



SAMPLE DELIVERABLE 14

Second Mini-Project progress report

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Project co-ordinator name:	Mrs. Monica Pratesi
Title:	Associate Professor of Statistics - University of Pisa
Organization:	Department of Statistics and Mathematics Applied to Economics of the University of Pisa (UNIPI-DSMAE)
Tel:	+39-050-2216252, +39-050-2216492
Fax:	+39-050-2216375
E-mail:	coordinator@sample-project.eu
Project website address:	www.sample-project.eu

SAMPLE WP1 activity (1 September 2008 – 28 February 2009)

The partners of WP1 have dedicated the second semester of the project mainly to writing the final version of the Literature review on poverty and inequality indicators. The following topics have been intensively studied and reviewed: poverty indicators in fuzzy and non-fuzzy approach, pooled estimates of indicators, poverty and inequality measures for Regional and Local Governments. The final version of the Literature review has been completed by the end of February 2009 and was made available to the other partners for the cross-reading activity. Moreover, the partners of WP1 have started to produce the first preliminary methodological and software developments; SAS codes have been developed for estimating the new fuzzy and non-fuzzy approach poverty measures and for the corresponding standard errors based on Jackknife Repeated Replication (JRR). In addition, the first available statistics on the quality of the data production process of the EU-SILC oversampling have been analyzed. Thanks to oversampling, the sample size of Pisa Province increased from 5 to 25 municipalities and from 162 to 822 households. Preliminary results show that: around 7% of households in Pisa Province refused to be interviewed; the response rate is equal to 82.76% and the response rate (municipalities affected by oversampling) is equal to 81.63%. Simurg has finalized, jointly with Social Observatories of Tuscany and PP-UROPS, the list of indicators to monitor social exclusion at LAU 1 (Municipalities) and LAU 2 (Health Societies, "Società della Salute") level, shared with the Social Observatories network. Finally, the partners have presented and disseminated their work in Conferences and seminars: Conference "Social Challenges under Demographic Change and Economic Transformation" (Warsaw, December 2008); Workshop "Metodi quantitativi per l'analisi delle condizioni di vita: nuove concettualizzazioni, stime statistiche e procedure operative" (Modena, 30 January 2009).

The activities concerning WP1 will continue and will be concluded by the month of March 2009.

SAMPLE WP2 activity (1 September 2008 – 28 February 2009)

During the second semester of the project the partners of WP2 have been mainly involved in writing the final version of the Literature review on Small area estimation of poverty and inequality indicators. The following topics have been intensively studied and reviewed: Mixed models, Small Area EBLUP, Time Models, Spatial models, Small Area Estimation of Poverty indicators, Quantile / M-quantile Models for Small Area Estimation, Estimation of cumulative distribution functions. The final version of the Literature review was completed by the end of February 2009. In addition to this task, the partners of WP2 have started producing the first preliminary methodological and software developments. Among these developments, we find the small area estimation procedures based on area-level linear mixed models with time correlated random effects, the Empirical Best Predictors (EBPs) obtained through Monte Carlo approximation and adapted to the small area estimation of non linear poverty indicators. Moreover, the properties of robustness to outliers have been explored both for EBLUP and M-quantile predictors of small area parameters. It is also important to remark the effort that partners of WP2 have done to present and disseminate their work in Conferences and seminars. Here it is worthwhile to emphasize the active participation in the NTTS2009 (New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics) conference that took place in Brussels during February 18-20, 2009. The WP2's partners have got survey data from the Spanish and Italian EU-SILC (European survey on income and living conditions) for years 2004-2006. The UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) has recently expressed an interest in performing poverty mapping but independently from the SAMPLE project and by using data from the UK Family Resources Survey (FRS). We are discussing as to what type of Census data can be made available within a confidential setting. If this project goes ahead, we might be able to add a comparability dimension between the UK and other countries that participate in the SAMPLE project by reporting the results obtained from the analysis of the UK data.

SAMPLE WP3 activity (1 September 2008 – 28 February 2009)

UROPS has dedicated the second semester of the project mainly to write the final version of the Literature review on poverty indicators used by regional and provincial institutional information systems and by the Third sector.

The partners have also dedicated the second semester of the project to carry on the activities started in first semester. After the first contacts with some local agencies to have access to administrative databases (in November 2008), we have explored the possibility of defining a new strategy to gain access to administrative data. First of all, PP-UROPS and DSMAE have tried to develop contacts with INPS at regional and national level; then, further contacts have been taken with "Agenzia delle Entrate" (fiscal data), "Centri per l'Impiego" (Public Job Agencies); moreover, we began to try to involve ISTAT and Regione Toscana to strengthen the legal base to access to administrative data. A possible solution to overcome these problems has been identified. In the next months, the partners will develop further contacts with INPS, CPI and other local public agencies to acquire the first databases to be used in the SAMPLE project.

Moreover, in this semester the partners began the activities for the construction of a sort of local observatory joining public and private stakeholders, focused on the definition of local strategies to fight against poverty and social exclusion (task 3.4).

For this purpose UROPS has organized informal and formal meetings with the responsible of Health Society to propose them the subscription of a formal agreement with these aims:

- sharing the list of common indicators defined by the Social Observatories of Tuscany Region (see mini-project progress report WP1);
- collaboration for the involvement of Third sector and local stakeholders in the construction of the set of indicators (Delphi method) (see mini-project progress report WP1);

- participation at the provincial Observation System to monitor poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion (task 3.4). All the "Società della Salute" have given their verbal assent to subscribe the agreement and they are going to:
- individuate a person who will collaborate on the SAMPLE project;
- involve in the SAMPLE project the round local table on poverty or, alternatively, the round local table on the Third sector.r.

SAMPLE WP4 activity (1 September 2008 – 28 February 2009)

In the second semester Simurg have carried on the activities started in first semester. First of all, following the requirement analysis done with the support of ICT experts, we have decided to build an online web application, instead of a standalone one. The database core will be built with open source solution (MySQL server and PHP programming language). We are analysing other selected software solutions useful for building the other two modules (computing and reporting modules). The most difficult part concern the second module, that should integrate the algorithms developed in WP1, WP2 and WP3 to calculate effective poverty indicators. We are still studying various technical solutions, but actually the only suitable possibility is re-writing all the routines in one programming language (R is the first choice). We have also explored the use of Python to build a web application running R algorithms. Concerning the third module (reporting) we have studied some best practices in the field of statistical data representation (gapminder.org, www.visualizingeconomics.com, manyeyes.alphaworks.ibm.com/manyeyes/, www.city-data.com, www.perceptualedge.com, www.livingwage.geog.psu.edu, and many others). Finally, we attended to NTTS conference in February 2009 in Brussels, where these topics have been widely discussed.

SAMPLE WP5 activity (1 September 2008 – 28 February 2009)

The new Consortium Agreement (revised by the Coordinator Team upon the indications of the EC), the new DOW and the new GPF were sent to the EC on 11 September 2008. Later, the Coordinator followed the standard procedure of the negotiation.

The DSMAE Coordination Team prepared the *S.A.M.P.L.E. VADEMECUM, a practical guide on financial and administrative issues*, which was published on the web-site on 4 November 2009. The Vademecum indicates the Partnership internal deadlines for the financial monitoring of the project.

At the same time, the Coordinator monitored the progress of the research activities.

In particular, the Coordinator organized meetings with the partners involved in WP3 (PP-UROPS and SR) to solve the problems occurred in the acquisition of administrative and third sector data.

As for the financial management, the Coordinator immediately proceeded redistributing the pre-financing among the partners (January 2009). Some partners highlighted an administrative issue: no activity will be reported before February 2009, i.e. before the pre-financing arrived to each partner thus enabling those activating contracts and financing activities directly for SAMPLE.

The Coordination Team organized the SAMPLE meeting in Brussels, on the 17th and 18th February, in the context of the NTTS Conference 2009. In this occasion the DSMAE Team prepared the meeting agenda, the presentation of the new budget, suggested a preliminary hypothesis for the SAMPLE meetings and events; the Management Support Team provided the venue for the meeting at the Tuscany Region building in Brussels.

SAMPLE WP6 activity (1 September 2008 – 28 February 2009)

In this semester the main activity carried out was the implementation of the web site, in particular the revision of sections on the base of necessities of project partnership. The main objective was that of making the news more user-friendly, and to predispose specialised sections dedicated to publications and local event/participation in conferences. A new section created a web pages in which was insert the informatic list of all important web site of reference at European, national (from each partner), and local level. A system of internal calendar is in course of realization. In February 2009 was organized the II project meeting, in which part of the documents produced for the I meeting were updated.

In December, the DSMAE Coordination Team prepared the draft for the Italian version of the SAMPLE Flyer, to be disseminated among the local and national Public Institutions and Administrations (INPS).

After the signature of the Grant Agreement for the SAMPLE project, the activity of Dissemination increased.

The DSMAE team organized the following seminars at the University of Pisa, where SAMPLE was presented:

- "Regression with Probability-Linked Data", Professor Raymond Chambers, University of Wollongong – Australia - 14.30 - Thursday 22 January;

- "An M-quantile random effects model for hierarchical data", Doctor Nikos Tzavidis, University of Manchester – United Kingdom, joint work with Doctor Nicola Salvati, University of Pisa - 16.00 - Thursday 22 January.

Prof. Monica Pratesi and Caterina Giusti (Junior Researcher) participated at the following workshop, representing the SAMPLE Consortium:

"Quantitative Methods for Life Conditions Analyses: new conceptualizations, statistic esteems and operative procedures", 30/01/09, Modena, Ermanno Corrieri Foundation for Social Studies.

Mr. Moreno Toigo (Simurg Ricerche) participated to the Conference on Equal Opportunities, held on 6-2-2009 in Grosseto (Paper on "Equal Opportunities: some data from OPS").

Prof. Monica Pratesi, Prof. Domingo Morales, Dr. Isabel Molina, Dr. Caterina Giusti and Dr. Alessandra Coli participated to the 2009 NTTTS Conference (New Techniques and Technologies for Statistics), Brussels 18-20 February 2009.

Prof. Domingo Morales (UMH) participate as speaker in a talk organized by the University Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M) with the aim to describe the methodological developments and applications of the SAMPLE project (January 9th, 2009, Madrid).

The partners involved in the WP1 have presented and disseminated their work in Conferences and seminars: Conference “Social Challenges under Demographic Change and Economic Transformation” (Warsaw, December 2008).