

Report of the Workshop

ECLAC/IDRC Project on Population Ageing, Intergenerational Transfers and Social Protection in en Latin America

First Workshop, Santiago, Chile, 15 and 16 October, 2007

Organized by ECLAC/CELADE- Population Division

The first workshop's objective was to initiate the activities of the project, to discuss methodological aspects to achieve greater comparability of results, and to plan the execution of the remaining activities over the project's timeframe.

The workshop was attended by the persons identified in the attached Agenda, which included ECLAC/CELADE and United Nations Population Division staff and representatives of the five countries participating in the project: Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico and Uruguay.

The workshop was preceded by a brief meeting on October 12, 2007 of Mr. Edgard Rodriguez, Program Officer of IDRC with the group of ECLAC/CELADE staff involved in the project, and the country representatives. On this occasion, Mr. Rodriguez announced that the launch of the project would be advertised in IDRC's website, and clarified several aspects of the project's follow-up, including reporting and financial disbursements. Mr. Kunio Kushiro, from ECLAC's Planning and Operations division reported on the progress in the establishment of agreements for the transfer of funds to the national centers and provided some general information on the operation of said agreements.

During the workshop:

- After the welcome by CELADE's Director Dirk Jaspers, some specific questions on the agreements were clarified by Mr. Kushiro, who requested the representatives from the national centers to provide institutional information on the national entities subscribing the agreements. Mr. Kushiro will send a simple draft budget format, to be used for financial reporting, as well as a revised version of the agreements for final approval and signature.
- Marcelo Ortuzar made a presentation explaining basic concepts and measurement issues of national accounts in the participating Latin American countries, with emphasis on the aggregates of special interest for the construction of NTAs. Particular attention was given to the measurement and interpretation of Labor income and final consumption and the level of disaggregation and reliability of the participating Latin American countries NIPAs. He provided additional specific information to some country representatives, on their request.
- All country participants informed of the progress and short-term plans for their research. **Brazil** is on its way to producing the NTA series and is relatively advanced in their analysis, including to date socioeconomic differentials, demographic dividends, well-being of children and the elderly, etc. In **Chile**, estimates for 1997 are complete and they will soon be completed for 1987, after which a time series will be constructed. Further work will focus on education sector issues. In **Costa Rica**, estimates and analysis for 1988 and 2004 have been made, as well as an initial but detailed analysis of the evolution and components of the demographic dividends. In **Mexico**, preliminary NTA estimates for 2004 have been prepared and are under review for them to conform to the standard estimation methods. Virgilio Partida announced that he is retiring from CONAPO by the end of 2007, and introduced Mr. Enrique Garcia, also present at the meeting,

who will assume the direct responsibility and coordination with the regional project on behalf of CONAPO. In **Uruguay**, complete accounts for 1994 have been constructed and work has started for the 2006 estimations. Among the difficulties/specificities encountered, mention was made of the absence of detail regarding the components of labor and in public consumption by sector in the national accounts, the allocation of value-added taxes by consumption items, and difficulties in setting an appropriate deflator for public consumption.

- Tim Miller presented forecasting models of the educational sector based on census data on the distribution of population by age and educational attainment, and of the (overall) government budget. He also directed hands-on exercises using country-specific data, giving alternatives to run them on Excel spreadsheets or with programs written in R. It was agreed that the representatives from each country will submit to CELADE (mauricio.holz@cepal.org) a summary description/analysis of the exercises, of about 2-3 pages on the education forecast, and another 2-3 pages on the budget forecast
- Orly Winer made a presentation on the proposed structure, contents and appearance of the project's website, based on the premise that the central NTA website (www.ntaccounts.org) will remain as the principal site for the international network of researchers associated to the project, where the standard methods and results will be posted. The IDRC/CELADE project site will contain the regional project activities, documents, outputs and news, with appropriate links to the central NTA site, and to those of the Latin American centers participating in the regional project.
- English, Spanish and Portuguese will be the languages used for the posting and documents. The official site will have a Spanish version with full contents and information, and an English version with key information only, but which nonetheless will contain links to the full site contents (in Spanish and the other languages).
- Orly will send a notice to all participating centers when an initial design/structure of the new site is available, and will receive all the info, documents contributed by the researchers to upload them in the website. The information and documents should be sent by email to orly.winer@cepal.org with cc. to mauricio.holz@cepal.org.
- Jorge Bravo went through the project workplan and time schedule, recalling the nature and contents of the planned activities and outputs. The national centers will establish the contacts with governmental counterparts and plan with them the national training workshop for government officials, researchers associated with the project, and graduate students that can become involved with research in this area. CELADE will initiate the preparation of the comparative study and will maintain the overall coordination of the project. By mid-2008 CELADE will also initiate the organization of the regional (policy-oriented) seminar, foreseen for mid-2009.

He also recalled the importance of maintaining close coordination with the international NTA research team, including the participation in the annual meetings of the group for which the IDRC project has designated funding. All the project's participating centers are scheduled to attend the upcoming Tokyo conference on ageing and intergenerational transfers (1-3 November 2007) and the Seoul annual meeting of the NTA project (5-6 November 2007).

Santiago, October 31, 2007