Andersen; Japan: Fumio Ohtake; Australia: Andrew Leigh; Austria: Herbert Obinger; Bulgaria: Vassil Tzanov; Denmark: Niels Westergård-Nielsen; Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania: Jaan Masso; Finland: Olli Kangas; France: Thomas Piketty; Germany: Reinhard Pollak and Giacomo Corneo; Greece: Thomas Moutos; Poland: Natalia Letki; Luxembourg: Philippe Van Kerm; Portugal: Carlos Farinha Rodrigues; Romania: Iuliana Precupetu; Slovakia and Czechia: Martin Kahanec; Slovenia: Maša Filipovi Hrast; Spain: Ada Ferrer-i-Carbonell; Sweden: Johan Fritzell.

ASSOCIATES

Robert Anderson (Toronto), Giuseppe Bertola (Turin), Carles Boix (Princeton), Andrea Brandolini (Banca d'Italia), Giorgio Brunello (Padua), Lorenzo Cappellari (U. Cattolica, Milan), Giacomo Corneo (FU Berlin), Ada Ferrer-i-Carbonell (CSIC Barcelona), Michael Förster (OECD), Johan Fritzell (CHESS Stockholm), Cecilia García-Peñalosa (GRECAM Marseille), Jérôme Gautié (Paris-I), Herwig Immervoll (OECD), Olli Kangas (KELA Helsinki), Andrew Leigh (ANU Canberra), Natalia Letki (Warsaw), John Micklewright (IOE London), Lane Kenworthy (Arizona), Claudio Lucifora (U. Cattolica Milan), Andreas Peichl (IZA Bonn), Reinhard Pollak (WZB Berlin), Tim Smeeding (Wisconsin-Madison), Holly Sutherland (ISER Essex), Philippe Van Kerm (CEPS/INSTEAD)

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

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EC Scientific Officer: Ronan O'Brien

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

Wiemer Salverda and Marloes de Graaf-Zijl (AIAS, University of Amsterdam)

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