Training event

TAZMOD – a tax-benefit microsimulation model for Tanzania

Dates: 9 – 11 March 2020
Venue: ILO Office, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Background

United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), the University of Essex in the UK, and Southern African Social Policy Research Insights (SASPRI) have embarked on a collaboration called SOUTHMOD, to promote tax-benefit microsimulation modelling in developing countries using the EUROMOD tax-benefit microsimulation software.

EUROMOD has been developed by Prof Holly Sutherland and colleagues over many years with funding from the European Commission, and Tanzania is one of the first developing countries to use the EUROMOD software. The current version of TAZMOD is a stand-alone tax-benefit microsimulation model which was developed using the EUROMOD software, and was built in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Dar es Salaam (Leyaro et al, 2019). TAZMOD is freely available for non-commercial research and analytical work. More information about the model, including how to obtain it, and supporting documentation is available on TAZMOD webpage.

As part of the SOUTHMOD collaboration, UNU-WIDER, the University of Dar-es-Salaam, and SASPRI are organising introductory training events about TAZMOD for members of the Tanzanian Government. The first training event was convened in 2017 and a refresher course was conducted in 2018. This third training event has been designed in part as a refresher course for those who attended in previous years, but will also introduce the model to a new cohort of people. The event will provide an opportunity to introduce recent updates to TAZMOD, and time for more hands-on familiarisation and practice with using the model.

Purpose and objectives

TAZMOD has been substantively updated since the training event in 2018, and so the new model will be introduced, with a view to promoting its use within Government for evidence-based policy making.

As well as providing an overview of the model, the event will include a number of exercises. Attendees will leave with an appreciation of how to navigate and interpret the TAZMOD user interface; how to run TAZMOD; how to build and implement a basic policy reform; and how to interpret the output using Statistics Presenter.

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Programme

Day 1 – Monday 9 March

09:00 – 09:15	**Welcome** (to be confirmed)
09:15 – 09:30	**Opening Address** (to be confirmed)
09:30 – 09:45	**Introductions**
09:45 – 10:30	**An introduction to TAZMOD** What is tax-benefit microsimulation and how can it help inform policy-making? What is TAZMOD? The SOUTHMOD collaboration (Ref: PPT1)
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:30	**Getting started** 1 Key documentation: Data requirement document, Manual and Country report 2 Navigating the TAZMOD user interface 3 Introducing the definitional policies and tax-benefit policies. (Ref: PPT2) 4 Practical: Exploring the user interface; Understanding the purposes of definitional policies
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 16:00	**Unpacking the tax-benefit policies in TAZMOD and running the model** (Ref: PPT3) 1 The building blocks: functions and parameters 2 Running the model and accessing the output using Stats Presenter 3 Practical: familiarisation with TAZMOD (running the model, and using Stats Presenter)
16:00	End

Day 2 – Tuesday 10 March

09:00 – 10:30	**Recap** **Creating a new system and Amending a policy Part 1** (Ref: PPT4) Practical – group exercises to amend a policy and assess the output using the Stats Presenter and EXCEL
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:30	**Creating a new system and Amending a policy Part 2** (Ref: PPT4) Practical – group exercises to introduce a new policy and assess the output using the Stats Presenter and EXCEL
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 16:00	**Group Exercises continued**
16:00	End

Day 3 – Wednesday 11 March

09:00 – 10:15	Recap Presentation: Impact of lowering the value-added tax rate for standard rated items in Tanzania mainland
10:15 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:30	Continued work through the group exercises
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Discussion: Next steps for TAZMOD and sustainability
15:00	End

Dependencies for attendees

- Course attendees will need to attend from the start. The timetable outlined above is indicative only and the course will take into account the progress of the group.
- The event has been designed on the assumption that some attendees may have no prior knowledge of TAZMOD but it is hoped that previous attendees will be among those attending this event in order to build on what was learnt last year and to help any newcomers.
- It is assumed that attendees will have some prior experience of quantitative analysis of survey data.
- Attendees will need to sign the UNU-WIDER Adhesion Agreement for TAZMOD.