



SAMPLE DELIVERABLE 6

First Mini-Project progress report

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SAMPLE WP1 activity (1 March – 31 August 2008)

The main targets of WP1 are to analyze the mechanisms and the determinants of poverty and inequality and to translate them into effective indicators. The first semester of the project was dedicated to these three main activities: 1) reviewing the published scientific literature on poverty indicators; 2) writing a draft review of the main existing approaches to measure the economic dimension of poverty; 3) envisioning and listing the most interesting research directions on fuzzy and non-fuzzy poverty indicators. The partners of WP1 have established agreements with the National Statistical Offices: Polish GUS gives access to the project (all consortium members) to Polish LFS, HBS (Household Budget Survey) and EU-SILC microdata; Siena gives access to the project to EU-SILC microdata. The activity of Pisa Province consisted of: support to Istat for sampling design and selection of 650 interviews; support to Istat for contacts with managers of Statistical Offices of Municipalities; support to Istat for information and dissemination about EU-SILC oversampling; participation to Istat training about EU-SILC. Moreover, the Siena and Pisa team involved in this WP have participated to the meetings and the presentation of the oversampling project aiming to increase the sample size of the 2008 wave of EU-SILC in the Pisa Province. Research group of CRIDIRE, GUS and WSE have met in Warsaw (8-10 July 2008). Finally, the activity of Simurg was dedicated to the following main topics: 1) reviewing the published scientific literature on poverty indicators at local level, in particular in the area of Tuscany Region; 2) writing a draft review about the use of indicators and statistics in policies against social exclusion at local level; 3) reviewing and analysing the indicators available and used in social policy planning in Tuscany Region; 4) attending to meetings with the Social Observatories of Tuscany Region to define and to share a list of common indicators to monitor social exclusion, poverty and policies at local level; 5) collaborating to writing of the final list of common indicators to be employed for health and social policies planning. All these activities have been planned and realized jointly with PP-UROPS partner.

SAMPLE WP2 activity (1 March – 31 August 2008)

The main targets of WP2 are to develop statistical methodology and software for small area estimation of poverty and inequality indicators, as well as to apply the new procedures to real and simulated data. For this sake, during the first project semester the partners of WP2 have been mainly involved in reviewing the published scientific literature to elaborate a manuscript collecting the main existing approaches and to outline and select the most interesting research lines to be followed in order to achieve the desired aims and scopes. This task has required intensive work of all the involved partners and also discussions and cooperation with two world-wide recognized outstanding researchers, namely J. N. K. Rao and Raymond L. Chambers. In addition to the literature review work, a lot of effort has been placed in obtaining real data from Statistical Offices. The partners of WP2 have established contacts with the Statistical Offices of Italy, Spain and United Kingdom. The Italian partners have followed the sample design and data production phases of the Italian EU-SILC wave due for autumn 2008. The goal was to supervise the oversampling in the Province of Pisa, whose results will be available at the end of 2009. No data will be available from UK EU-SILC. A non negligible part of the done work has been the management of the unit-level data files and the construction of the corresponding aggregated area-level (Local Administrative Units 1-2) data files. Eventually auxiliary information from Census data or other surveys have been also summarized at LAU level, so that files are now prepared for applications.

SAMPLE WP3 activity (1 March – 31 August 2008)

The main tasks of WP3 is to exploit administrative data locally available to calculate indicators useful to monitor social exclusion and poverty and, moreover, to define effective local social policies. During the first project semester, the partners of WP3 have conducted these main activities: 1) reviewing the published scientific literature about the use of administrative data and register based statistics; 2) exploring and analysing administrative databases available at local level; 3) exploring and analysing data produced by local stakeholders (NGOs, non-religious institutions and Catholic institutions); 4) writing a draft review of a feasibility study about the local data available and useful for the SAMPLE project tasks; 5) first contacts with local stakeholders to share the SAMPLE objectives and for involving them in the planned activities.

To obtain best results PP-UROPS has involved in the SAMPLE project the Statistical Office of the Province of Pisa (member of National Statistical System - Sistan). Later, the responsible of the Statistical Office, Dr. Paolo Picchi, has assigned Dr. Arrigo Lupo to collaborate with UROPS on SAMPLE activities.

All these activities have been slowed down by two main factors: the financial problems that have affected the SAMPLE project start up; the changing of some administrative provisions ruling the access to administrative data at local level (affecting mainly INPS).

SAMPLE WP4 activity (1 March – 31 August 2008)

The aim of WP4 is to develop a software application whose purpose is to give unskilled users (i.e. local policy makers, social workers from public and private sector) an easy-to-use tool for managing data and indicators at LAU1 and LAU2 level. The activity of WP4 depends strictly from the results of previous WPs, mainly WP3. The delay in the attainment of administrative database has affected also the development of WP4 activities. During the first project semester, Simurg has studied the technical aspects of the application design, consulting ICT experts and exploring similar existing software and open source tools that could be used for software development. The application will have three modules: the database module, the computing module and the reporting module. Therefore, we focused the analysis on three main

topics: the database core and open source data management software; tools for integrating routines written in different statistical and non statistical programming language; tools for effective data presentation and active data sharing in a web 2.0 perspective.

WP5 activity (1 March – 31 August 2008)

The SAMPLE Management activity started during the Kick-Off Meeting, held in Pisa on 15-16 May 2009. In this occasion the DSMAE Coordination Team and the Management Support Team prepared the meeting agenda and organized the paper presentations of all the Consortium partners. The organization of the Kick-Off meeting allowed to go on with the definition of the management steps, i.e. the definition of consortium bodies, the steps for reporting phases with relative templates (that will be produced) for intermediate and final reports, and a project meeting plan. The General Assembly, on 15th May 2009, elected the key persons for each Consortium Body.

The DSMAE selected two part-time employers working for the SAMPLE project to assure support to all SAMPLE partners: one person in charge of the coordination management support (Marta Garro) and one person for the administrative and financial support (Angela Colucci). In the same period the DSMAE selected one researcher to employ for two years (June 08 – June 10) exclusively in the SAMPLE research activity (Dr. Caterina Giusti).

The DSMAE Coordination Team organized a meeting with the Management Support Team on the 29th May 2008, with the aim of coordinating the work as for the management and dissemination activities.

In this first semester, the Management Support Team worked at the redaction of the first complete Consortium Agreement with the definitions of all specifications and checks about fundamental questions concerning forest background, new accessions to the partnership and partners operative and formal contacts.

After that the activities were tied at the slow walk because of the redefinition of the negotiation's phase.

Consequently, from July to December 2008, the Coordinator's work principally consisted in the necessary activities to finalize the SAMPLE Consortium new budget; the new Consortium Agreement; the new DOW and negotiation process with the EC; the communication activity within the partnership.

The Coordination team prepared and sent the reports of all the SAMPLE meetings: the Kick-Off meeting and the WP's meetings.

SAMPLE WP6 activity (1 March – 31 August 2008)

The first semester of project activities was dedicated to the design of the informatic platform necessary to carry out the project. In particular: the registration of the web site and the relative structure; the instruments and the devices able to make the accession and the management of web site easy to use.

The SAMPLE Dissemination Phase started during the project Kick-Off Meeting, which took place in Pisa on 15-16 May 2009. The project Management Support Team was fully involved in the organization of the Kick-Off meeting. In this occasion the PP-PC organized a local press conference and presented a draft of the SAMPLE Communication Plan to the Consortium General Assembly.

The first activity of dissemination was the redaction of a communication plan in which were synthesized the main tools, procedures, and achievement to maximize the project impact and dissemination. In particular, were individuated the phases of dissemination; an analysis of target groups to match with project activities; the General rules to follow by all partnership; the communication tools; the expected outputs, and the reporting activity. For this last point was predisposed a model of dissemination activity report to be used by all partners to monitor local events or the SAMPLE presentation during meetings and conferences. In this first semester was predisposed an agenda of internal calendar of project meetings and a calendar of external meetings in which partners will participate, disseminating SAMPLE first results. In this first project semester the main objective was to separate and distinguish the internal communication through the implementation of the web site and the intranet section, from the external communication realized through the press release and local event/participation in conferences.

Simurg Ricerche, collaborating with the ICT expert of DSMAE, implemented the SAMPLE web-site and made it ready for further development. Ideas, comments and suggestions were asked to all partners during a kick-off meeting session.

Besides, the DSMAE Coordination Team and the PP-PC had a joint meeting on 29th May 2008, with the aim of scheduling and organizing the workload regarding SAMPLE management and dissemination activities.

The Coordinator, Prof. Monica Pratesi, presented the SAMPLE project during the following conferences:

- EPROS- EUROSTAT FP7 Conference, Luxembourg, 16-19 June 2008;
- Q2008 – ISTAT – Roma – 8-11 July 2008.

Mr. Moreno Toigo, Simurg Ricerche, participated to the following workshops and there presented the SAMPLE project:

- Integrated Health Programme in the Grosseto Area;
- Indicator Experts workshops (Toscana Regional meetings);

Prof. Domingo Morales, Dr. Isabel Molina, Dr Nicola Salvati and Dr. Nikos Tzavidis participated to the "First Workshop of the ERCIM Working Group on Computing & Statistics", 19-21 June 2008, Neuchâtel, Switzerland.