EUROMOD

COUNTRY REPORT

GERMANY (DE)

2011 - 2016

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EUROMOD version G4.0

EUROMOD is a tax-benefit microsimulation model for the European Union (EU) that enables researchers and policy analysts to calculate, in a comparable manner, the effects of taxes and benefits on household incomes and work incentives for the population of each country and for the EU as a whole.

EUROMOD has been enlarged to cover 28 Member States and is updated to recent policy systems using data from the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) as the input database, supported by DG-EMPL of the European Commission.

This report documents the work done in one annual update for Germany. This work was carried out by the EUROMOD core developer team, based mainly in ISER at the University of Essex, in collaboration with a national team.

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The results presented in this report are derived using EUROMOD version G4.0. EUROMOD is continually being improved and the results presented here may not match those that would be obtained with later versions of EUROMOD. For more information, see:
https://www.euromod.ac.uk

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1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Basic information about the tax-benefit system

- The German fiscal budget consists of three major single funds, i.e. the budget of the state ("Bund"), the budget of the federal states ("Länder"), and the budget of the municipalities ("Gemeinden"). Furthermore, the budget of the social insurance system ("Sozialversicherungen") is sometimes subsumed under the fiscal budget. Generally, tax and benefit rules may vary over the three main levels, "Bund", "Länder", and "Gemeinden". Some taxes are levied by one of the three administrative units alone, whereas other taxes are shared. However, with respect to tax and benefits rules as well as rates, the German tax and benefit system is a largely unified, national system. Some exceptions can be found among the taxes. The tax rate for church taxes varies slightly over the Länder. At the local business tax as well as the property tax, tax rates vary significantly between municipalities, as the local jurisdictions levy their own multipliers. Tax rates for the real property acquisition tax vary over the "Länder".
- In Germany, the fiscal year for taxes and benefits runs from 1st of January to 31st of December. This is usually the time when changes in taxes or benefits apply. However, the current pension value and the basic benefit rate for "unemployment benefits II" are adjusted annually on 1st of July.
- The statutory pension age in Germany is 65. This age will be gradually increased, for entry into old-age pension between 2012 and 2031, by one month each year, so that the statutory pension age will be 67 in 2031. Generally, entering retirement earlier is only possible with reduction in the pension level. This used to be different for women ("Altersrente für Frauen"). However since 2004, there is no possibility anymore for women – as it is for men -- to enter retirement earlier, without accepting reductions.
- Students in Germany may leave secondary schools with a general-school-leaving degree at the age of 15, and the Youth Employment Protection Act ("Jugendarbeitsschutzgesetz") settles the minimum employment age at 15. However, till the age of 18, school leavers are obliged to pursue secondary education in the framework of vocational training or apprenticeships, at least on a part-time basis.
- The definition of dependent children that is most commonly applied in the German tax and transfer system relates to the definition in the context of child benefits ("Kindergeld"). According to these regulations, dependent children are biological, adopted, or foster children, aged 18 or younger, who live in the same household with their parents. They can at maximum be aged 25 in case they are still in tertiary education and their income does not exceed specific thresholds.
- Lone parents are generally eligible to a household allowance for single parents in German income taxation law. Single parents, in this context, are not married and not widows or widowers. They must be living in a household together with a dependent child which is eligible for child benefits and actually belongs to the household. No other adult person – not even a grandparent -- is allowed to live in this household. Parents may though prove that they do not pool money with other adults in the household. Only the parent who is eligible to the allowance can receive it and it cannot be assigned to the other parent in any case.
- Generally, individuals are taxed individually in German income tax law. Married couples are assessed to joint taxation in the form of full income splitting. Taxable income of the spouses is added up, the tax schedule is applied to half of this sum, and the resulting tax burden is doubled.

- A specific element of German income tax law is the progression clause (Progressionsvorbehalt). This is relevant for some types of income which are not directly subject to income tax, e.g. unemployment benefits I. Even though these incomes are not included in the tax base, they are included in the base used to determine the tax bracket of the progressive income tax schedule. This way these incomes may increase the income tax rate used for the other income sources which are subject to the income tax.
- Up until the end of 2008, income from capital and income from employment were taxed at the same rate in Germany. There was a withholding tax prepayment ("Kapitalertragsteuer"), collected at source. Since 2009 and until the present, a final withholding tax on capital income ("Abgeltungssteuer") has been implemented, with a flat tax rate of 25% on capital income exceeding an allowance that is collected at source.
- Taxes on income from dependent employment are collected at source, i.e. directly at the employer every month, in the form of pay-roll tax ("Lohnsteuer"). Monthly income is also the reference figure for most of the means-tested benefits in German benefit law. Usually a past time frame of three to 24 months is applied, where monthly income may not exceed specific thresholds, on average. As pay-roll taxes are not final in Germany, it is common to file income tax returns in order to apply tax allowances and deductions. This is usually done altogether at the end of the year (or even in the following year).
- There is no systematic statutory indexation of tax schedules and benefit levels to inflation in general in Germany. Tax schedules and benefit levels are rather adjusted irregularly by discretionary policies, usually in the framework of broad tax reforms. This holds especially for the income tax schedule. The current pension value ("Rentenwert"), which represents the current old-age pension claims for one year of average contributions and determines the basis for the level of old-age pensions, is adjusted annually according to the growth rate of gross earnings from dependent employees. The annual growth rate of the "Rentenwert" in turn determines the annual adjustment of the basic benefit rate for "unemployment benefits II" (see below).

1.2 Social Benefits

Social benefits are grouped into benefits from the statutory unemployment insurance, the statutory health and accident insurances, the statutory pension insurance, and public transfers to private households.

1.2.1 Benefits from Statutory Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment Benefits I (*Arbeitslosengeld I*): Unemployed individuals, under the age of 65, who are generally able to work at least 15 hours per week, are entitled to "unemployment benefits I" in case they paid contributions to the unemployment insurance for at least 12 months within the two years preceding the unemployment spell. "Unemployment benefits I" are non-means-tested benefits. They amount to 60% of previous net earnings for childless individuals and to 67% for individuals with at least one child in terms of income tax law. Recipients are allowed to work up to 15 hours per week to top up benefits. The duration of entitlement to "unemployment benefits I" depends on the individual's age and number of months contributions were made in the previous 2-3 years. Unemployment benefits are subject to progression clause in income taxation (see Table 2.14).

Short-Term Work Compensations (*Kurzarbeitergeld*): Employees insured by the unemployment insurance are eligible to short-term work compensations in case their employers temporarily apply for short-term work due to business cycle effects or global economic

downturn. In this case, 60% of the forgone net earnings are paid by the unemployment insurance, usually for a time of six months. This time frame may be extended up to 24 months. In 2009 the rule for Short-term Work Compensations was changed and the new provision was set valid until 2012. In the first 6 months of short-term work 50% of the contributions to statutory social insurance are reimbursed by the employment agencies and from the seventh month onwards 100% are reimbursed. Contributions to statutory social insurances are also paid for. Short-term work compensations are subject to progression clause in income taxation (see Table 2.14).

Transfer Short-Term Work Compensations (*Transferkurzarbeitergeld*): Transfer short-term work compensations are a special form of short-term work compensations. Employees generally eligible to short-term work compensations are entitled to transfer short-term work compensations in case their employers apply measures of operational restructuring, in turn of which the employee is endangered to become unemployed. Transfer short-term work compensations are paid for a time of up to 12 months, and levels correspond to the regulations for general short-term work compensations. They are subject to progression clause in income taxation (see Table 2.14).

Seasonal Short-Term Work Compensations (*Saison-Kurzarbeitergeld, formerly Wintergeld or Winterausfallgeld*): Seasonal short-term work compensations are supposed to foster employment in the construction sector during winter time. Employees in the construction sector who are unemployed during the months between December and March are generally entitled to seasonal short-term work compensations. The level of benefits corresponds to the level of general short-term work compensations. They are subject to progression clause in income taxation (see Table 2.14).

Insolvency Benefits (*Insolvenzgeld*): Employees insured in the unemployment insurance are eligible to insolvency benefits in case their employers become insolvent. In this case, the unemployment insurance pays the employees' net earnings – up to the contribution assessment threshold from the statutory pension insurance – for a time of three months following the insolvency. The benefit is financed by the unemployment insurance and by the employer who has to pay a special levy for insolvency (*Insolvenzumlage*). Since 2009 the levy has to be paid to the statutory health insurance. Insolvency benefits are subject to progression clause in income taxation (see Table 2.14).

Unemployment Benefits for Part-Time Unemployment (*Teilarbeitslosengeld*): Individuals who are working part-time in more than one job and lose less than all of their jobs are entitled to "unemployment benefits for part-time unemployment" if they have contributed to the statutory unemployment insurance for at least 12 months on *all* of their jobs. Benefits are paid for up to six months and levels correspond to the "unemployment benefits I". They are subject to progression clause in income taxation (see Table 2.14).

Benefits for Early Retirement (*Vorruhestandsgeld, Altersteilzeitzuschläge*): Employees may negotiate with their employers that they work part-time, i.e. 50% of their usual hours, from the age of 55 on, either continuously or blocked in years of full and zero hours. In this case, part-time earnings are raised by 20% in the form of benefits for early retirement paid by the unemployment insurance. In addition, contributions to the statutory old-age pension insurance are raised. These benefits are only paid by the insurance provided that the employer employs an additional employee in turn who was unemployed before. Otherwise, the employer has to pay for the benefits. Benefits for early retirement are income tax exempt, but they are subject to progressive taxation. They are subject to progression clause in income taxation (see Table 2.14).

Benefit for Business Start-ups (*Gründungszuschuss*: *Förderung der Existenzgründung, Ich-AG und Überbrückungsgeld*): Recipients of unemployment benefits who start a business and become self-employed are eligible to business start-ups benefit during the first months

following the start-up. Employment agencies pay benefits amounting to the level of previous unemployment benefits for up to 9 months, and a monthly lump-sum of 300€ for another 3 months at maximum. Benefits are tax-free and not subject to progression clause in income taxation.

Benefits for Re-training (*Umschulungszuschüsse*): Unemployed individuals are generally eligible to re-training benefits, paid for by employment agencies, while they receive unemployment benefits I. Benefits for re-training cover travel expenses, costs for overnight accommodations, meals, and child care costs. For the period of the funded training, recipients generally remain eligible for unemployment benefits I. However, rules for unemployment benefits, such as the frequency in which applications must be filed, remain unchanged during the training.

1.2.2 Benefits from Statutory Health and Accident Insurance

Maternity-Leave Benefits (*Mutterschaftsgeld*): All mothers who are employed and insured by the statutory health insurance, at the time when they go on maternity leave, are eligible to maternity-leave benefits. Maternity-leave benefits are paid by the statutory health insurance system for six weeks before the child's birth and eight weeks thereafter (time of maternity leave) in order to compensate foregone income from employment. Benefits are reduced if employment was less than full time. The remaining gap between maternity-leave benefits and the previous net labour income must be closed by the employer at the time of maternity leave. Maternity-leave benefits are subject to progression clause in income taxation (see Table 2.14).

Sickness Benefits (*Krankengeld der gesetzlichen sowie der privaten Pflegezusatz- oder Krankentagegeldversicherung*): All individuals insured by the statutory health insurance are entitled to sickness benefits. These are generally employees and recipients of unemployment benefits I, not however recipients of unemployment benefits II. In case sickness prevents them from working, generally *the employer* is obliged to continue salary payment for a time of six weeks. Only after these six weeks, sickness benefits are paid for by the statutory health insurance. They generally amount to 70% of the previous gross earnings and at a maximum to 90% of previous net earnings. Social security contributions are subtracted from the benefit level, like from regular earnings -- however, only contributions to pension, long-term care, and unemployment insurance. Employer contributions are covered by the health insurance. In case of unemployed, where benefits are paid based on unemployment benefits I receipt, the health insurance covers also the employee social contributions.

Sickness benefits are paid for a time of up to 78 weeks for a specific illness. They are paid for a time of generally up to ten days if parents need to stay at home to care for their sick children (sickness benefits for care of sick children). Since January 2009, self-employed are only eligible to sickness benefit if they contribute to an additional health insurance, explicitly covering sickness benefits. Sickness Benefits are subject to progression clause in income taxation (see above). Individuals insured by private health insurance, may in addition contribute to an insurance that pays sickness benefits from private long-term care insurance or daily sickness allowances from private health insurances.

Injury Benefits (*Verletztengeld*): Injury benefits are paid to employees who are insured by the statutory accident insurance and who are physically or mentally unable to pursue his work due to therapies or curative medical treatments that are related to an accident at work. During the first six weeks of sick leave, the employer is obliged to continue salary payment. After that, injury benefits are paid for up to 78 weeks. They amount to 80% of the previous foregone gross earnings and at maximum 100% of net earnings. Injury benefits are income tax exempt, but they are subject to progressive taxation. Moreover, regulations for the sickness benefits apply. Injury benefits are subject to progression clause in income taxation (see above).

Sickness Benefits for Military People (*Versorgungskrankengeld*): Sickness benefits for military people are paid to military people in case they get injured while pursuing military services. They amount to 80% of the previous foregone gross earnings and at maximum 100% of net earnings. Sickness benefits for military people are subject to progression clause in income taxation (see Table 2.14).

Severance Benefits (*Übergangsgeld*): Severance benefits are paid to heavily injured or physically or mentally disabled people who can temporarily not pursue full-time employment due to vocational further training or other measures of reintegration into the labour market. Recipients need to have contributed to the statutory unemployment insurance for at least 12 months in the previous 3 years. Benefits generally amount to about 68% of previous net earnings. In case of children eligible to child benefits in the household, benefits amount to 75% of net earnings. In case of self-employment the benefit amounts to 80% of last year's underlying income for the annual contribution. They are paid for up to three months. Severance benefits are subject to progression clause in income taxation (see Table 2.14).

Long-term Care Benefits from the Statutory Accident Insurance (*Pflegegeld*): If individuals insured in the statutory accident insurance are so helpless in consequence of the insured event that they require a considerable support for the common and recurring tasks in the course of daily life, long-term care benefits are paid and a nurse or home care is provided. The concrete monthly amount of the benefit is determined by taking into account the nature or severity of health damage and the extent of assistance required.

Pensions from the Statutory Accident Insurance (*Rente der gesetzlichen Unfallversicherung*): Individuals insured in the statutory accident insurance are eligible to pensions if consequences of an accident are severe. Consequences of an accident are considered severe if they reduce the individual's earnings capacity by at least 10 %. From the 26th week onwards the earnings capacity needs to be reduced by at least 20%. In case of a loss of the entire earnings capacity, a pension is paid that amounts to two thirds of annual individual earnings.

Pensions for Disability to Work for Civil Servants (*Pension aufgrund von Dienstunfähigkeit*): If a civil servant becomes unable to work and then retires as a consequence of an accident at work, he receives a pension for disability to work. Benefit levels depend on prior earnings and prior work history as a civil servant.

1.2.3 Benefits from Statutory Pension Insurance

Old-Age Pensions (*Altersrente*): Individuals who contributed to the statutory pension insurance for at least five years are entitled to the regular old-age pensions from the age of 65 on. This regular age for entry into old-age pension is gradually increasing for the younger cohorts up to 67, which will be the regular age in the year 2031. There are a few specific old-age pension schemes, in which entitlement may start some years earlier, e.g. severe disabilities or unemployment so that actual entries into old-age pensions may vary considerably over the individuals. The level of old-age pensions is determined individually by the contributions made, the age of entry into pension, and the current pension value.

In the course of the Retirement Income Act in 2005, taxation rules for income from old-age pensions were altered. Taxation of old-age pension income is gradually shifted to deferred taxation. While in 2009, the taxable fraction of old-age pensions amounts to 58% (so that 42% are tax free), it gradually increases every year, until it reaches 100% in the year 2040. At the same time, allowances to deduct contributions to old-age pension schemes from labour income are gradually increased in turn.

Pensions for Reduced Ability to Work (*Erwerbsminderungsrente, Berufsunfähigkeitsrente, formerly also Erwerbsunfähigkeitsrente*): Pensions for reduced ability to work are paid to

individuals who are insured in the statutory pension insurance and contributed at least five years, if their ability to work – any kind of work -- is permanently reduced. An individual's ability to work is considered permanently reduced if the individual is not able to work more than six hours per day anymore. If the individual is able to work more than three hours a day but not more than six, the individual's ability to work is considered partly reduced. It is considered fully reduced if the individual is not able to work three hours per day. According to the regulations for the regular old-age pension, the amount of pensions for reduced ability to work is determined individually by the contributions made, the age of entry into pension, and the current pension value. Recipients may have earnings from employment in addition up to limits that vary for partly and fully reduced abilities to work.

Survivor's (Widow's and Orphan's) Pensions (*Hinterbliebenenrente, including Witwenrente and Waisenrente*): Survivor's pensions include pensions for widows/widowers and pensions for orphans. There is a regular pension for widows and an extended one. The regular widow's pensions are paid to the surviving partner if the deceased person contributed to the statutory pension insurance for at least five years. Orphan's pensions are distinguished between orphans who lost one parent and orphans who lost both parents. Orphans who lost one parent who was insured in the statutory pension insurance receive 10% of the pension claims of the deceased parent. Orphans who lost both parents receive 20% of the average pension claims of both parents. Orphan's pensions are generally paid up to age 18. They can be prolonged up to a maximum age of 27 in case the orphan is disabled or in higher education.

Child-Care Pensions (*Erziehungsrente*): Child-care pensions are paid to divorced and widows/widowers who contributed to the statutory pension insurance for at least five years, who did not marry again, and who care for a child younger than 18. There are differences in entitlements between East- and West-Germany according to the date of divorce. Child-care pensions are paid up to the 18th birthday of the child. They amount to the levels of a pension for fully-reduced ability to work, where claims of the surviving person are relevant. Regulations for additional earnings from employment apply accordingly.

Supplementary Pension for Employees in Public Service (*Rente der Zusatzversorgungskassen des öffentlichen Dienstes*): The additional supply of pensions for employees in public service is related to the retirement system and provides a supplementary pension measure for employees in public services. Since January 2002 this kind of pension system was transferred to an employer pension scheme model, where the amount of the pension and the contributions comply with the "law to improve the occupational pension" ("Riester-Law II "). Contributions are paid directly out of gross income by the employer. They are determined by the relationship between the insured income and reference income and an age factor.

1.2.4 Pensions from Other Institutions:

Pensions from Employer Schemes (*Werks- und Betriebsrenten*): Employers voluntarily provide their employees, not necessarily all of them, with pensions from employer schemes, in case of retirement, disability or death. Typical recipients are employees, workers, or managers. If the employers commits to paying pensions from employer schemes this can be explicitly agreed upon in individual work contracts or in collective agreement contracts. Benefits can be paid on a regular, or an irregular basis, typically to pension funds.

Old-Age Pensions for Civil Servants (*Pension, Altersruhegehalt*): The old-age pension for civil servants is paid to officials, judges, soldiers and priests, church officials and other persons who are in civil servants, when they reach retirement age. The regular age for entry into old-age pension for civil servants is 65, as in the statutory old-age pension insurance. It will equally be increased gradually in the future. A retired civil servant is eligible to the old-age pension if a period of at least five years of service is completed. The amount of the pension depends on

employment status (full- or part-time employment) and position of the individual in the public service (*mittlerer Dienst, gehobener Dienst, höherer Dienst*).

Pension Schemes for Self-Employed, Freelancers, and Farmers (*Rente berufsständischer Versorgungswerke, landwirtschaftlicher Alterskassen und Landabgaberenten*) and **Supplements to Old-age Pension Insurance Contributions for Farmers** (*Zuschüsse der landwirtschaftlichen Alterskassen*): Pension schemes for self-employed are based on a statutory compulsory membership for certain groups of free-lancers and they offer their members retirement, disability and survivors' benefits, which are contribution-based. Agricultural entrepreneurs, farmers, and their family members are insured in the pension schemes for farmers. The contribution scheme for farmers is similar to that of the statutory pension insurance.

Old-age Pensions from Foreign Countries (*Auslandsrente*): These pensions refer to income from pension systems from foreign countries. They presumable depend on contributions. Their levels may differ by countries.

1.2.5 Public Transfers to Private Households

Child Benefits (*Kindergeld*): Parents with dependent children are eligible to child benefits. Married couples can choose who receives the benefits. In case of parents living separately, the one with whom the child stays most of the time, or the one who bears the larger share of the maintenance, receives the benefits. Benefits are paid for biological, adopted, or foster children who live in the same household with their parents. They are paid up to the age of 18. Eligibility is prolonged up to the age of 25, in case children are still in education and have an own income that does not exceed a threshold. Alternatively to child benefits, parents can claim a child tax allowance at the derivation of taxable income. Tax authorities apply the more favourable of child benefits and child allowance for the parents according to a higher-yield test.

Parental-Leave Benefits (*Elterngeld, formerly also Erziehungsgeld*): Parental-leave benefits were implemented in 2007. They are non-means-tested benefits that generally replace 67% of parents' foregone net labour earnings in case they suspend employment due to the birth of a child. Parental-leave benefits are paid – in addition to child benefits -- for a time frame of up to 12 months following the birth of the child, which can be prolonged for another two months if parents share parental-leave time such that each of them suspends work for at least two months. Alternatively to suspension, part-time work of up to 30 hours per week is allowed. The relevant net income is a twelve-month average net income of the time right before the child's birth. Parental-leave benefits are income tax exempt but subject to progression clause in income taxation (see Table 2.14).

Unemployment Benefits II (*Arbeitslosengeld II*): All individuals aged 15 or older who are able to work for at least three hours per day are eligible for "unemployment benefits II". "Unemployment benefits II" are means tested with respect to income and wealth and they are determined by the needs of the family (partner – married or not – and dependent children, *Bedarfsgemeinschaft*). This means that the household's income and wealth are considered for the determination of needs, except for some allowances. This is usually done by a means test with regard to income and wealth. Depending on the number of household members the income threshold per month is calculated by the amount of the basic rates and the monthly rent including heating with regard to the household formation (lone parents or both parents are living in the household). However, unemployment is no requirement for entitlement, and there is no limitation for the hours worked. The resulting level of benefits is determined by the number of adults and children in the household, where for the latter age is of relevance. In addition to the basic benefits, costs for housing and heating, up to a maximum amount, which depends on the

size of the household, are covered in the context of "unemployment benefits II". Moreover, contributions to statutory health and old-age pension insurances are paid.

Additional Child Allowances (*Kinderzuschlag*): An additional child allowance is paid if households receive an income that covers the parents' needs according to "unemployment benefits II", but not the needs of children younger than 25 who live in the same household. The level of the additional child allowance depends on the children's needs and the household's income and wealth. Eligible children are unmarried, live in the household, and are not older than 25 years. They also need to be eligible for child benefits. Own income of the child, market or replacement income, reduces the benefit amount. Household income must fall in a range in order for parents to be eligible to additional child benefits.

Social Assistance (*Sozialhilfe*): Individuals who are not able to work at least three hours per day – either because they are aged 65 or older, or because they are aged 18-65 and physically not able to work – are entitled to social assistance in order to secure a minimum income for everybody. These benefits are means tested with respect to income and wealth and they are determined by the needs of the entire household. This means that the household's income and wealth are considered for the determination of needs, except for allowances. In the case of general social assistance for reduced work, the income threshold per month is calculated by the amount of the basic rates and the monthly rent including heating with regard to the number of household members. The basic social assistance rate is identical to the basic rate from "unemployment benefits II". Basically, social assistance is supposed to secure a minimum income for individuals who are not eligible for "unemployment benefits II", i.e. those younger than 65 and not able to work at least three hours per day. Those 65 and older with very low pension income are however entitled to basic old-age assistance.

Means-tested Basic Old-Age Assistance (*Bedarfsorientierte Grundsicherung im Alter oder bei Erwerbsminderung*): The basic old-age assistance ensures the basic needs for living for older people and for those individuals, who are permanently fully incapacitated for work. Recipients must have 65 years of age, or 18 years of age and simultaneously be permanently fully incapacitated for work due to medical reasons. Claim for basic old-age assistance have individuals, who cannot support themselves with their own income and assets or with the income and assets of the non-separated spouse or consensual partner.

Social Benefits (*Sozialgeld*): Individuals who are not able to work at least three hours per day, so that they are not eligible to "unemployment benefits II", and who live together with individuals who are themselves entitled to "unemployment benefits II", are eligible to social benefits. Social benefits are supposed to capture those people who would otherwise not be secured by social assistance. This is usually the case for children younger than 14, or children younger than 18 who are permanently unable to work. Benefit levels correspond closely to levels of social assistance. However, the benefit is more closely related to unemployment benefits II; often aggregate amount are reported together for these two benefits in official statistics.

Advances on Alimony Payments (*Unterhaltsvorschuss*): Children under the age of 12 who only have a single mother or a single father (who may be divorced) are eligible to advances on alimony payments, if the other parent does not live in the same household and does not provide any alimonies, or the amount provided is below the minimum alimony. The maximum payment period is 72 months and interruptions in the payment period are possible, for example, because the other parent temporarily pays sufficient alimonies. If relevant, benefits are reduced by received child benefits and respectively by widow's pensions.

Benefits from Non-Profitable Charity Organizations (*Geldleistungen von Wohlfahrtsorganisationen, e.g. AWO*): Non-profitable charity organizations support disadvantaged groups in the country. Their field typically includes social work (for children and

young people, marginal groups, migrants, seniors, families, disabled, etc.), social care and poverty reduction, health promotion and prevention, care, counseling and / or training.

Housing Benefits (*Wohngeld*): Individuals in a household, in which the sum of income from all members does not exceed a threshold, are entitled to housing allowances. They may be renting or owning the house/flat. They are only explicitly eligible to housing benefits in case they do not receive "unemployment benefits II". Otherwise, housing benefits are implied by "unemployment benefits II". The level of benefits generally depends on the number of household members, the sum of their net incomes, where certain expenses for costs of living may be deducted up to certain thresholds, and the costs of rent or of loan repayments and maintenance, again up to thresholds.

Education Benefits (*Ausbildungshifen/BaFöG*): Students entering higher education before the age of 30 are eligible to financial aid according to the "*Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz* (*BaFöG)*". Education benefits are means-tested benefits. The benefit level depends on income and wealth of the recipient as well as on income of the recipient's parents and spouse. Moreover, it depends on the presence of siblings as well as their age and income. High school students do not need to repay any of the benefits. However, university students get half of the benefits in form of an interest-free loan that has to be paid back under certain conditions after education is finished.

Professional-Training Benefits (*Berufsausbildungsbeihilfe*): Individuals who are in professional training (e.g. apprenticeships) are eligible to professional-training benefits in case their earnings do not cover reasonable costs of living. In addition, the recipient either needs to pursue his training at a location too far away from his parents' home to commute, or the recipient needs to be 18 years old, married, or have a child. The level of benefits depends on income and wealth of the recipient as well as on income of the recipient's parents and spouse. Benefits are usually paid for up to 18 months.

Subsidization of Private Old-Age Pension Savings (*Förderung der privaten Altersvorsorge*): Asset accumulations for private old-age pension income are subsidized in the framework of the Riester-scheme (Riester benefits). Generally, all individuals who contribute to the statutory pension insurance are eligible to Riester benefits. Benefits are paid for contributions to state-certified savings contracts. Maximum benefits are only paid if a minimum share of gross income from the previous year is contributed to the certified savings contract.

Home Building Allowances (*Eigenheimzulage*): Home building allowances were granted for individuals who bought a flat or a house for the purpose of owner-occupation. Recipients need to have average income over the two years before the purchase of below a given threshold. These allowances are exempt from income tax. Home building allowances were abolished at the end of 2005, where home owners could apply for these benefits for the last time. As recipients are eligible to home building allowances for a time of up to eight years, there may remain old cases in the data, i.e. individuals receive these benefits, up until 2013.

Building Society Premiums (*Wohnungsbauprämie*): Building society premiums are paid for savings in building-society savings contracts. Savers are eligible to premiums if their taxable income falls below an upper limit. Savings to eligible contracts are subsidized up to a maximum amount per year, which differs for single individuals and married couples.

Savings Bonuses for Employees (*Arbeitnehmersparzulage*): Savings bonuses for employees are granted on contributions to capital formation that are directly invested by the employer out of basic salaries into various forms of savings contracts (*vermögenswirksame Leistungen*). Employees are eligible to these bonuses if their taxable income is below a given threshold. The level of bonuses depends on the type of savings contract.

Benefits for War Victims and Burden Sharing (*Kriegsopferversorgung und –fürsorge, Lastenausgleich*): Benefits for war victims and burden sharing are paid for military people in case they get injured while pursuing military services. Several single benefits are subsumed under benefits for war victims and burden sharing.

1.3 Social contributions

Employees and employers are obliged to pay statutory social insurance contributions (*Sozialversicherungsbeiträge*) from gross wages and salaries unless gross income exceeds certain thresholds, which allows employees to contract out of statutory health and pension insurance. In turn, social contributions grant benefit entitlements (see section 1.2). Employers withhold the employee's share of the social contributions when paying out the wage, and transfer them – together with their own share – to the employee's statutory health insurance fund, which is responsible for administration. Generally the contributions are equally split between employees and employers.

Social insurance contributions are paid as fixed shares of gross income (contribution rates, *Beitragssätze*) up to a contribution assessment ceiling (*Beitragsbemessungsgrenze*). Gross income above this ceiling is disregarded. Employees who earn more than the assessment ceiling for statutory pension insurance may opt out of statutory pension insurance completely. Concerning statutory health insurance, a different threshold, i.e. the threshold for compulsory health insurance (*Versicherungspflichtgrenze*), determines who may opt out. Employees who earn salaries above this threshold may choose private health insurance instead. Private health insurance premiums do not depend on gross income, but mostly on age, gender, and prior health conditions.

Family insurance (*Familienversicherung*): 1) Partners (married or registered) with no or low income and 2) children of a (compulsory or voluntary) member of statutory health insurance enjoy health insurance coverage without having to pay contributions.

Mini job / midi job: Mini jobs (marginal or short term employment) are tax-free and free of social insurance contributions for the employee. However, the employer has to pay contributions to statutory health and pension insurance. Mini jobs do not include contributions to the long term care and unemployment insurance. In the case of midi jobs, employee's social insurance contributions are faded in linearly until they reach the full rates at a gross monthly wage of €800. Employers pay their standard contribution rates. These contributions are comprised of statutory health, long-term care, pension, and unemployment insurance. Fading-in of social contributions is determined by population-average social contribution rates.

Civil servants: Civil servants are not covered by compulsory social insurance and are not obliged to pay contributions. The federal or state government provides financial assistance (approximately 50% to 80% of the expenses) in cases of illness, birth, long-term care and death (*Beihilfeleistungen*) and a retirement pension (*Versorgungsbezüge*). Usually civil servants have a private health insurance to insure against health costs not covered by the government's financial assistance.

Self-employment: Statutory health insurance is generally not compulsory for the self-employed in Germany, and most of the self-employed choose private health insurance (Fossen, 2009). As an exception, artists and publicists are covered by compulsory statutory health insurance if certain requirements are met. Voluntary membership in statutory health insurance is possible for self-employed persons who fulfill the minimum requirement of previous contributions to statutory health insurance. The self-employed are not generally obliged to contribute to compulsory pension insurance, although specific groups of the self-employed (about a quarter

of all self-employed) are obliged to contribute to statutory pension insurance (Schulze Buschoff, 2007). More relevant in practice are private pension insurance schemes – for example, state-aided basic pension schemes (*Rürup-Rente*). People becoming self-employed, having been dependently employed, have the option to stay in unemployment insurance upon application.

1.4 Taxes

1.4.1 Direct Taxes

Income tax (*Einkommensteuer*): Income tax is levied on the income of natural persons. Income from various different sources is summed, and after loss compensation and several allowances and deductions, taxable income as the tax base is taxed according to a progressive tax schedule. Income from single components is added up and certain expenditures are credited against income, as well as certain allowances are granted. In the German income tax system in general, married couples are taxed jointly with full income splitting, i.e. the tax function is applied to half of the sum of the spouses' taxable incomes, and then the resulting tax amount is doubled. Tax on income from dependent employment is collected from persons in dependent employment at source via payroll tax (*Lohnsteuer*). Similarly, tax on capital income is collected at source via withholding tax (*Kapitalertragsteuer*). However, these taxes need not be final. It is common to file income tax returns, for example to claim income-related expenses which exceed the tax allowable lump sum for income-related expenses.

Solidarity Surcharge (*Solidaritätszuschlag*): A surcharge of 5.5% on the income tax and the capital tax, which was originally motivated with the costs of the German re-unification.

Church Tax (*Kirchensteuer*): Members of the catholic and protestant churches (and some smaller churches) pay this tax to finance their churches, which is collected by the government together with the income tax (respectively, the payroll tax and the withholding tax on capital income). The tax base is the income tax, which is used to apply a flat tax rate of 8% (in Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg) or 9% (in the other Federal States). Taxpayers can avoid paying the church tax by officially leaving church, which is why church tax may be regarded as voluntary. This is why church taxes have not been simulated in EUROMOD.

Property Tax (*Grundsteuer*): A tax on real estate (land and buildings), based on the assessed tax value. Property Tax A applies to agriculture and forestry, and Property Tax B applies to other property. The tax rate varies over municipalities, as they can levy their own tax multiplier. First, to calculate the uniform basic tax (*Steuermessbetrag*), the assessed tax value is multiplied by a basic federal tax rate (*Steuermesszahl*), which is 0.6% for Property Tax A and 0.35% for Property Tax B (there are reduced rates for one and two family houses, and different rates for the Eastern federal states because of a different data basis for the assessed tax values). Second, the municipality specific multiplier (*Hebesatz*) is applied to the uniform basic tax to yield the tax liability.

Inheritance Tax (*Erbschaftsteuer*): A tax on capital transfer in case of inheritance. Capital transfers between living persons are similarly taxed by the gift tax (*Schenkungsteuer*). There is a tax free allowance whose amount depends on who is the recipient. There are also additional tax exemptions for business capital if the business (with its employees) is continued. Tax rates depend on the family relationship (partner, children, grandchildren, siblings, and other people) and are progressive in the tax base, with a minimum rate of 7% and a maximum rate of 50%.

Motor Vehicle Tax (*Kfz-Steuer*): Tax paid by owners of motor vehicles, depending on cylinder capacity and carbon dioxide emissions. Lorries and trailers are assessed on the basis of their maximum permissible gross weight.

Corporate Tax (*Körperschaftsteuer*): Tax on the income of corporations with a flat tax rate of 15%.

Local Business Tax (*Gewerbesteuer*): Both incorporated and non-incorporated business enterprises are liable to the local business tax, except for liberal professionals and farmers. This tax is the main source of revenue of German municipalities. Its tax base is primarily the enterprise's operating profit attributed to the local jurisdiction, augmented by certain fractions of interest and other financing expenses. Unincorporated firms benefit from an allowance. Tax rates vary over municipalities, as the local jurisdictions apply their own multipliers (similarly to the Property Tax, see above). Sole proprietors and partners of non-incorporated firms can credit at least parts of the local business tax against their personal income tax (PIT) liability, depending on the size of the multiplier.

1.4.2 Indirect Taxes

Value Added Tax (*Umsatzsteuer*/*Mehrwertsteuer*): Tax on almost all consumption expenses. Technically, it is collected from the enterprises selling goods and services. These enterprises can claim back the VAT paid for their inputs. The general tax rate is 19%. A reduced rate of 7% applies for most foodstuffs and certain other basic necessities, and since 2010 also for overnight stays in hotels.

Other transactional taxes: The real property acquisition tax (*Grunderwerbsteuer*) is a tax due when real property is transferred. The general tax rate is 3.5%, but the German states may choose different rates. The insurance tax (*Versicherungsteuer*) is a tax on insurance contributions or premiums except for statutory and private life and health insurance and statutory unemployment insurance. The tax rate is generally 19%; other rates apply for specific insurances. Further transactional taxes only have minor revenues.

Excise taxes: Specific taxes on the consumption or usage of certain goods. Most revenue is collected from the energy tax (*Energiesteuer*), which is a tax on all fossil and biological energy carriers, and the tobacco tax (*Tabaksteuer*). Further excise taxes, like the beer tax (*Biersteuer*), are of comparably minor importance.

2. SIMULATION OF TAXES AND BENEFITS IN EUROMOD

2.1 Scope of simulation

As a tax and benefit microsimulation model covering all EU member countries, the scope of EUROMOD must necessarily be limited to simulating policies, for which information provided in the data is sufficient to adequately implement the single factors of relevance in the respective policy regulations. In the case of Germany, this does not hold for all policies presented in Sections 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4. The main limitations with respect to simulation of the tax and benefit rules in EUROMOD are related to insufficient information, such as the contribution history or the earnings history of the potential recipients of a benefit. E.g. for the simulation of contributory old age benefits information on the history of the individual is required. This data is indispensable for a proper simulation, and since it is missing in SILC no simulation of the respective policy is possible. Another example would be indirect taxes, which are as well beyond the scope of EUROMOD because of lack of information on expenditures in SILC.

Table 2.1 and Table 2.2 tabulate all policies that are relevant in the context of EUROMOD. They are relevant because they are either explicitly simulated in EUROMOD, or because they are not explicitly simulated, but implicitly, as they are interrelated to other policies that are either explicitly simulated or that are in turn interrelated to simulated policies. The most

relevant variable in this context is income from employment and pensions. On the one hand, it is a function of some policies, such as social insurance contributions, simulated or not simulated, and on the other hand it is an input variable in certain simulated policies that condition eligibility on a means test. Such interdependencies are further treated in the next section. Firstly, all policies are categorized in Table 2.1 and Table 2.2 into such that are simulated and such that are not simulated. For the latter, relevant information on the main limitations for simulation are provided.

Generally, most of the social benefits, which merely condition on a means test, are simulated, some with more or less restrictive assumptions (Table 2.1). More on these assumptions will be said in Sections 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7. However, most of the contributory benefits, most of them relating to all kind of pensions, are not simulated, due to lack of sufficient information on the contribution history. Moreover, many benefits for sickness or disability are not simulated, as there is not enough information reported on the duration and type of sickness or injury, and on the degree of disability. Furthermore, the degree of loss of the earnings capacity in relation to injury or disability would be valuable information that is not sufficiently observed in the data.

Some policies could only partly be simulated, as some regulations are not simulated due to a lack of sufficient information in the micro data. Education benefits (BaFöG) belong to this group of policies. For students who do not live with their parents, there is a lack of information on income and wealth of their parents. Simplifying assumptions have though been made in order to also simulate education benefits for students living on their own. For students who do live with their parents this information is observed, or can be estimated.

Policies that are neither observed in the micro data nor simulated in EUROMOD are completely excluded from the model. Such policies from the statutory unemployment insurance are short-term work compensations, transfer short-term work compensations, seasonal short-term work compensations, insolvency benefits, as well as benefits for part-time unemployment, benefits for early retirement, benefits for business start-ups, and benefits for re-training. From the statutory accident insurance, the non-simulated benefits are injury benefits, sickness benefits for military people, and severance benefits. From the statutory pension insurance, these are child-care pensions and supplementary pensions for employees in public service. Then there are pensions from other institutions, e.g. pensions from employer schemes, and pensions from schemes for self-employed, freelancers, and farmers, which are also not simulated. Finally, there are public transfers to private households that are not included in the data, and hence excluded from EUROMOD, such as professional training benefits, subsidizations of private old-age pension savings, home-building allowances, building society premiums, and savings bonuses for employees.

Table 2.1 Simulation of benefits in EUROMOD

	Variable name(s)	Treatment in EUROMOD						Why not fully simulated?
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Missing Data on…
Benefit for early retirement	byr	I	I	I	I	I	I	Contribution history & wage history
Unemployment benefit II	bunnc_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	Contribution history
Unemployment benefits I	bunct_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	Contribution history
Severance pay	ysv	I	I	I	I	I	I	Job termination
Benefit for start-ups	bunot	I	I	I	I	I	I	Self-employed & their business history
Benefit for re-training	buntr	I	I	I	I	I	I	Unemployed; eligibility for re-training
Old-age statutory pension	poass	I	I	I	I	I	I	Contribution & wage history

Old-age pension (employees)	poa00	I	I	I	I	I	I	Contribution history
Foreign old-age pension	poaab	I	I	I	I	I	I	Occupation in a foreign country
Old-age pension (self-employed)	poaps	I	I	I	I	I	I	Contribution history
Old-age pension (empl. pub. serv.)	poapu	I	I	I	I	I	I	Employment history
Old-age pension (civil servants)	poacs	I	I	I	I	I	I	Employment history
Orphan's pension	psuor	I	I	I	I	I	I	Biography; contributions of deceased
Survivor's pension	psuwd	I	I	I	I	I	I	Biography; contributions of deceased
Benefits for war victims	pdiwr	I	I	I	I	I	I	Participation in military services
Sickness benefits	bhl_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	Employment history; sickness duration
Lt-care benefits (stat. acc. ins.)	pdiac_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	Employment history; injury
Disability pensions (civil servants)	pdiot	I	I	I	I	I	I	Employment history; injury
Pensions for reduced work ability	pdi00	I	I	I	I	I	I	Employment history; injury
Pension (stat. accident ins.)	pdiss_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	Injury and remaining earnings capacity
Maternity-leave benefit	bmact_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	Contribution history
Parental-leave benefit	bplct_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	Employment history
Additional child allowances	bchot_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Child benefits	bch00_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Social benefits(Sozialgeld)	bsaot	S	S	S	S	S	S	Simulated together with bsa00_s
Social assistance (Sozialhilfe)	bsa00_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Education benefits	bed_s	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	Data on parents' income (if on their own)
Basic old-age assistance	bsaoa_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Advances on alimony payments	bsa am	I	I	I	I	I	I	Alimony payments
Benefits from charity organizations	bsapu	I	I	I	I	I	I	Such payments
Housing Benefits	bho_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Professional Training Ben.	-	E	E	E	E	E	E	Professional training & parental income
Subsidies for prv. old-age savings	-	E	E	E	E	E	E	Savings
Home-building allowances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Housing purchases
Building society premiums	-	E	E	E	E	E	E	Savings
Savings bonuses for employees	-	E	E	E	E	E	E	Savings

Notes: "-": policy did not exist in that year; "E": *excluded* from the model as it is neither included in the micro-data nor simulated; "I": *included* in the micro-data but not simulated; "PS" *partially simulated* as some of its relevant rules are not simulated; "S" *simulated* although some minor or very specific rules may not be simulated.

The simulation of taxes and social insurance contributions for Germany is limited in EUROMOD to direct taxes, i.e. the personal income tax and capital income tax, as well as mandatory contributions to the social security systems. Personal income taxation is treated in two different policies for individual and joint taxation, mainly for the sake of a clear representation.

Social security contributions are differentiated by such contributions paid for by the employer, by employees, by self-employed, and by pensioners. Contributions paid for by the employer and by employees are simulated for regular, full- or part-time employment, as well as for marginal (or short-term) employment in the context of the so-called mini jobbers and midi jobbers, for which contribution rates differ. Contribution rates simulated for self-employed are restricted to pension insurance contributions for certain industries (education, health), where self-employed are obliged to contribute to the statutory pension insurance. For pensioners, only contributions to health insurance and long-term care insurance are relevant. More details will be presented in Section 2.5.

Table 2.2 Simulation of taxes and social contributions in EUROMOD

	Variable name(s)	Treatment in EUROMOD						Why not fully simulated?
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Income Taxation								
Taxable Income	tin_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Individual Taxation	tinit_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Joint Taxation	tinjt_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Capital income taxation	tinkt_s	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	
Social Insurance Contributions								
Employer	tscer_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
to pension insurance	tscerpi_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
to health insurance	tscerhl_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
to long-term care insurance	tscerci_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
to unemployment insurance	tscerui_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
to accident insurance	tscerac_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Employee	tscee_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
to pension insurance	tsceepi_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
to health insurance	tsceehl_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
to long-term care insurance	tsceeci_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
to unemployment insurance	tsceeui_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
to accident insurance	tsceeac_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Self-employed	tscse_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	Many social contributions for the self-employed are voluntary, and they are not observed.

to pension insurance	tscsepi_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	Pension insur. for self-employed is voluntary
Pensioner	tscpe_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	
to health insurance	tscpehl_s	S	S	S	S	S	S	

Notes: "-" policy did not exist in that year; "E" policy is *excluded* from the model's scope as it is neither included in the microdata nor simulated by EUROMOD; "PS" policy is *partially simulated* as some of its relevant rules are not simulated; "S" policy is *simulated* although some minor or very specific rules may not be simulated.

- ***Structural changes between 2011 and 2012***

From 2012 on, the threshold on income earned by the child (which determines eligibility for child benefits) has been abolished and substituted by a limit on the hours worked by the child.

- ***Structural changes between 2012 and 2013***

None.

- ***Structural changes between 2013 and 2014***

None.

- ***Structural changes between 2014 and 2015***

In January 2015, a minimum wage was introduced in Germany.

Additionally, public health insurance companies (*gesetzliche Krankenkassen*) are able to set company-specific additional contributions from January 1 2015. At the same time, the basic contribution rate decreases from 15.5% in 2014 to 14.6% in 2015. For 2015, the model assumes an average additional contribution of 0.9%, with the result that the final contribution rate for 2015 with respect to 2014 stays unchanged.

- ***Structural changes between 2015 and 2016***

None.

2.2 Order of simulation and interdependencies

Table 2.3 tabulates the order in which the single policies are simulated in EUROMOD. The order in which the policies are simulated is made explicit in Table 2.3. This order is mainly determined by interdependencies between the policies, as far as these could have been considered in the model. These interdependencies shall be briefly described in the following.

Minimum wage is simulated upfront. Right after, a preliminary simulation of contributory unemployment benefits is carried out. This enables to identify the recipients of disability benefits as individuals who are not working, do not receive unemployment benefits and do not actively search for a job. In turn, this allows simulating disability pensions, which enter the income base that determines the contributions to social security of pensioners. Next, contributions to social security systems are simulated. With the exception of the social security contributions of pensioners, these policies only condition on observed income from employment. In case minimum wage is switched on, it replaces observed employment income where relevant. The first social benefits simulated are child benefits. They are independent of

any income or wealth. Then come the actual (final) simulation of contributory benefits from the unemployment insurance, i.e. unemployment benefits I, which are computed again from scratch, this time making use of the information about social security contributions generated previously. By their contributory nature, they condition on income in past periods, but not on income in the current period.

Then comes a benefit that does not condition on any of the benefits simulated so far, but that is itself an input into benefits simulated at a later stage. Long-term care benefits from the statutory accident insurance condition on other demographic variables that are exogenous to simulation, such as health status. Sickness benefits are a function of unemployment benefits I when benefit levels are calculated. Thereafter, maternity leave benefits and parental leave benefits are simulated. They are a function of employment income as well as unemployment benefits I.

Then, taxation is simulated. Thereby, all relevant benefits can be considered in the simulation of personal income taxation. This is necessary because some benefits belong to taxable income, while other benefits are excluded from the calculation of taxable income, but are considered at the determination of the relevant tax rate (progression clause). As a result, almost all benefits simulated are considered at income taxation.

Next education benefits are simulated. They condition on income and wealth of the students as well as their parents, where observed current income is applied. In addition, simulated social security contributions and taxes paid by students and their parents are taken into account, as they play a role in determining the amount of the benefit.

Next, housing benefits are simulated. Relevant income in the sense of housing benefits is computed taking into account whether individuals pay income taxes and/or social security contributions.

Then, unemployment benefits II, the first means-tested benefit, are simulated. They are non-contributory benefits, conditioning eligibility on a means test, for which all benefits and taxes simulated earlier are an input, and on ability to work.

Next, means-tested social benefits that have the scope to secure a minimum income are simulated. These are old-age social assistance, general social assistance including social benefits for children, and additional child benefits. All these benefits condition eligibility on disposable income after all other benefits are considered, especially after unemployment benefits II are considered. They mainly cover those individuals that are not eligible to unemployment benefits II because they are permanently not able to work a minimum number of hours per day, either because they are disabled, or because they are permanently injured, or because they are too old.

Finally, additional child benefits are simulated.

Table 2.3 EUROMOD Spine: order of simulation

Policy	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Description of the instrument and main output
constdef_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	DEF: constants
uprate_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	DEF: UPRATING FACTORS
ildef_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	DEF: INCOME CONCEPTS
tudef_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	DEF: ASSESSMENT UNITS
yem_de	off	off	off	off	on	on	INC: Minimum Wage
neg_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	INC: recode negative values of incomes to zero
bunct_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	BEN: unemployment benefits I (ALG I)
pdiss_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	BEN: disability pension from stat. acc. Insurance (Rente der gesetzlichen Unfallversicherung)
tscer_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	SIC: employer social insurance contribution
tscee_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	SIC: employee social insurance contribution
tscse_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	SIC: self-employed social insurance contribution
tscpe_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	SIC: pensioner social insurance contribution
bch00_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	BEN: child benefits (Kindergeld)
bunct_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	BEN: unemployment benefits I (ALG I)(repetition of policy with order 8)
pdiac_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	BEN: long-term care benefits from statutory accident insurance (Pflegegeld)
bhl_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	BEN: Sickness Benefits (Krankengeld der GKV, prvt. Pflegezusatz- oder Krankentagegeldversicherung)
bmact_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	BEN: maternity leave
bplct_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	BEN: parental leave
tinkt_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	TAX: capital income taxation
tin_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	TAX: income taxation (Einkommensteuer): taxable income
tinit_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	TAX: income taxation (Einkommensteuer): individual taxation
tinjt_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	TAX: income taxation (Einkommensteuer): joint taxation
bed_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	BEN: education benefits (BaFöG)
bho_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	BEN: housing benefits (Wohngeld)
bunnc_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	BEN: unemployment benefits II and social benefits (ALG II und Sozialgeld)
bsaoa_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	BEN: old-age social assistance (Grundsicherung im Alter)
bsa00_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	BEN: general social assistance (Sozialhilfe)
bchot_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	BEN: additional child benefits (Kinderzuschlag)
output_std_de	on	on	on	on	on	on	DEF: STANDARD OUTPUT INDIVIDUAL LEVEL
output_std_hh_de	off	off	of	off	off	off	DEF: STANDARD OUTPUT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL

2.3 Policy switches

There is no policy switch.

2.4 Social benefits

2.4.1 Minimum Wage (*minwage_de*)

A minimum wage was introduced on 1 January 2015 in Germany. It amounts to 8.50 Euro per hour and it applies to each individual aged at least 18. Compulsory internships in the context of University education are excluded from the minimum wage.

The simulation of a minimum wage in EUROMOD is switched off in the baseline scenario for all years. When switched on, a parameter for an hourly minimum wage, valid for all employees, must be specified. The policy then simulates minimum earnings based on the minimum wage

and assigns the greater of minimum wage and actual earnings to the individual, for all months in the base year in which the individual was employed.

2.4.2 Child Benefits (*bch00_de*)

Child benefits are monthly non-means-tested non-taxable benefits paid to families with dependent children below an age limit. Benefit levels depend on how many children there are in the household.

- ***Definitions***

The unit of analysis is the family. Families include couples and their own, as well as loose dependent children. Dependent children are biological, adopted, or foster children who live in the same household with their parents.

- ***Eligibility Conditions***

There are two groups of eligible children.[1] 1) Generally, eligible children can at maximum be aged 17. 2) The age limit is extended to 24 in case children are still in tertiary education and, until 2011, in case their income did not exceed a threshold (see Income Test). From 2012 on, the income limit has been replaced by a limit on hours worked by the child. If the child is disabled, and has been disabled since the age of 24 at least, no age limit applies. In case of parents living separately, the one with whom the child stays most of the time, or the one who bears the larger share of the maintenance, receives the benefits.

- ***Income Test***

In 2011 an income test is applied if, and only if, the child was 18 or older and not disabled. If in this case the child is still in education (*dec>0*) and has own income, the child's original income (*ils_origy*) is not allowed to exceed a threshold of 667€ per month to be eligible for child benefits. The same threshold applied if children did not live with their parents. The income test was abolished in 2012.

- ***Benefit Amount***

The benefit is paid monthly to one of the parents. The benefit amount has been constant for the period 2010 – 2014 (both included). It amounted to 184 Euro for the first two children, 190 Euro for the third child, and 215 Euro for the fourth and all following children. In 2015, benefit amounts have been increased by 4 Euro per month and child. In 2016, benefit amounts have been further increased by 2 Euro per month and child, resulting in 190 Euro per month for the first two children, 196 Euro for the third child, and 221 Euro for the fourth and all following children.

- ***EUROMOD Notes***

It is assumed that disabled children have been disabled since the age of 24 at least. Means tests and benefit assignment are simulated separately for children living with their parents and children living on their own. For children not living with their parents, it is assumed that they are first, second, or third child. For them, eligibility is not limited to single or couple households. They may rather have their own children who are eligible to child benefits, too.

[1] Strictly speaking eligibility is related to the parents, not to the children. However, we will be speaking of eligible children, as it effectively makes no difference, given the eligible criteria are related to the children, and in the simulation benefits are first assigned to the children, too, and later aggregated at household level and assigned to the head.

2.4.3 Unemployment Benefits I (*bunct_de*)

Unemployment benefits I are contributory benefits, which means that eligibility and benefit amounts depend on the amount and time for that contributions were made. As contributions are not observed in the data, they are approximated by observed information.

- ***Definitions***

Approximation of contribution history is applied differently for three groups: 1) those who are currently employed and not in receipt of unemployment benefits I, 2) those currently unemployed and in receipt, and 3) those unemployed, but not in receipt. Unit of analysis is the individual.

- ***Eligibility Conditions***

Unemployed individuals, under the age of 65, who are generally able to work at least 15 hours per week, are entitled to unemployment benefits I in case they contributed to the unemployment insurance for at least 12 months within the two years preceding the unemployment spell, meaning they were employed during that time.

- ***Income Test***

Unemployment benefits I are contributory benefits. There is no income or wealth test, in the sense of a means test, to these benefits. But see the restrictions for additional earnings from employment under Benefit Amount.

- ***Benefit Amount***

They amount to 60% of previous net earnings for childless individuals and to 67% for individuals with at least one child in terms of income tax law. Recipients are allowed to work up to 15 hours per week to top up benefits. Earnings from employment of up to 15 hours per week reduce the amount of benefits paid; an allowance for earnings of 165 Euro per month is granted. 165 Eur per month can be earned in addition to the benefit without reductions. Earnings above this allowance reduce the benefit level.

- ***Benefit Duration***

The duration of entitlement to “unemployment benefits I” depends on the individual’s age and number of months contributions were made in the previous 2-3 years. Generally, contributions made for 12 months entitle to six months of benefits, whereas benefits are paid for a maximum of 12 months for individuals who paid contributions for 24 months. People aged between 50 and 55 are eligible to a maximum of 15 months benefit receipt for 30 months of contributions. For individuals who are aged 55 or older, 16 months of contributions entitle to 8 months of receipt, 20 months of contributions entitle to 10 months of receipt, and 36 months of contributions entitle to 18 months. People aged 58 or older are entitled to 24 months of benefit receipt in case they contribute for 48 months.

- ***EUROMOD Notes***

The main limitation for simulation of contributory unemployment benefits is the fact that the contributions history is not observed in the data. Thus, contributions made have been approximated with the number of months ever employed (*liwwh*). Benefit duration is imputed according to the number of months ever in work and the rules for duration (see Benefit Duration). All those with 36 months and more, who are aged 55 and older, get the maximum duration of 18 months imputed. However, as duration is only simulated for one year, months of entitlement are capped at the observed number of months spent in unemployment (or the number of months benefits were received, in case this is larger).

Then, the contribution history is simulated for three groups of potential recipients. Generally, observed months contributed (*liwmy*) are aggregated up over the entire qualifying period (24 months). 1) For those employed and in receipt (*bunct>0*), aggregated observed months are applied. This means it is assumed that they have contributed, i.e. they have been employed, over the entire last 24 months. 2) For those unemployed and not in receipt (*lunmy_s>0 & bunct=0*), it is assumed that they have not contributed the minimum requirements for any receipt and they get zero months imputed.

Based on simulated contribution histories and spell durations, benefit amounts are simulated. Eligibility in general is conditioned on minimum contributions (*liwmy_s*), age in band of minimum 18 and maximum 65, no receipt of old-age pensions (*poa*), and a maximum of 15 hours worked per week (*lhw*). Now the entitlement basis is applied. As it is not observed, a proxy for it, which has been generated by inverting the benefit function for several contributory benefits, is applied (*il_ntpy*, also see Section 3.3.4). This proxy is applied for all individuals.

Based on the entitlement basis, the thresholds for additional earnings from employment are considered. For those individuals earning less than the threshold (165 euros per month), the benefit amounts results from applying the respective benefit rate (60% for the childless and 67% for parents) to the entitlement basis. And, for those who earn more than the threshold, income exceeding the threshold is withdrawn. Finally, simulated benefit amounts are averaged per month, applying the simulated spell duration in months (*bunmy_s*).

2.4.4 Disability Pension from the Statutory Accident Insurance (*pdiss_de*)

Individuals insured in the statutory accident insurance – these are all employees -- are eligible to disability pensions from the statutory accident insurance if consequences of an accident severely reduce their earnings capacity. Contributions are paid for by the employers.

- ***Definitions***

In case of a loss of the entire earnings capacity, a pension is paid that amounts to two thirds of annual individual earnings. This is assumed to be the case if individuals for whom benefit receipt is observed (*il_ntpy>0*) work zero hours per week (*lhw=0*). For those in receipt who work non-zero hours (*lhw>0*), the earnings capacity is assumed to be only partly reduced, according to the level of *lhw*. Unit of analysis is the individual.

- ***Eligibility Conditions***

Recipients should fulfil the following conditions: not to be civil servants, have some level of disability, and have some working history (*liwwh>0*). Moreover, they should not be actively looking for a job (*lowas=0*), have no receipt of unemployment benefit I (*bunct_s=0*) and they should have been inactive/retiree/disabled for at least one month during the observed year (*pdimy>0*). It is assumed that they suffer from reduced earnings capacity due to an accident if the above mentioned criteria are fulfilled. Conditioning on the working history (*liwwh>0*) is a proxy for eligibility to disability pensions. It is assumed that individuals who have ever worked before have been insured by the statutory accident insurance right before the spell started.

- ***Income Test***

Disability pensions are contributory benefits. There is no income or wealth test, in the sense of a means test, to receipt of these benefits.

- ***Benefit Amount***

The amount of disability pensions from the statutory accident insurance depends on the degree of reduction in ability to work. This degree of reduction shall be approximated by the number of

weekly hours a recipient works, while in receipt. If this is zero hours (*lhw=0*) the earnings capacity is assumed to be reduced entirely and eligible individuals receive a full pension of 67% of their entire previous-year net employment income. If they work non-zero hours (*lhw>0)* the earnings capacity is assumed to be only partly reduced and a partly pension is paid in accordance to the remaining level of earnings capacity (factor of *1-lhw/30*). It is assumed that 30 hours and more (*lhw=>30)* is full-time work, which means that recipients working 30 hours or more per week are assumed to have unaffected earnings capacity and receive a pension of zero. Furthermore, levels for the full and the partly pension are adjusted according to benefit duration, which has been approximated by the number of months recipients report to have been inactive/retiree/disabled during the observed year (*pdimy)*.

- ***EUROMOD Notes***

The main problem when simulating contributory disability benefits from the statutory accident insurance is that neither the contribution history, nor the entitlement basis that determines the benefit amount, nor the degree of disability, are observed in the data. While the contribution history and the disability level have been approximated with the help of other observed information, for the entitlement basis, more needs to be done. Pre-spell net employment income has been approximated by inverting the benefit function for several contributory benefits (*il_ntpy*, also see Section 3.3.4).

2.4.5 Education Benefits (*bed_de*)

Education benefits are means-tested benefits for students entering higher education according to the German law for education, "*Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz* (*BaFöG)*".

- ***Definitions***

The means test refers to income and wealth of the students and in most cases also of their parents, as well as the number of students in the household who are eligible to education benefits. The unit of analysis thus is the individual as well as the household.

- ***Eligibility Conditions***

All students entering higher education before the age of 30 are generally eligible to education benefits. The age limit has been extended to 35 years for those students entering a Master (e.g. MA, MSc) programme.

- ***Income Test***

Education benefits are means-tested benefits. The benefit level depends on income and wealth of the recipient as well as on income of the recipient's spouse and in most cases also parents. Moreover, it depends on the presence of siblings in the household as well as their age and income. Parents' income is not taken into account for students older than 30 years old and for students that have worked at least 5 years after the age of 18. The relevant income is generally the individual taxable income (*il_taxy*, added income from capital), added widows' and orphans' pensions, minus an allowance for social security contributions, minus actual taxes paid and minus an allowance for income-related expenses. The allowance for social security contributions differs depending on whether the contributor is compulsory insured by the pension insurance or not. For individuals not being compulsory insured by the pension insurance (e.g. pensioners, employees with marginal employment), the allowance amounts to 12.9% of their taxable income. For individuals that are insured by the statutory pension insurance, the allowance for them amounts to 21.5% of their taxable income. In both cases, these allowances are capped by a maximum amount, which is 6,300 and 12,100 euros per year, respectively. The allowance for income-related expenses corresponds to the allowance from personal income taxation (1,000 euros per year, see Section 2.6.1).

There are moreover lump-sum allowances on own income and parents' income. If the parents of the recipient are married, the income allowance for them is up to 1,605€ per month. For single parents, or parents married who live with a partner (not the mother or the father of the recipient), the allowance is 1,070€ per month. Moreover, the amount of 485€ per month is added to the income allowance of the recipient's parents for each non-eligible sibling. The student's own income allowance is 255€ per month, plus 485€ for each own child. These allowances reduce the relevant income of the recipients, their parents, and their partners. Incomes of parents and partners of married spouses, after accounting for all allowances, are considered at the benefit amount with 50% of the income only. The resulting relevant income is divided by the number of children eligible for education benefits.

In addition, there is a wealth test. Wealth holdings, after subtracting allowances, are generally subtracted from the benefit amount. The assets allowance for single students amounts to 5,200€, and for a married student to 7,000€, plus 1,800€ for each own child.

- ***Benefit Amount***

The basic amount for students who do not live with their parents is 597 euros per month, and has stayed constant over the period 2011-2016[*]. This basic benefit rate is reduced if income exceeds the income thresholds (see Income Test). This basic rate includes allowances for housing expenses. The rate for housing expenses depends on the living conditions. Only students while students living on their own get an increased rate (175 euros per month for the period 2011-2016[*]).

For recipients aged 25 and older, the basic rate is topped up by a lump-sum social insurance rate (73 euros per month for the period 2011-2016[*]).

High school students do not need to repay any of the benefits. However, university students get half of the benefits in form of an interest-free loan that has to be paid back under certain conditions after education is finished.

From 2009, there exists an add-on to the general benefit rate for students with children. If the recipient has an own child, aged younger than 10 years and living in the household of the student, the regular benefit rate is topped up by 113 euros. From the second child on, aged younger than 10 years, the top up is increased by an additional 85 euros. These amounts have been stayed constant for the period 2011-2016[*].

[*] Benefit amounts have changed as of October 1, 2016. These changes will be modelled from 2017 onwards, since they enter into force after June 30 2016.

- ***EUROMOD Notes***

Education benefits for students are granted for two groups of students in Germany. The first group still lives with their parents. For this group, the relevant information for determining eligibility is (partly) observed, or can be estimated, i.e. their parents' income and wealth. The second group of students does not live with their parents. The receipt of education benefits for students living without their parents has been conditioned on observed positive education benefits. For them, relevant information on income and wealth of their parents is not observed. This information, however, is crucial for determining eligibility, as for many applicants eligibility is rejected because their parents have income and/or wealth above the thresholds. Therefore, for those students for which we observe the receipt of education benefits in the data, income and wealth of their parents has been imputed. This is an imputation of a mean income. The imputed income is the mean after-SSC market income of married couples, aged between 46 and 59 (which is the mean age of parents with kids older than 18 +/- one SD), living in a two-person household, as observed in the EU-SILC micro data for Germany.

At the income test, also assets of the recipients and their parents are relevant. Observed financial assets (*afc*) have been applied for this means test. The stock of assets that remains after applying all allowances has been averaged to a month (*afc*/12) in order to account for asset liquidations and make it comparable to monthly incomes. Housing expenditures have been accounted for at the means test (*xhcrt*, also see Section 3.3.5).

As explained above, all students entering university education before the age of 30 (or 35 in the case of Master studies) are eligible for education benefits. However, in EU-SILC data we do not observe when students have entered education. Therefore, eligibility is granted in terms of current age instead of age at the beginning of studies. Furthermore, education benefits are only paid for the regular number of semesters that a study programme is supposed to last. Given that we do not observe this information in EU-SILC data, EUROMOD ignores this eligibility criterion.

2.4.6 Long-Term Care Benefits from Statutory Accident Insurance (*pdiac_de*)

Long-term care benefits from the statutory accident insurance are contributory benefits that depend on the employment history of the individual (eligibility) and the degree of injury.

- ***Definitions***

Degree of injury is measured in eight categories, i.e. 100% injury, 80%, 70%, 60%, 50%, 40%, 30%, and the minimum 25%. The unit of analysis is the individual.

- ***Eligibility Conditions***

Eligible individuals need to be insured in the statutory accident insurance. This is the case for all employees. Employers pay their contributions. Thus, it is checked in the simulation whether individuals have ever been in work before the spell (*liwwh>0*), and it is assumed that this is a sufficient condition for eligibility. In addition, civil servants are not eligible, as they are not insured in the statutory accident insurance, but they rather have their own insurance system.

- ***Income Test***

Long-term care benefits are contributory benefits. There is no income or wealth test, in the sense of a means test, to these benefits.

- ***Benefit Amount***

Taking into account the degree of injury, the monthly benefit amount is determined by the percentage value of injury (see Definitions) times the maximum benefit amount. In 2011, the maximum amount was 1,228 euros per month in West Germany (1,240 in 2012, 1,267 in 2013, 1,270 in 2014, 1,291 in 2015 and 1,318 in 2016) and 1,075 euros in East Germany (1,086 in 2012, 1,111 in 2013, 1,148 in 2014, 1,177 in 2015 and 1,206 in 2016). Thus, the benefit amount in the West lies between 307 (310; 317; 318; 323; 330) euros (25% of maximum amount) and the maximum amount above, and in the East between 269 (272; 278; 287; 294; 301) euros and the maximum amount above.

- ***EUROMOD Notes***

The degree of injury (*ddilv*) is inferred from inverting the benefit function based on the observed amount (similar to the entitlement basis, see Section 3.3.4), and the respective benefit amount is simulated. For those not in receipt, but eligible because they have been in work before the spell (*liwwh>0*), and because they report to be currently sick or disabled (*les=8*) and work zero hours (*lhw=0*), the minimum degree of injury (25%) is assumed and minimum benefits are imputed. The restriction on zero hours (*lhw=0*) is applied to help identify eligible individuals, as

long-term care benefits from the statutory accident insurance are really only paid if individuals are severely injured and cannot help themselves any more.

As there is no regional information available in the micro data for Germany, an average maximum benefit amount is assumed for all recipients at the simulation. This average is a weighted average of the maximum rates for the East and the West. The weights are the population shares for the East and the West for the respective years (e.g. in 2011 the East was weighted 21.38% and the West 78.62%). The resulting average maximum benefit amount is 1,195 euros (1,207 for 2012, 1,234 for 2013, 1,244 for 2014, 1,266 for 2015 and 1,294 for 2016).

2.4.7 Sickness Benefits (*bhl_de*)

Individuals insured by the statutory health insurance are entitled to sickness benefits (*Krankengeld der gesetzlichen Krankenversicherung*). Individuals privately insured can contribute to an additional insurance that entitles them to sickness benefits too (*private Pflegezusatz- und Krankentagegeldversicherung*).

- ***Definitions***

All individuals who are not civil servants are assumed to be insured either in the statutory or in a private health insurance, depending on their income. It is assumed that all individuals, for whom private insurance is simulated, also contribute to this additional health insurance. Civil servants are not entitled to these sickness benefits, as they are covered by a separate system. Unit of analysis is the individual.

- ***Eligibility Conditions***

Individuals need to fulfil the status of sickness, which is checked for in the simulation by conditioning on the variable for economic status (*les=8*), i.e. individuals report being in the status "sick or disabled". They should not be civil servants, and they should be employed for less than 12 months during the observed year (*liwmy<12*), which is supposed to indicate that there is a relevant spell of sickness. They are further categorised in either statutory or private health insurance, in self-employed and not self-employed, and in employed or unemployed.

- ***Income Test***

Sickness benefits are contributory benefits. There is no income or wealth test, in the sense of a means test, to these benefits. However, assignment to statutory and to private health insurance is determined by pre-spell after-social-contributions income from employment (*il_ntpy*, also see Section 3.3.4) and the threshold for statutory health insurance.

- ***Benefit Amount***

The benefit amount depends on the type of health insurance, statutory or private, and on the benefit entitlement basis, which is previous-year after-social-contributions income from employment. The minimum benefit rate for the statutory health insurance is 70% of the entitlement basis, and for the private health insurance it is 80%. This minimum rate applied to the benefit entitlement basis determines the benefit level.

The resulting benefit amount moreover differs for those employed and those unemployed. It is also different for the self-employed. Generally, the health insurance has to pay the employee share of social security contributions on the benefit amount. For those who are not self-employed, contributions to statutory pension insurance for employees (9.95%), to long-term care insurance (0.85%), and to unemployment insurance (2.10%) are paid and thereby reduce the benefit amount. For the self-employed, only contributions to statutory pension insurance are

subtracted, however, the entire rate assuming the self-employed have to pay the employer's share as well (19.9%). For the unemployed, the social security contributions are covered by the health insurance, and thus benefit amounts are not reduced.

- ***EUROMOD Notes***

Severity of the illness is not observed. Thus, for all entitled individuals only the minimum benefit level (70% for statutory health insurance and 80% for private health insurance) is assumed. The benefit entitlement basis is approximated differently for those employed and for those unemployed. For those employed, i.e. those who are not in receipt of unemployment benefits I (*bunct_s=0*), the general proxy for pre-spell income is applied (*il_ntpy*, also see Section 3.3.4). For those in receipt of unemployment benefits I (*bunct_s>0*), it is assumed that this is receipt equals the entitlement basis and it is applied to determine the benefit amount.

2.4.8 Unemployment Benefits II and Social Benefits (*bunnc_de*)

Unemployment benefits II are means-tested benefits to cover the needs of people who are not employed and not in receipt of contributory unemployment benefits. In addition, social benefits are supposed to capture people who live together with recipients of unemployment benefits II but who are themselves not eligible to them, typically children, in order to cover their needs as well.

- ***Definitions***

Unemployment benefits II are means tested with respect to income and wealth. Means are determined by the needs of the "community" (*Bedarfsgemeinschaft*), which includes – if applicable - the partner (married or not, but living in the same household) and dependent children up to 25 years of age. This is the unit of analysis.

- ***Eligibility Conditions***

All individuals aged 15 or older, but younger than 65, who are able to work for at least three hours per day are eligible for "unemployment benefits II". Students eligible to education benefits and old-age pensioners are not eligible. Unemployment is no requirement for entitlement, and there is no limitation for the hours worked. However, unemployment benefits I may be received at the same time. Children need to be aged younger than 14, or younger than 18 and permanently unable to work, to be eligible to social benefits. They need to live in households receiving unemployment benefits II.

- ***Income Test***

Unemployment benefits II are means tested with respect to income and wealth of the entire household. This means that the household's income and wealth are considered for the determination of needs, except for some allowances. This is usually done by a means test with regard to income and wealth. The amount of exemption for wealth for those born after 1948 consists of a basic allowance of 750€ plus 3,100€ per child and plus the minimum of 9,750€ and the maximum of 150€ multiplied by the recipient's age and 3,100€. These rates have been constant over the years 2011 to 2015. The composition of the exemption changes for those born before 1948. For them, it amounts to a basic allowance of 750€ plus 3,100€ per child and plus the minimum of 33,800€ and the maximum of 520€ multiplied by their age and 3,100€. Depending on the number of household members the income threshold per month is calculated by the amount of the basic rates and the monthly rent including heating, with regard to household composition.

While the household's income and wealth are generally considered for the determination of needs, there are allowances granted, for income from employment. Benefits are unaffected by

an additional (gross) employment income of 100 euros per month. Employment income between 101 and 800 euros (101 and 1,000 from 2012 on) reduces benefits at a rate of 80%, income between 800 and 1,200 euros (1,000 and 1,200 from 2012 on) at a rate of 90% (1,500 euros for households with children), and income above 1,200 euros is deducted at 100%. The allowance for wealth depends on the age of the adults in the household; a minimum allowance of 3,100 euros and a maximum allowance of 13,000 euros are granted.

For each child younger than 18, a wealth allowance of 3,100 euros is granted. Since mid-2010, for individuals born before 1 January 1958, a maximum allowance of 9,750 euros is granted, for those born between 1958 and 1963, 9,900 euros, and for those born between 1964 and 1993, 10,050 euros are granted.

For social benefits, the same income test as for unemployment benefits II applies.

- ***Benefit Amount***

The resulting amount of benefits is determined by the number of adults and children in the household, where for the latter their age is of relevance. The basic benefit rate, which is relevant for a single household, 364 euros per month in 2011, 374 euros in 2012, 382 euros in 2013, 391 euros in 2014, 399 euros in 2015 and 404 euros in 2016. In case of two adults in an eligible household, each adult older than 25 years is entitled to 90% of the basic rate. Each child aged 15-25 and able to work is entitled to 80%, and there are (lower) benefit amounts for children aged 0 to 6, aged 7 to 14 and aged 15 to 18. In addition to the basic benefits, costs for housing and heating, up to a maximum amount, which depends on the size of the household, are covered in the context of "unemployment benefits II". These maximum amounts are closely aligned to the benefit rates from housing benefits. Moreover, contributions to statutory health and old-age pension insurances are paid. Benefit amounts for social benefits depend on the age of the children, and are a fixed age-dependent fraction of the regular benefit rate for unemployment benefits II.

- ***EUROMOD Notes***

The income of the household that is relevant for the means test is disposable household income (*il_dispyc*), including market income from employment, pension income, and generally all benefits, except for social assistance, are considered, accounting for social security contributions and income tax.[2] The relevant disposable income excludes benefits and pensions that are not primarily supposed to cover basic needs (*pdiac_s; bhlps_s; pdiss_s; pdi00; pdiot; psuwd; psuor; pdiwr*). However, the income that is relevant when determining the amount of additional earnings from employment a recipient has earned is gross earnings income (*ils_earns*), where the allowances account for the respective social security contributions the recipient has paid.

The rent that is covered in the context of unemployment benefits II is assumed to be the actual rent that is reported, but imputations have been made (*xhcrt*, also see Section 3.3.5). The maximum rents covered have been closely aligned to benefit rates from housing benefits. Calculation of maximum rents is taken from the national tax and benefit microsimulation model for Germany, which is based on SOEP data.[3] Average maximum amounts, differentiated by household size, have been applied from the national model.

Heating costs have also been applied from the national model, where they have been applied from the SOEP data and estimated from household size, flat size, and region for households not

[2] Here, all benefits that are simulated earlier in the spine than unemployment benefits II are applied in the simulated amount, while relevant benefits that are simulated later in the spine (*bchot_de*), or not simulated at all (*ils_pen, byr, ysv, bho, bunot, buntr*), are applied in its observed amount.

[3] For documentation of the national tax and benefit microsimulation model for Germany, see Steiner, Viktor, Katharina Wrohlich, Peter Haan und Johannes Geyer (2008).

reporting them. Average heating costs by household size are applied. They amount to 75 euros per month for a single household in 2011 (96 euros for two persons, 110 for three, 119 for four, and 134 for five and more persons).[4]

The total amount of housing costs that is covered in the context of unemployment benefits II results from actually paid rents (*xhcrt*), up to the respective maximum amount, added the lump-sum allowance for heating costs. This maximum housing allowance also applies identically to old-age assistance (*bsaoa_de*) and to general social assistance (*bsa00_de*).

Observed financial assets (*afc*) have been applied for the means test on wealth. The wealth test is passed if household financial assets are zero after accounting for all wealth allowances. If the wealth test is not passed by the household all its members are assumed to be not eligible to unemployment benefits II. This wealth test is applied in the same way to *bsa00_de* and *bsaoa_de*. Note that it differs from the wealth applied to education benefits (*bed_de*), where the residual wealth holdings, after allowances have been accounted for, do not affect eligibility directly, but reduce the benefit amount.

At social benefits, eligibility is conditioned on receipt of unemployment benefits II. These households can have a member with income from employment (*yem>0*), because social benefits are dedicated to children who have no income from employment (*yem=0*) and live in households receiving unemployment benefits II (*bunnc_s>0*). Thereby, the same income and wealth means-test from unemployment benefits II is also implied for receipt of social benefits and thus not repeated explicitly when simulating the part related to social benefits.

2.4.9 Maternity Leave Benefits (*bmact_de*)

Maternity-leave benefits are contributory benefits paid for by the statutory health insurance system for six weeks before the child's birth and eight weeks thereafter in order to compensate foregone income from employment.

- ***Definitions***

This time frame of benefit receipt is called the time of maternity leave, where mothers are not allowed to work by law. Receipt is related to mothers, but eligibility is related to a baby in the household. Thus, the unit of analysis is sometimes the individual and sometimes the family.

- ***Eligibility Conditions***

All mothers who are employed and insured by the statutory health insurance, at the time when the time of maternity leave starts for them, are eligible to maternity-leave benefits. No contributions of a specific amount, or for a specific time, need to be made. The only differentiation that is made is between full-time and part-time employment.

- ***Income Test***

Maternity leave benefits are contributory benefits. There is no income or wealth test, in the sense of a means test, to these benefits. However, there is a differentiation made at the benefit amount between part-time and full-time employment. This is done applying a proxy for pre-spell income from employment (*il_ntpy*, also see Section 3.3.4).

[4] Information from the national model has been applied because maximum rents and heating costs covered by unemployment benefits II could not have been estimated from the EU-SILC data due to crucial regional information missing for Germany.

- ***Benefit Amount***

The level of benefits amounts to a maximum of 13 euros per day, which is 385 euros per month. Benefits are reduced if employment was less than full time before the spell down to 210 euros per month. These rates have been constant over the years 2011 to 2016. These amounts are multiplied by a factor of 3.5/12 when aggregating up to year to account for the fact that maternity leave benefits are only granted for a time of 3.5 months.

- ***EUROMOD Notes***

In the simulation, the identification of eligible mothers suffers from the problem that eligible mothers cannot easily be identified *before* they gave birth. Eligibility conditions on female gender (*dgn=0*), being a parent, not working (*liwmy=0*), and the presence of dependent children aged one year or younger in the family. By the latter condition, on the one hand eligible mothers that did not give birth to their first child yet are excluded, although they should be included. But, on the hand mothers who are not eligible anymore because their giving birth is already more than eight weeks ago are included, although they should be excluded. This inevitable error made in the simulation needs to be kept in mind when comparing recipient rates and aggregate amounts to external statistics.

Also the employment level before the spell is not observed, but it can be approximated by months ever in work (*liwwh*), a proxy for pre-spell income (*il_ntpy*, also see Section 3.3.4), and current receipt of unemployment benefits I (*bunct_s*). Those who have either zero pre-spell income (*il_ntpy=0*), or zero months ever in work (*liwwh=0*), or receipt of unemployment benefits I (*bunct_s>0*) are assumed to have been unemployed before the spell. For them, benefits according to part-time employment are assigned. Those with some months ever in work (*liwwh>0*), no receipt of unemployment benefits (*bunct_s=0*), and some non-zero pre-spell income (*il_ntpy>0)*, are assumed to have been employed before the spell. If their pre-spell income exceeds the average employment income of women working 30 hours per week, as observed in the data, they are assumed to have been working full-time before the spell, and benefit amounts for full-time work are imputed. In case pre-spell income is lower, part-time work is assumed and benefit amounts follow accordingly.

Resulting benefits (*bmact_s*) are allocated to the mothers in the household. This must be consistent with the allocation of parental leave benefits (*bplct_de*), so that these benefits can be withdrawn from each other.

2.4.10 Parental Leave Benefits (*bplct_de*)

Parental-leave benefits were implemented in 2007 and substituted the formerly applied "*Erziehungsgeld*". While "*Erziehungsgeld*" was a lump-sum transfer, parental leave benefits are contributory benefits. They are non-means-tested benefits that replace a fraction of parents' foregone net labour earnings in case they suspend employment due to the birth of a child. The latest reform has entered into force in July 2016 and will be modelled starting from 2017 onwards.

- ***Definitions***

Receipt can be related to mothers or to fathers because both are generally eligible to parental leave benefits. Eligibility is also related to a baby in the household. Thus, the unit of analysis is sometimes the individual, sometimes the couple of partners in the household and sometimes the family.

- ***Eligibility Conditions***

Parental-leave benefits are paid – in addition to child benefits -- for a time frame of up to 12 months following the birth of the child. Benefit duration can be prolonged for another two months if parents share parental-leave time such that each of them suspends work for at least two months. Alternatively to suspension, part-time work of up to 30 hours per week is allowed.

- ***Income Test***

Parental leave benefits are contributory benefits. There is no income or wealth test, in the sense of a means test, to these benefits.

- ***Benefit Amount***

The minimum level of parental-leave benefits is 300 euros per month, which is paid in case the recipient was unemployed before the child's birth or net income was below 300 euros. The maximum benefit level is 1,800 euros per month, which is paid if net income was 2,770 euros or more. In between, benefits generally amount to 67% of net income, considerably more for low income and slightly less for high incomes. These rates have been constant over the years 2011 to 2016.

- ***EUROMOD Notes***

Eligibility is conditioned in the simulation on number of months in work during the observed year to be less than 12 (*liwmy<12*). Thereby an error is inevitable, because it is not reported which part of these months out of work actually belong to a spell of parental-leave benefit receipt.

Moreover, it is not observed who of the two parents is currently in receipt of benefits, the mother, or the father, even in case a receipt of the couple if observed. Therefore, the simulation differentiates between the cases that the mother works more hours than the father and the opposite situation. It is accounted for the fact that the mother is in receipt of parental-leave benefits for some months in any case, whereas the father can opt to take the father months or not. It is assumed that in case the mother is observed working more hours (*lhw*) than her partner that the father takes some of the father months so that the average joint income of the spouses is the relevant income for benefit entitlement. However, in case the father works more hours, which is the dominant case in the data, it is assumed that the mother is in parental leave most time of the year so that only her income determines the amount of parental leave benefits. The respective relevant pre-spell income is determined by the general proxy for pre-spell income for contributory benefits (*il_ntpy*, also see Section 3.3.4).

Mothers working zero hours (*lhw=0*) with a pre-spell income below 300 euros per month get a minimum benefit amount of 300 euros per month assigned, while those with pre-spell income above 300 euros get the regular rate of 67% of their pre-spell income if it is greater than the minimum amount, but at maximum they get the maximum amount of 1,800 euros. In any case, maternity-leave benefits received are deducted from parental-leave benefits.

Mothers working non-zero hours (*lhw>0*), but less than the maximum allowed number of hours (*lhw<=30*), get benefits assigned according to their pre-spell income. The standard rate is applied (67%), within the range of minimum and maximum benefit amounts, and maternity-leave benefits received are deducted.

If mothers work more than the maximum hours allowed (*lhw>30*), but the fathers work less than maximum, benefits are assigned to the fathers. The pre-spell income of the fathers is relevant in this case. Benefit amounts are assigned accordingly, within minimum and maximum range, and maternity benefits are accounted for.

Generally, parental-leave benefits are simulated after maternity-leave benefits in the EUROMOD spine, in order to account for the fact that maternity-leave benefits are deducted from parental-leave benefits in case of receipt for both.

2.4.11 Housing benefits *(bho_de)*

- ***Definitions***

Housing benefits (*Wohngeld*) provide financial help for covering part of the costs of accommodation and are means-tested.

- ***Eligibility Conditions***

Eligibility is based on household income. Additionally, recipients of unemployment benefits II (*bunnc_s*), old-age social assistance (*bsaoa_s*) and basic social assistance (*bsa00_s*) cannot receive housing benefits (and vice versa). Some individuals may qualify for both benefits, in which case they have to decide for one of them.

- ***Income Test***

The relevant income for receiving housing benefits (Y in the formula below) is made up of all sources of gross income (including contributive benefits) with some deductions. Deductions amount, at least, to 6% of all gross earnings. The deduction goes up to 10% if either health and long-term care insurance contributions, or pension insurance contributions, or income taxes are paid. The deduction amounts to 20% for those individuals that pay health, long-term care and pension contributions, or for those that pay income taxes plus some kind of social security contributions. Finally, the deduction is 30% for those individuals that pay both taxes and all three kinds of social security contributions. Furthermore, the following quantities can be deducted in three cases: (1) 100 to 125 Euros per month for each disabled person living in the household (depending on the degree of disability), (2) 50 Euros per month for each child under the age of 12 living with a lone parent, (3) 50 Euros per month per child under the age of 25 with own income.

- ***Benefit Amount***

The monthly benefit amount (in Eur) is calculated through the following formula: Z*[M-(a+b*M + c*Y)*Y], where M stands for the relevant housing rent, Y for the relevant income, and Z, a, b, and c are parameters that vary according to household size and have stayed constant for the years 2011-2015 and increased from 2016 on.

The relevant housing rent, M, is computed as the actual rent as long as it does not exceed a maximum determined by law, which varies across municipalities.

If the formula above yields less than 10 Euro per month, no housing benefits are paid.

- ***EUROMOD Notes***

The housing benefits law defines six possible categories of rent prices (from very low rents to very high rents). Each municipality determines which category reflects its rent prices. Due to missing regional information in SILC, the model assumes that the maximum rent eligible to be financially supported by the housing benefits is that of the median price category.

Both housing benefits (*bho_s*) and additional child benefits (*bchot_s*) cannot be received simultaneously with either unemployment benefits II (*bunnc_s*), old-age social assistance (*bsaoa_s*) or basic social assistance (*bsa00_s*). However, some individuals – especially those with own low market earnings and/or with children – may qualify for both, in which case the model assumes individuals decide for the alternative that yield the highest financial help. This correction is carried out at the end of the additional child benefits policy, *bchot_de*.

2.4.12 Social Assistance for Old-age and for Reduced Work Ability (*bsaoa_de*)

Social assistance for old-age and for reduced ability to work ensures the basic needs for living for older people and for those individuals who are permanently fully incapacitated for work.

- ***Definitions***

Old-age social assistance and social assistance for reduced work cover individuals who are not eligible to unemployment benefits II because they are not able to work at least three hours per day. The unit of analysis is the concept of "community" (*Bedarfsgemeinschaft*) used for unemployment benefits II (*bunnc_de*).

- ***Eligibility Conditions***

Individuals should have either 65 years of age or more, or they should be 18 years or older and permanently unable to work at least three hours per day to be eligible to old-age social assistance or social assistance for reduced work. Generally, recipients cannot receive income from unemployment benefits II. Thus, eligibility is conditioned on no in receipt of either unemployment benefits II (*bunnc_s=0).*

Social assistance for reduced ability to work conditions in addition on age at least 18 but not older than 65, being disabled, not working *(lhw=0 & liwmy=0*), and on household composition. However, old-age social assistance in addition conditions on age at least at statutory pension age (65).

- ***Income Test***

There is a means test on income and wealth for eligibility to old-age social assistance and social assistance for reduced work ability. There are allowances for income and wealth, which depend on household composition and the age of household members. The income allowances are calculated by the amount of the basic rates and the monthly rent, including heating, with regard to the number of household members. These allowances for income are the same as for unemployment benefits II (*bunnc_de*, see Section 2.4.8).

The relevant household income is calculated as follows: disposable income, excluding social assistance and minimum parental-leave benefits; minus a 30% allowance on earned income, up to 50% of basic benefit rate, and excluding benefits and pensions that are not primarily supposed to cover basic needs (*pdiac_s; bhlps_s; pdiss_s; pdi00; pdiot; psuwd; psuor; pdiwr*).

The amount of exemption for wealth for singles born after 1948 is 1,600€ (base rate) per month. For households with more than one individual, there is an additional 614€ per adult (except for the head of household) and 256€ per child added to the basic rate. For those born before 1948, the base rate increases up to 2,600€. The basic benefit rate for old-age assistance is closely related to the basic rate from unemployment benefits II.

- ***Benefit Amount***

There is a regular benefit rate, which is the same regular rate as for unemployment benefits II (369 euros per month in 2011). The exact benefit amount of social assistance for old-age and

reduced work ability is a function of this regular rate and the number of adults and children in the household, as well as the rent paid.

Amounts of old-age social assistance are different for single households and for couple households. Generally, the head of the household gets the full basic rate (369 euros in 2011) and the partner of the head 90% of this rate. Housing expenditures (*xhcrt*) are also covered, but only up to a maximum amount, which depends on the household size and is closely aligned to benefit rates from housing benefits. In addition heating costs are covered.

Amounts of social assistance for reduced ability to work are differentiated for singles and couples without children, families with children, and multiple adult households without children. Generally, if there is someone in the household eligible, the household head gets the basic rate (369 euros in 2011); the partner of the head gets 90% of this rate, and each of the children gets a reduced rate which is determined for the age category to which the children belong. Other adults in the household that are not partner of the head also get the full rate. Housing expenditures are accounted for in the same manner as for unemployment benefits II (see *bunnc_de*).

- ***EUROMOD Notes***

The income of the household that is relevant for the means test is disposable household income (*il_dispyc*). The same income variable as at *bunnc_de* has been applied. It includes market income from employment, pension income, and generally all benefits, except for other benefits in the context of social, accounting for social security contributions and income tax. It excludes benefits and pensions that are not primarily supposed to cover basic needs (*pdiac_s; bhlps_s; pdiss_s; pdi00; pdiot; psuwd; psuor; pdiwr*).

The rent that is covered in the context of social assistance is assumed to be the actual rent that is reported, but imputations have been made (*xhcrt*, also see Section 3.3.5). The same maximum amounts as at unemployment benefits II (*bunnc_de*) apply. Also the same approximations to heating costs and to maximum rents covered as under *bunnc_de* have been applied for *bsaoa_de*.

Observed financial assets (*afc*) have been applied for the means test on wealth. The wealth test is passed if household financial assets are zero after accounting for all wealth allowances. If the wealth test is not passed by the household all its members are assumed to be not eligible to unemployment benefits II (see Section 2.4.5).

It is not observed in the data whether the individual is actually able to work at least three hours per day or not. This information shall thus be approximated in the simulation by the conditions: not actively looking for a job (*lowas=0*), having worked for zero hours per week (*lhw=0*) and spent zero months in employment during the year (*liwmy=0*).

2.4.13 General Social Assistance (*bsa00_de*)

Individuals who are not able to work at least three hours per day – either because they are aged 65 or older, or because they are aged 18-65 and physically not able to work --, and who are not covered by social assistance for old-age and reduced work ability, are entitled to general social assistance. This shall secure a minimum income for everybody.

- ***Definitions***

These benefits are means tested with respect to income and wealth and they are determined by the needs of the entire household. Thus, unit of analysis is the household.

- ***Eligibility Conditions***

Recipients of general social assistance need to be unable to work at least three hours per day. Recipients need to be aged between 18 and 65, and they cannot receive income from any of the following benefits: education benefits (*bed_s=0*), unemployment benefits II (*bunnc_s=0*), and social assistance for old-age and reduced work ability (*bsaoa_s=0*).

- ***Income Test***

These benefits are means tested with respect to income and wealth and they are determined by the needs of the entire household. This means that the household's income and wealth are considered for the determination of needs, except for allowances. The allowances for income and wealth depend on household composition and the age of household members. Allowances are generally very similar to the ones as at social assistance for old-age and reduced work ability (*bsoao_de*, see 2.4.12).

The relevant household income is calculated as follows: disposable income, excluding social assistance and minimum parental-leave benefits, minus a 30% allowance on earned income, up to 50% of basic benefit rate, and excluding benefits and pensions that are not primarily supposed to cover basic needs (*pdiac_s; bhlps_s; pdiss_s; pdi00; pdiot; psuwd; psuor; pdiwr*).

The amount of exemption for wealth for singles born after 1948 is 1,600€ (base rate). For households with more than one individual, there is an additional 614€ per adult (except for the head of household) and 256€ per child added to the basic rate. For those born before 1948, the base rate increases up to 2,600€. Again, the income threshold is calculated by the amount of the basic rates and the monthly rent including heating with regard to the number of household members. These rates have been constant over the years 2011 to 2016.

- ***Benefit Amount***

There is a regular benefit rate, which is the same regular rate as for unemployment benefits II (369 euros per month in 2011). The exact benefit amount of general social assistance is a function of this regular rate and the number of adults and children in the household, as well as the rent paid. They are the same as for social assistance for reduced ability to work (*bsaoa_de*).

Benefit amounts are differentiated for singles and couples without children, families with children, and multiple adult households without children. Generally, if there is someone in the household eligible, the household head gets the basic rate (369 in 2011 euros); the partner of the head gets 90% of this rate, children older than 18 get 80%, and younger children are classified into 3 age categories that determine the level of the benefit. Other adults in the household that are not partner of the head also get the full rate. Housing expenditures are accounted for in the same manner as for old-age social assistance (see *bsaoa_de*).

- ***EUROMOD Notes***

The income of the household that is relevant for the means test is disposable household income (*il_dispyd*). The same income variable as at *bunnc_de* has been applied. It includes market income from employment, pension income, and generally all benefits, except for other benefits in the context of social, accounting for social security contributions and taxes. It excludes benefits and pensions that are not primarily supposed to cover basic needs (*pdiac_s; bhlps_s; pdiss_s; pdi00; pdiot; psuwd; psuor; pdiwr*).

The rent that is covered in the context of social assistance is assumed to be the actual rent that is reported, but imputations have been made (*xhcrt*, also see Section 3.3.5). The same maximum amounts as at unemployment benefits II (*bunnc_de*) apply. Also the same approximations to heating costs and to maximum rents covered as under *bunnc_de* have been applied for *bsaoa_de*.

Observed financial assets (*afc*) have been applied for the means test on wealth. The wealth test is passed if household financial assets are zero after accounting for all wealth allowances. If the wealth test is not passed by the household all its members are assumed to be not eligible to unemployment benefits II (see Section 2.4.5).

2.4.14 Additional Child Benefits (*bchot_de*)

Additional child benefits are social benefits that are supposed to help families, in which parents receive income and child benefits covering their own needs according to "unemployment benefits II", but not the needs of the dependent children entirely.

- ***Definitions***

The unit of analysis is the family, defined as at the simulation of child benefits.

- ***Eligibility Conditions***

To be eligible, dependent children need to be eligible to child benefits (*bch00_s>0*), be aged 25 or younger, and in addition be unmarried and live in the same household with their parents. Note how this condition varies from the eligibility condition at child benefits, where dependent children may live in an own household.

- ***Income Test***

The level of the additional child allowance depends on the children's needs and the household's income and wealth. It is reduced if household income exceeds the parents' needs, or if the household holds wealth exceeding an allowance.

There is an income test on eligibility. Disposable household income needs to fall between two thresholds, such that households fulfil minimum income requirements, but do not exceed at maximum level. Generally, income must cover the parents' needs, but not the needs of the children, so that households receiving only general social assistance, or unemployment benefits II are usually not eligible for the additional child benefits.

For the period 2011-2016, this lower income threshold of the income test is a lump-sum amount of 600 euros per lone parent and 900 euros per couple. The respective upper limit is the lower limit plus the number of children multiplied by the maximum benefit amount (140 euros per month). Each of the lower and upper limits is topped up by an additional allowance for housing expenses. These are based on the actual rent paid (*xhcrt*) multiplied by a factor lower than one, which varies by number of children (it is 0.7553 in case of one child, 0.6068 for two children, 0.5071 for three, 0.4355 for four, and 0.3817 in case of five children).

These factors are different for couple parents (0.832 for one child, 0.7123 for two children, 0.6227 for three, 0.5531 for four, and 0.4975 for five children). Apart from that, income thresholds are determined in the same manner for couple parents.

The income of the household that needs to fall within in the lower and upper limits is disposable household income, after social contributions and including simulated benefits, but before income taxes. It explicitly excludes child benefits, housing benefits, maternity-leave benefits, and parental-leave benefits.

- ***Benefit Amount***

The maximum amount of these benefits for the period 2011-2016 is 140 euros per month and entitled child (a higher amount of 160 euros per month and entitled child will apply from July 2016 on, for which it will not be modelled for 2016). It is paid if households pass the income test. It is reduced by the family's income as far as it exceeds the lower threshold for benefit

eligibility, by a fraction of 50%. It is further reduced by children's own income, market or replacement income, and if households hold wealth exceeding certain allowances, which are the same as for general social assistance.

- ***EUROMOD Notes***

When benefit amounts are simulated, receipt is conditioned on receipt of child benefits (*bch00_s>0*), and on the relevant household income falling within the relevant income range. In case this income test is passed, the basic benefit rate (140 euros) is assigned for each dependent child in the household. Relevant assets, after accounting for allowances, and averaged per month, are subtracted from benefit amounts.

In addition, the simulation of this policy includes an adjustment mechanism that checks whether households are better off receiving any combination of bunnc_s, bsaoa_s or bsa00_s or receiving any combination of bho_s and bchot_s. Households within a determined income range – usually households with children - may qualify for both kinds of state assistance but necessarily need to choose one. The program here assumes that households do choose the option that yields the highest financial gain and sets the benefit amount of the other option to zero. In reality, households that do qualify for both systems are free to choose the system they like the most (for instance, in terms of reporting requirements) and might not choose the best financial option.

2.5 Social contributions

Generally, social contributions to all insurance systems have been simulated for most of the social groups. The relevant contribution rates for the single insurance systems are tabulated in Table 2.4. In Table 2.4, the entire contribution rates are displayed. These are, however, often shared between employers and employees. Therefore, subsequent tables show contribution rates to the respective system, differentiated by the single social groups.

Table 2.4 Social Security: Contribution Rates[1] and Assessment Ceilings

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Statutory pension insurance (*gesetzliche Rentenversicherung*)						
Contribution rate	19.9	19.6	18.9	18.9	18.7	18.7
Assessment ceiling (western Germany), € per month	5,500	5,600	5,800	5,950	6,050	6,200
Assessment ceiling (eastern Germany) , € per month	4,800	4,800	4,900	5,000	5,200	5,400
Average Assessment ceiling [2]	5,350	5,429	5,608	5,750	5,900	6,032
Statutory health insurance (*gesetzliche Krankenversicherung*)						
Contribution rate[3]	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.7
Assessment ceiling, euros per month	3,712.5	3,825	3,937.5	4,050	4,125	4,237.5
Threshold for compulsory insurance, euros per month (*Versicherungspflichtgrenze*)	4,125	4,237.5	4,350	4,462.5	4,575	4,687.5
Statutory long term care insurance (*soziale Pflegeversicherung*)	1.95	1.95	2.05	2.05	2.35	2.35
Employees above 23 years, born after 1940, w/o children (additionally)	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Saxony (additionally, in exchange for one more holiday)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Statutory unemployment insurance (*ges. Arbeitslosenversicherung*)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Statutory accident insurance (*gesetzliche Unfallversicherung*)	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60

Notes: [1] Contribution rates refer to the entire rate paid, i.e. the rate paid for by the employer, plus the rate paid for by the employee. [2] Weighted average with the census population shares. [3] From 2015 on, average additional rates have been assumed (these amount to 0.9% in 2015 and 1.1% in 2016).

Table 2.5 tabulates contribution rates to the statutory pension insurance over the years 2011 to 2016, differentiated by contribution rates for employers (for regular employment and for minijobs), employees, the self-employed, and pensioners.

Table 2.5 Social contributions: Statutory Pension Insurance (Rates in %)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Employer Contribution Rate						
Regular Employment (and Midijobs)	9.95	9.80	9.45	9.45	9.35	9.35
...Minijobs	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Employee Contribution Rate	9.95	9.80	9.45	9.45	9.35	9.35
Self-employed (in certain services) Contribution Rate[1]	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.90	18.70	18.70
Pensioner Contribution Rate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Notes: [1] This is the contribution rate to statutory pension insurance that has been assumed in the simulation for the self-employed in health and education services.

Table 2.6 tabulates contribution rates to the statutory health insurance over the years 2011 to 2016, differentiated by contribution rates for employers (for regular employment and for minijobs), employees, the self-employed, and pensioners. Starting from 2015 onwards, public health insurance companies (*gesetzliche Krankenkassen*) are able to set company-specific additional contributions from January 1 2015. These additional contributions are paid solely by the insured person (i.e. employees, self-employed and pensioners, but not their employers). Euromod assumes for each year the average additional contribution as published by the German government. These amount to 0.9% in 2015 and 1.1% in 2016.

Table 2.6 Social contributions: Statutory Health Insurance (Rates in %)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Employer Contribution Rate						
Regular Employment (and Midijobs)	7.30	7.30	7.30	7.30	7.30	7.30
...Minijobs	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00
Employee Contribution Rate	8.20	8.20	8.20	8.20	8.20	8.40
Self-employed Contribution Rate[1]	15.90	15.90	15.90	15.50	15.50	15.70
Pensioner Contribution Rate	8.20	8.20	8.20	8.20	8.20	8.40

Notes: [1] This is the contribution rate to statutory health insurance that has been assumed in the simulation for the self-employed who have income from self-employment below the threshold for statutory health insurance.

Table 2.7 tabulates contribution rates to the statutory long-term care insurance over the years 2011 to 2016, differentiated by contribution rates for employers (for regular employment and for minijobs), employees, the self-employed, and pensioners.

Table 2.7 Social contributions: Statutory Long-term Care Insurance (Rates in %)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Employer Contribution Rate						
Regular Employment (and Midijobs)	0.9750	0.9750	1.025	1.025	1.175	1.175
Minijobs	0.0000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Employee Contribution Rate						
Regular Rate	0.975	0.975	1.025	1.025	1.175	1.175
Additional Contribution Rate (for childless older 23)	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250
Self-employed Contribution Rate[1]	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pensioner Contribution Rate						
Regular Rate	1.950	1.950	2.050	2.050	2.350	2.350
Additional Contribution Rate (for childless older 23)	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250

Notes: [1] Long-term care insurance has not been simulated for the self-employed.

Table 2.8 tabulates contribution rates to the statutory unemployment insurance over the years 2011 to 2016, differentiated by contribution rates for employers (for regular employment and for minijobs), employees, the self-employed, and pensioners.

Table 2.8 Social contributions: Statutory Unemployment Insurance (Rates in %)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Employer Contribution Rate						
Regular Employment (and Midijobs)	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
...Minijobs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Employee Contribution Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Self-employed Contribution Rate[1]	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pensioner Contribution Rate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Notes: [1] Statutory unemployment insurance has not been simulated for the self-employed.

Table 2.9 tabulates contribution rates to the statutory accident insurance over the years 2011 to 2015, differentiated by contribution rates for employers (for regular employment and for minijobs), employees, the self-employed, and pensioners.

Table 2.9 Social contributions: Statutory Accident Insurance (Rates in %)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Employer Contribution Rate						
Regular Employment (and Midijobs)	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60
...Minijobs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Employee Contribution Rate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Self-employed Contribution Rate[1]	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pensioner Contribution Rate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Notes: [1] Statutory accident insurance has not been simulated for the self-employed.

Employees and employers are obliged to pay statutory social insurance contributions from gross wages and salaries, unless gross income exceeds certain thresholds, which allows employees to contract out of statutory health and pension insurance. Social insurance contributions are paid as fixed shares of gross income up to a contribution assessment ceiling. Gross income above this ceiling is disregarded. Employees who earn more than the assessment ceiling for statutory pension insurance may opt out of statutory pension insurance completely. Concerning statutory health insurance, a different threshold, i.e. the threshold for compulsory health insurance, determines who may opt out. Employees who earn salaries above this threshold may choose private health insurance instead. Private health insurance premiums do not depend on gross income, but mostly on age, gender, and prior health conditions.

Contributions have been simulated for statutory pension insurance, compulsory statutory health insurance, statutory long-term care insurance, statutory unemployment insurance, and statutory accident insurance. Contributions were differentiated for four groups: employers, employees, self-employed and pensioners. Contributions to private health insurance could not be simulated precisely, as they do not depend on income, but rather on individual characteristics, like health status, age, and individual-specific illness risks. In the simulations, average contributions (observed in the SOEP micro data) to private health insurance, differentiated by employees, self-employed, and pensioners, have been imputed.[5]

Civil servants are not covered by compulsory social insurance and are not obliged to pay contributions. The federal or state government provides financial assistance (approximately 50% to 80% of the expenses) in cases of illness, birth, long-term care and death and a retirement pension. Usually civil servants have a private health insurance to insure against health costs not covered by the government's financial assistance. However, social insurance contributions for civil servants have not been simulated.

2.5.1 Employer Social Contributions (*tscer_de*)

Generally, in case of employees, all social contributions are split equally between employees and employers. Exceptions are statutory health insurance, where the employer's contribution rate is 0.9 percentage points lower, and long term care insurance, where employees, who are 23 years of age or older and who do not have children, have a 0.25 percentage points higher contribution rate. Statutory accident insurance is paid by employers only. Employers' contribution rates to the respective insurances are tabulated in Table 2.10.

[5] The with-group distribution of contributions to private health insurance is relatively homogeneous over age-groups so that a further differentiation of contributions by age groups does not appear to deliver much more relevant variation.

Table 2.10 Employers' Social Security Contribution Rates (in %)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1. Pension social insurance (*tscerpi_s)*	9.950	9.800	9.450	9.450	9.350	9.350
2. Compulsory statutory health insurance *(tscerhl_s)*	7.300	7.300	7.300	7.300	7.300	7.300
3. Statutory long-term care insurance *(tscerci_s)*	0.975	0.975	1.025	1.025	1.175	1.175
4. Statutory unemployment insurance *(tscerui_s)*	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
5. Statutory accident insurance *(tscerac_s)*	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600
6. Compulsory statutory health insurance (Minijob) *(tscerhl_s)*	13.000	13.000	13.000	13.000	13.000	13.000
7. Statutory pension insurance (Minijob) *(tscerpi_s)*	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000
Total *(tscer_s)*	**21.325**	**21.175**	**20.875**	**20.875**	**20.925**	**20.925**
Total (Minijob) *(tscer_s)*	**28.000**	**28.000**	**28.000**	**28.000**	**28.000**	**28.000**

For mini jobs, employers have to pay contributions to statutory health and pension insurance. In 2011, the employer paid a lump sum contribution rate of 31.08%, which was reduced to 30.88% in 2012, to 30.99% in 2013 and 2014, and increased to 31.19% in 2015 and to 31.4% in 2016. It consists of health insurance (13ppt), pension insurance (15ppt), a lump sum for payroll tax, solidarity surcharge, and church tax (2ppt), and certain levies (1.18ppt in 2011, 0.88ppt in 2012, 0.99ppt in 2013 and 2014, 1.19ppt in 2015 and 1.42ppt in 2016) (see Minijob-Zentrale 2016). No contributions to the long term care insurance and the unemployment insurance have to be paid in mini jobs. For midi jobs, employers pay their standard contribution rates, comprised of statutory health, long-term care, pension, and unemployment insurance.

Contributions were simulated on the basis of *yem*, i.e. observed income from employment, adjusted for the actual number of months of employment during the year (*yemmy*). Unit of analysis is the individual. Eligibility for all insurances conditions on not being a civil servant and having income below the respective thresholds for compulsory statutory insurance. In case of private health insurance, i.e. when income exceeds the threshold for statutory health insurance, employers' contributions are zero because employees pay the entire rate themselves.

2.5.2 Employee Social Contributions (*tscee_de*)

Employees' contribution rates to the respective insurances are tabulated in Table 2.11. As explained above, employees do not need to contribute to the statutory accident insurance, because employers pay the entire rate. This is similar with social contributions in mini jobs.

For midi jobs, employee's social insurance contributions are faded in until they reach the full rates at a gross wage of €800. Fading-in of social contributions is determined by population-average social contribution rates (factor: 0.7435 in 2011, 0.7491 in 2012, 0.7605 in 2013 and 2014, 0.7585 in 2015 and 0.7547 in 2016).

Simulation proceeds in a similar manner to employers' contributions. Again, contributions were simulated on the basis of *yem*, i.e. observed income from employment, adjusted for the actual number of months of employment during the year (*yemmy*). Unit of analysis is the individual. Eligibility for all insurances conditions on not being a civil servant and having income below the respective thresholds for compulsory statutory insurance (also see Section 1.3 for more details on these thresholds). In case of private health insurance, an average contribution is imputed for all employees, for whom income exceeds the threshold. The imputed mean

contribution is the average contribution to private health insurance, paid for by employees in the SOEP data.

Table 2.11 Employees' Social Security Contribution Rates (in %)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1. Compulsory statutory pension insurance (*tsceepi_s)*	9.9500	9.8000	9.4500	9.4500	9.3500	9.3500
2. Compulsory statutory health insurance *(tsceehl_s)*	8.2000	8.2000	8.2000	8.2000	8.2000	8.4000
3. Statutory long-term care insurance *(tsceeci_s)*	0.9750	0.9750	1.0250	1.0250	1.1750	1.1750
4. Add. LTC contribution: childless older 23 *(tsceeci_s)*	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500
5. Statutory unemployment insurance *(tsceeui_s)*	1.5000	1.5000	1.5000	1.5000	1.5000	1.5000
6. Statutory accident insurance *(tsceeac_s)*	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
7. Contributions factor for fading-in at Midi Jobs *(tsceehl_s)*	0.7435	0.7491	0.7605	0.7605	0.7585	0.7547
Total (tscee_s)	**20.8750**	**20.7250**	**20.425**	**20.425**	**20.475**	**20.675**

2.5.3 Self-Employed Social Contributions (*tscse_de*)

The self-employed are not covered by most of the statutory social insurances. Contributions to long-term care insurance, to unemployment insurance, and to accident insurance are entirely voluntary for the self-employed, and it cannot be assumed that self-employed opt for such insurances. Also, statutory health insurance is generally not compulsory for the self-employed in Germany, and most of the self-employed choose private health insurance. However, every individual in Germany is obliged to contribute to any health insurance, so that also the self-employed have to contribute to either of the two. Moreover, the self-employed are not generally obliged to contribute to compulsory pension insurance. However, certain groups of self-employed are obliged to contribute to statutory pension insurance. Compulsory pension insurance applies for self-employed teachers without employees, nurses, midwives, artists, publicists, and craftsmen.

Thus, only contributions to the statutory pension insurance and to statutory as well as private health insurance have been simulated for the self-employed. Mandatory contributions to the statutory pension insurance have been limited to those specific groups obliged to contribute, i.e. eligibility to pension insurance contribution is restricted to working either in education services, or in health services (*lindi*=10 or *lindi*=11), assuming that all income from self-employment in these services is subject to mandatory contributions to the statutory pension insurance. It is assumed that those obliged to contribute have to pay the entire rate (19.9% in 2011, 19.6% in 2012, 18.9% in 2013 and 2014, and 18.7% in 2015).

The self-employed have in general been identified by their income, rather than their labor status. This means simulations are based on income from self-employment (*yse*). Thereby, there may be individuals who pay contributions on both their pension income (*il_pen*) and on their income from self-employment (*yse*), but always in relation to respective income. However, eligibility is restricted to not reporting labor status employee (*les=3*), as the employees already pay contributions on their income from employment (*yem*).

Table 2.12 Self-employed Social Security Contribution Rates[1] (in %)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1. Compulsory statutory pension insurance (*tscsepi_s)*	19.9	19.6	18.9	18.9	18.7	18.7
2. Compulsory statutory health insurance (*tscsehl_s*)	14.9	14.9	14.9	15.5	15.5	15.7
Total *(tscse_s)*	**34.8**	**34.5**	**33.8**	**34.4**	**33.3**	**33.5**

Notes: [1] These are the contribution rates to statutory pension insurance and to statutory health insurance that have been assumed in the simulation for the self-employed (in health and education services only, for pension insurance). Long-term insurance, unemployment insurance, and accident insurance have not been simulated for the self-employed.

Self-employed with income from self-employment (*yse*) below the threshold for statutory health insurance, who do not report to be employees or civil servants, are assumed to contribute *voluntarily* to the statutory health insurance. They have to pay double the rate of employees as they have to pay the employer's share, too. For them, the income base that determines the contribution is the sum of income from self-employment, income from capital, and income from renting and leasing. Since 2009, there is a minimum and a maximum amount for this income.

Self-employed with income from self-employment (*yse*) *above* the threshold for statutory health insurance, who do not report to be employees or civil servants, are assumed to opt for private health insurance. In private health insurance, contributions do not depend on income, but on individual characteristics, like health status, age, and individual-specific illness risks. In the simulations, average contributions to private health insurance by the self-employed have been imputed. These averages are taken from the SOEP micro data.

Contribution rates for self-employed in the statutory systems are tabulated in Table 2.12. Income thresholds and contributions have *not* been adjusted according to the actual number of months spent in employment (*yemmy*) during the year, in order to account for the fact that income from self-employment is distributed highly unevenly over the year. Unit of analysis is the individual.

2.5.4 Pensioner Social Contributions (*tscpe_de*)

Pensioners only have to contribute to the health insurance and to long-term care insurance. Depending on their pension income, they are assumed to be either insured compulsorily in the statutory health and thereby also the long-term care insurance, or in the respective private insurances (see the thresholds above). If pensioners are insured in the statutory insurances, they have to pay 8.2% for health insurance and 1.95% for long-term care insurance in 2011. Accordingly to employees, childless pensioners, older than 23 and younger than 67, have to pay an add-on of 0.25% to long-term care insurance. The rates are tabulated in Table 2.13.

Pensioners, with income from public pensions (*ils_pen*) exceeding the threshold for statutory health insurance, are assumed to opt for private health insurance. As for employees and the self-employed, average contributions made by pensioners in the SOEP data have been imputed as contributions to private health insurance for the pensioners.

Table 2.13 Pensioners' Social Security Contribution Rates (in %)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1. Compulsory statutory health insurance *(tscpehl_s)*	8.20	8.20	8.20	8.20	8.20	8.40
2. Statutory long-term care insurance *(tscpeci_s)*	1.95	1.95	2.05	2.05	2.35	2.35
3. Additional LTC contribution: childless older 23 *(tscpeci_s)*	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Total *(tscpe_s)*	**10.40**	**10.40**	**10.50**	**10.50**	**10.80**	**11.00**

Simulations condition on not being a civil servant, assuming that this implies that pensioners have not been a civil servant earlier in life. Income thresholds and contributions are adjusted according to the actual number of months spent in retirement during the year. Unit of analysis is the individual.

2.6 Personal income tax

Income tax is levied on the income of natural persons. Tax on income from dependent employment is collected from persons in dependent employment at source via payroll tax. However, these pre-payments on income are not final, so that usually income tax is declared at the end of the year, where pre-payments from payroll tax are considered, but also other sources of income that are not related to dependent employment come into play.

The simulation of personal income tax is divided into three policies. In the first policy (*tin_de*), taxable income is derived, and in the following two policies (*tinit_de* and *tinjt_de*), the tax schedule function is applied to individual and respectively joint taxation.

2.6.1 Taxable Income (*tin_de*)

In this policy, taxable income is derived. First of all, parameters for the tax schedule, as well as for allowances and deductions are defined. Then, income from the various sources, as far as it is taxable, is collected (see Table 2.14). Unit of analysis when deriving taxable income is the individual. In case relevant parameters differ by individual and joint taxation (namely capital income), these components of taxable income are added later in the respective policy.

Table 2.14 Determination of taxable income according to German Income Tax Law (§ 2 EStG)

Legal income concepts and their components	**EStG**
Income from agriculture and forestry	§§ 13 - 14a
+ Income from business enterprise	§§ 15 - 17
+ Income from self-employment	§ 18
+ Income from dependent employment	§ 19
+ Income from capital	§ 20
+ Income from renting and leasing	§ 21
+ Other income	§ 22
= Positive income from all sources	**§ 2 III**
– Negative income (loss compensation)	
= Income from all sources	**§ 2 III**
– Tax allowance for elderly persons (for people over 64)	§ 24a
– Tax allowance for agriculture and forestry	§ 13 III
= Adjusted gross income	**§ 2 III**
– Special expenses (actual or lump-sum)	§§ 10 - 10c
– Extraordinary expenses (actual or lump-sum)	§§ 33 - 33c
– "Loss deductions" (reimbursements, loss carry forwards)	§ 10d
= Income	**§ 2 IV**
– Tax allowance for children (*Kinderfreibetrag*)	§ 32 VI
– Single parents' tax allowance (*Alleinerziehendenentlastungsbetrag*)	§ 24b
= **Taxable income** (the tax base)	§ 2
Progression Clause *(Progressionsvorbehalt)*	§ 32b
+ Unemployment Benefits	
+ Short-term Work Compensations	
+ Insolvency Benefits	
+ Severance Benefits	
+ Parental-leave Benefits	
+ Sickness benefits	
+ Injury Benefits	
+ Sickness Benefits for Military People	
+ Maternity-leave Benefits	
+ Transfer Short-term Work Compensations	
+ Seasonal Short-term Work Compensations	
+ Unemployment Benefits for Part-time Unemployment	
+ Benefits for Early Retirement	
+ Supplemented labour costs for employment	
= **Taxable income according to p.c.** (determining the tax rate)	§ 32b

Source: Steiner, Wrohlich, Haan, and Geyer (2008).

- ***Tax Base***

Income from employment, from self-employment, from property,[6] from other sources, and income in kind is entirely taxable and thus added up as observed (*il_taxy*). Since 2005, income from pensions is only taxable with a pre-defined part, which depends on the year of entrance into retirement in case of private pensions and on the age at entrance into retirement in case of

[6] Income from property is income from renting and leasing of non-owner occupied housing. This has been subject to personal income tax in all the years throughout 2011 to 2016. The change at the taxation of capital income does not apply to income from property.

statutory pensions, and it remains constant, conditional on these two. For income from private pensions, it is assumed that all pensioners entered retirement in the year 2011. For income from statutory old-age pensions, it is assumed that all pensioners entered regular retirement at the age of 65. These assumptions lead to errors in many cases, but some assumptions must be made, because year and age at entrance into retirement are not observed in the data. Under these assumptions, the taxable fraction of pensions, from statutory as well as private pension insurances (*il_pens*), for the observed cohort of pensioners, is 62% for non-civil servants. For civil servants, the fraction of pensions that is tax exempt is 30.4%, with a maximum threshold at 2,280 euros per year (as of 2011). It follows "taxable income before allowances".

- ***Tax Allowances***

Then, various allowances and deductions, which are assessed at the individual level, are deducted from "taxable income before allowances". They are listed in Table 2.15.

Table 2.15 Personal Income Tax: Allowances (2011-2015)

Allowances	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
- Tax allowance for elderly persons: tax-exempt income share	30.4	28.8	27.2	25.6	24.0	22.4
- Tax allowance for elderly persons: tax-exempt income threshold	1 444	1 368	1 292	1 216	1 140	1 064
- Tax allowance for agriculture and forestry: level	670	670	670	670	670	670
- Tax allowance for agriculture and forestry: income threshold	30 700	30 700	30 700	30 700	30 700	30 700
- Tax allowance for single parents (per lone parent)	1 308	1 308	1 308	1 308	1 608	1908
- Tax allowance for children (per child)	3 504	3 504	3 504	3 504	3 576	3 624
- Deduction of special expenses: alimonies: maximum	13 805	13 805	13 805	13 805	13 805	13 805
- Deduction of special expenses: income: income-related expenses	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000
- Tax-exemption of pensions for civil servants: share	30.4	28.8	27.2	25.6	24.0	22.4
- Tax-exemption of pensions for civil servants: maximum (level)	2 280	2 160	2 040	1 920	1 800	1 680
- Deduction of Special Expenses: Alimonies: minimum 36 euros lump sum	36	36	36	36	36	36

There is an allowance for income-related expenses. Typical expenses that fall into this category would be expenditure for commuting to work. There is a lump-sum allowance 1,000 euros per year that is applied in case income from employment (*yem*) exceeds 1,000 euros and the tax unit does not claim higher expenses.

EUROMOD Notes: A claim of higher expenses is not observed in the data, which is why the lumps-um allowance is assessed wherever it applies.

There is an allowance for deduction of expenditures for alimonies. The lump-sum minimum allowance is 36€ per year, which applies in case no higher expenses are claimed. Higher expenses are assessed if they have been reported in terms of maintenance payments (*xmp*), but only up to a maximum of 13,805 euros.

Then, there is an allowance for special expenses. Until 2009 (included), contributions made for old-age provision were deductible up to specific thresholds. These regulations differ for employees and pensioners. They have been subject to changes in the course of the Retirement Income Act in 2005. From then on, either the old 2004-law or the new 2005-law was applied, depending on which of the two was more profitable for the tax unit. In the model, for years

2007-2009 it is assumed that for all tax units, the old 2004-law is more profitable.[7] For employees, there is a basic allowance of 3,068€ per year, which is reduced by 16% of income from dependent employment (*yem*). This allowance is applied if *yem* amounts to a maximum of 19,175 euros. If *yem* is greater than 19,175 euros, the maximum allowance of 2,001€ per year is applied. In addition, there is a minimum allowance, which is a function of *yem* and the respective policy year. The minimum allowance amounts to 1,500 euros. For the self-employed, there is no lump-sum allowance of special expenses. It is assumed that they can deduct all their social security contributions (*tscse_s*), up to a maximum of 20% from total employment earnings. For pensioners, the allowance for special expenses is different for those with lower and those with higher contributions. If contributions below 4,402 euros per year have been made, all contributions (to the health and long-term care insurance) actually made are deductible. From contributions exceeding this threshold, 50% can be deducted, but 1,334 euros at maximum.

Deductions of old-age expenses are made up of the sum of three components: one based on the contributions made to the pension insurance, one based on the contributions made to health and long-term care insurance, and one for pensioners. The first component is computed as follows: 70% of all contributions to the pension insurance (including those of the employer, but maximum 20,000Eur/year) minus the contributions of the employer are deductible. The second component consists of all contributions to health and long-term care insurance made by the employee (or self-employed, or pensioner – but not the employer!). The third component is for pensioners and is calculated in the following way: 50% of all social security contributions paid by the pensioner exceeding 4,402Eur/year are deductible.

There is a tax allowance for elderly persons (*Altersentlastungsbetrag*; for people aged 64 and older). It consists of a fraction of their income that is tax exempt (30.4% in 2011, 28.8% in 2012, 27.2% in 2013, 25.6% in 2014, 24.0% in 2015 and 22.4% in 2016). The relevant income is the sum of income from all sources, except for income from public pensions. There is a maximum threshold for this allowance (1,444 in 2011, 1,368 in 2012, 1,292 in 2013, 1,216 in 2014, 1,140 in 2015 and 1,064 in 2016).

Then, there is a tax allowance for tax-payers in the agriculture and forestry sector. It amounts to 670 euros per year, but it is only granted in case total income from employment does not exceed 30,700 euros per year. This allowance was constant over the years.

Finally, there is a single parents' tax allowance, which is granted for single parents with at least one child in the household eligible to child benefits. The allowance amounts to 1,308 euros per year for the single-parent tax payer and it was constant between 2011 and 2014. In 2015 it was increased to 1,608 euros per year and in 2016 was further increased to 1,908 euros per year. The tax allowance for civil servants (*Versorgungsfreibetrag*) consists of the same fraction of income than for elderly persons, up to a maximum which is set every year (see Table 2.15).

Accounting for all these allowances and deductions, "taxable income" follows.

2.6.2 Individual Taxation (*tinit_de*)

In this policy sheet, the tax function is applied to the case of individual taxation. Generally, the simulation of the tax function is structured as follows:

1) Firstly, the relevant average tax rate is determined for all individuals who are subject to individual taxation, by applying taxable income and further accounting for progression clause (by adding related benefits to taxable income). Taxable income including

[7] The old 2004-law is more profitable if the basic lump-sum allowance for old-age provision deductions is greater than actual expenses. This is the case if actual expenses are lower than 1,500 euros per year and lower than 11% of gross employment income.

benefits is put into the schedule, and a tax burden is returned. This, however, is not the final burden, it only determines the rate. The resulting average tax rate -- applied to taxable income, *excluding benefits* – determines the relevant tax burden. This is the tax burden, before accounting for the child allowance.

2) Secondly, the child allowance is accounted for, in case it applies. It applies if the individual has at least one dependent child in the household that is eligible for child benefits (see Section 1.2.5 for eligibility criteria). The child allowance reduces taxable income if it applies. The tax burden is derived again. Again, progression clause must be accounted for, i.e. benefits are considered when the tax rate is determined, but they are excluded from the actually taxed income.

3) Now, a higher-yield test is undertaken in order to determine which of the two is more profitable for the tax unit, the application of the child allowance, or the receipt of child benefits. The reduction of tax burden resulting from the application of the allowance is compared to the annual receipt of child benefits for all eligible dependent children of the tax unit. If child benefits are more profitable, the child allowance is not applied. In case the child allowance is more profitable, it is applied and the sum of received child benefits is added to the tax burden (also see below at Tax Allowances). The child allowance is usually more profitable for the high-income individuals.

4) Next, tax burdens for the two groups, the childless and individuals with children are assembled in the variable *tinit_s*.

5) Then, the solidarity surcharge is computed (variable *txc_s*).

6) Finally, the solidarity surcharge is added to the previously computed tax burden, which is saved in the variable *tinit_s*. This is the relevant tax burden for each individual, and an average tax rate follows.

- ***Tax Unit***

Individual taxation has been simulated for all individuals who are either not married or who are married but do not live with a partner in the same household. The unit of analysis thus is the individual, in the entire policy. There is no need to allocate any income, allowance, or tax burden among partners, as each of them is taxed entirely individually, if subject to individual taxation.

- ***Tax Exemptions***

There are a couple of exemptions in German income tax law. As described before, a specific element of the German income tax law is the progression clause. Even though not included in the tax base, most of the contributory benefits are included in the base used to determine the tax bracket of the progressive income tax schedule. In this way these incomes may increase the income tax rate used for the other income sources that are subject to the income tax.

Progression clause is implemented in the simulation of individual taxation. The contributory benefits that are subject to progression clause are added to taxable income, and the resulting income determines the relevant tax bracket and rate. This rate in turn is, however, applied to taxable income, excluding the contributory benefits.

- ***Tax Allowances***

Besides the allowance that have already been introduced in Section 2.6.1, there is a tax allowance for children, which is granted for parents instead of child benefits in case this grant is more beneficiary for the tax payers than the child benefits. This allowance was amounted to 3,504 euros per year and child for the years 2011-2014 and was increased to 3,576 in 2015.

Since 2000, it includes an allowance for child care. The child allowance is not allocated among non-married parents. Each of the parents is eligible to the entire child allowance.

EUROMOD Notes: The child allowance needs specific treatment in the simulation. Due to the higher yield test, i.e. the check whether the child allowance is more beneficiary for the tax payers than the child benefits, income taxation needs to be simulated twice, once with and once without the child allowance. At individual taxation, the entire child allowance is considered at each parent filing individual taxation.

- ***Tax Base***

Income from six different sources is summed up for each individual. After loss compensation and several allowances and deductions are considered, taxable income, i.e. the tax base, is taxed according to a progressive tax schedule. Table 2.16 Personal Income Tax Schedule (2011) shows in more detail how taxable income is determined. Income from single components is added up and certain expenditures are credited against income, as well as certain allowances are granted. This has been described in detail in Section 2.6.1. In this policy (*tinit_de*), in addition capital income is added, and the relevant taxable income results.

EUROMOD Notes: Losses are not observed in the data. Thus, they are assumed to be zero, or negligibly small, such that they can be neglected in the simulation. Also any other specific extraordinary expenses that are not observed in the data are assumed to be negligible and are not considered in the simulation.

- ***Tax Schedule***

The tax schedule from the personal income taxation in Germany has progressive elements (see Table 2.16). Due to a basic tax-free allowance (8,004 euros per year from 2011 to 2012, 8,130 euros per year in 2013, 8,354 euros per year in 2014 and 8,472 euros per year in 2015) and several tax brackets beyond this allowance, the entire schedule has a progressive effect.

Table 2.16 Personal Income Tax Schedule (2011)

Bracket	Lower limit (for *Y*)	Upper limit (for *Y*)	Marginal Tax Rate (%)	Tax Burden (TAX)
1	0	8,004	0	$TAX = 0$ *(tax-free allowance)*
2	8,005	13,469	14-24	$TAX = (912.17*Z_1 + 1\,400)*Z_1$ $Z_1 = (Y - 8\,004)/10\,000$
3	13,470	52,881	24-42	$TAX = (228.74*Z_2 + 2\,397)*Z_2 + 1038$ $Z_2 = (Y - 13\,469)/10\,000$
4	52,882	250,730	42	$TAX = 0.42*Y - 8\,172$
5	250,731	-	45	$TAX = 0.45*Y - 15\,694$

Taxable income falls into five different tax brackets. There iss a basic tax allowance. Within the progressive tax schedule, the lowest marginal tax rate is at 14% and the highest at 45%. The latter applies to a taxable income above €250,001. The only flat areas, where the tax rate is constant, are in this highest bracket and in the second highest bracket, where a tax rate of 42% applies. Up to a marginal tax rate of 42%, the tax rate increases continuously and is determined by two different equations that apply within the two brackets.

This tax schedule is the base for all simulations, i.e. it applies to the determination of the relevant tax rate when accounting for progression clause, either with or without accounting for the child allowance. It also applies identically to individual and to joint taxation. At the latter it

applies to the mean income of the spouses. This means that the bracket thresholds are, loosely speaking doubled in case of joint taxation.

EUROMOD Notes: Several elements of the tax schedule (e.g. Z_1 and Z_2) are computed in temporary variables during the simulation (in the form of *int_##_s*). These are only applied within the tax schedule at the computation of the tax burden, and have no further function in the simulation.

- ***Tax Credits***

There are no explicit tax credits in German income tax law. Any allowances and deductions are only applied as far as taxable income is greater than zero. There is no such case that taxable income can be negative and a tax credit is refunded.

2.6.3 Joint Taxation (*tinjt_de*)

In the German income tax system, married couples are taxed jointly with full income splitting, i.e. the tax function is applied to half of the sum of the spouses' taxable incomes, and then the resulting tax amount is doubled. In the simulation (*tinjt_de*), joint taxation has been implemented. It is assumed that all married couples, i.e. those who report to be married and live together with a partner, opt for joint taxation. Married couples can only be better off or indifferent when choosing joint taxation, but never be worse off than when choosing individual taxation. For all other individuals, individual taxation has been simulated.

In this policy sheet (*tinjt_de*), the tax function is applied to the case of joint taxation. Generally, the simulation of the tax function is structured in the same way as for individual taxation, some detailed differences apply:

1) First, the relevant average tax rate is determined for all married couples, by applying taxable income and again accounting for progression clause (by adding related benefits to taxable income). Now, the crucial difference to individual taxation is that for married couples their mean income is applied, i.e. their taxable incomes, including benefits from progression clause, and after accounting for all allowances, are summed up over the two spouses and divided by two. This is the relevant taxable income of the couple. This taxable income is put into the schedule, and a tax burden is returned. Again, this is not the final burden, it only determines the rate. The resulting average tax rate -- applied to taxable income, *excluding benefits* – determines the relevant tax burden. This tax burden is multiplied by two in order to account for the fact that only half of the spouses' income is put into the schedule. This is the relevant tax burden of the couple, before accounting for the child allowance.

2) Secondly, the child allowance is accounted for, in case it applies. It applies if the married couple has at least one dependent child in the household that is eligible for child benefits (see Section 1.2.5 for eligibility criteria). The amount of the allowance is doubled for married spouses (also see below at Tax Allowances). The child allowance reduces taxable income if it applies. The tax burden is derived. Again, progression clause must be accounted for, i.e. benefits are considered when the tax rate is determined, but they are excluded from the actually taxed income.

3) Thirdly, the higher-yield test is undertaken in order to determine which of the two is more profitable for the tax unit, the application of the child allowance, or the receipt of child benefits. This is done analogously to individual taxation.

4) Then, the resulting tax burden is allocated among the two married spouses, according to their taxable income. This is the relevant tax burden for each married spouse, at the individual level, i.e. assigned to each spouse.

5) Next, the solidarity surcharge is computed (variable *txc_s*). Analogously to the regular tax burden, it is first computed at the couple level and then allocated among the two married spouses according to their taxable income. It is then added to the regular tax burden.

6) Finally, tax burdens (including the solidarity surcharge) for the two groups of spouses, childless couples and couples with children, are assembled and added to the tax burden of those taxed individually (*tin_s)*. Again, an average tax rate can be calculated.

- ***Tax Unit***

Generally in joint taxation, the unit of analysis is the couple of married spouses. This is necessary to account for the fact that for married spouses, incomes are summed up and tax burdens in turn allocated. However, when the schedule is actually applied to the mean income of the spouses, it only needs to be applied to the head of the household, as the relevant taxable income of the married couple (*temp_11_s*) has been assigned to the head. Thus, for the simulation of the schedule, the unit of analysis technically is the individual, i.e. the household head.

EUROMOD Notes: Generally, the head of the household of a married couple need not necessarily be one of the spouses of the couple. In multi-generational households, there can be more than one married couple. In the data for Germany, however, there is no household with more than one married couple. As a consequence, the simplification of assigning taxable incomes of the married couple to the household head is appropriate.

- ***Tax Exemptions***

As for individual taxation, the benefits that are subject to progression clause are generally exempt from income tax. Also at joint taxation, progression clause is implemented in the simulation.

- ***Tax Allowances***

Generally, in the context of the child allowance, the same rules apply to a married couple, as for individual taxation. However, the amounts of the allowance are doubled for married spouses. It amounted to 7,008 per year and child for the years 2011-2014 and was raised to 7,152 euros in 2015. Since 2000, it includes an allowance for child care.

EUROMOD Notes: Also at joint taxation, the child allowance needs specific treatment in the simulation. Due to the higher yield test, i.e. the check whether the child allowance is more beneficiary for the tax payers than the child benefits, income taxation needs to be simulated twice, once with and once without the child allowance.

- ***Tax Base***

Firstly, for each spouse separately, income from six different sources is summed up, and several allowances and deductions are accounted for (already in policy *tin_de*). This income is then summed up over the two married spouses and the average income is applied. This is the relevant taxable income for the couple, which is the tax base.

- ***Tax Schedule***

The same tax schedule, as for individual taxation, also applies to joint taxation (see 0). At the latter it applies to the mean income of the spouses. This means that the bracket thresholds are, loosely speaking doubled in case of joint taxation.

EUROMOD Notes: Again, several elements of the tax schedule (e.g. Z_1 and Z_2) are computed in temporary variables during the simulation (in the form of *int_##_s*). These are only applied within the tax schedule at the computation of the tax burden, and have no further function in the simulation.

- ***Tax Credits***

There are also no explicit tax credits that apply to joint taxation in German income tax law.

2.7 Capital Income Taxation

Since 2009 there is a final withholding tax on capital with a flat tax rate of 25%.[8] This rate applies above a saver's tax allowance, which amounts to €801 for single persons – for couples, it is doubled. The saver's tax allowance has stayed constant for the period 2011-2016.

For years previous to 2009, capital income taxation was simulated in the context of personal income taxation, i.e. in the policies *tinit_de* and *tinjt_de*, because the capital income was treated as any other income. From 2009 on, there is a separate policy for capital income taxation, namely *tinkt_de*.

2.7.1 Tax Unit

The tax unit for capital income taxation is the same as the unit for personal income taxation. This holds for all the years 2011-2016 It is again assumed that married couples choose joint taxation. Thus, capital income for married couples is joint income and accordingly, married couples get granted double the tax-free allowance on capital income.

2.7.2 Exemptions

There are no exemptions for capital income taxation. All income that is considered capital income is subject to capital income taxation. This holds for interest income from savings accounts or bonds, as well as for dividends and other pay-outs. It also holds for gains from price arbitrage sales of assets.

2.7.3 Tax Allowances

There is a basic allowance for income from capital, which was subject to changes over the years (see 0). Income from the investment of capital is tax exempt as far as it falls below this threshold. For married couples, the double of this allowance is granted.

Table 2.17 Capital Income Taxation: Basic Allowance (2011-2016)

Allowances	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
- Singles	801	801	801	801	801	801
- Married Couples	1,602	1,602	1,602	1,602	1,602	1,602

[8] The rate of 25% excludes the solidarity surcharge of 5.5% on the tax burden. The effective rate would be 26.375% (excluding church taxes of 8% or 9%, depending on confession). However, church taxes have not been simulated in EUROMOD.

2.7.4 Tax Base

The tax base is all income from capital. This is interest income from savings accounts or bonds, as well as from dividends and other pay-outs. Also gains from price arbitrage sales of assets, e.g. when stocks are bought at a lower price than they are sold, falls under capital income.

2.7.5 Tax Schedule

From 2008 on, the tax rate is a flat rate of 25%.

2.7.6 Tax Credits

There are no tax credits for capital income taxation.

3. DATA

3.1 General description

The German contribution to the EU-SILC is collected by the national statistical office for Germany (*Statistisches Bundesamt*), under the label "*LEBEN IN EUROPA*". Every year about 14,000 households are contacted by postal mail, and participation in this survey is voluntary. Households are recruited in random samples from an access panel. The access panel consists of a standing pool of households that have been recruited from the German census (*Mikrozensus*). The German census consists of a 1% sample of the total German population. "*LEBEN IN EUROPA*" is much smaller; it only consists of about 0.03% of the population. The random samples of "*LEBEN IN EUROPA*" are stratified by residence (federal state), household composition, social status of the household head, and net household income.

Due to the specific sampling design of "*LEBEN IN EUROPA*", every additional survey year consists of an "old" sample and a "new" sample. Three quarter of the additional sample stem from the old sample, which is taken from the previous-year survey. The remaining quarter makes up the new sample, which is drawn as a random sample from the standing access panel. As a result, each household will be followed for a maximum of four years in this kind of rotating panel. The researcher, however, cannot follow the same households over time.

Some major facts about the data base are summarized in Table 3.1. The national SILC data, collected under "*LEBEN IN EUROPA*", have been harmonized by the national statistical office to fulfil the comparability requirements of EU-SILC, elaborated and monitored at Eurostat. The German contribution to EUROMOD is entirely based on the User Data Base (UDB), provided by Eurostat, in which national data has been harmonized (*EU-SILC_UDB_c12 ver 2012-1*; after data manipulations, we labeled the input data base used for *EUROMOD DE_2012_a1*). This was the only source of micro data that has been utilized for the development of the German contribution to EUROMOD. There was no possibility for the national developer team to get any access to the national German SILC data (before harmonization) at the German statistical office at all.

The period of collection was April 2012 to November 2012. The reference period, over which households reported incomes and employment status, was the entire year 2011. For other information, such as social status, household composition, or living conditions, the reference period is the timing of the interview. The survey consists of stratified random samples. The assessment unit is individuals aged 16 or older, living in private households in Germany. The target population of "*LEBEN IN EUROPA*" is the population living in private households in Germany, except for people in institutions, i.e. for example soldiers living in military caserns, or

old people living in nursing homes. A household usually consists of individuals living together and sharing major expenses for daily living. Typically, sub-tenants, guests, au-pair people, and domestic staff do not belong to the household. As a result, the UDB data base consists of 27,840 individuals, living in 13,145 households. 23,587 of these individuals are aged 16 or older.

Table 3.1. EUROMOD database description

EUROMOD database	DE_2012_a5
Original name	EU-SILC_UDB_c12 (ver 2012-1)
Provider	Eurostat
Year of collection	2012
Period of collection	April 2012 to November 2012
Income reference period	Year 2011
Sampling	Stratified random samples (since 2008)
Unit of assessment	Individuals aged 16 and older, living in private households in Germany
Coverage	Private households[1]
Sample size	27,938 individuals in 13,145 households
Non-Response rate	9.5% for the overall sample (household level)

Notes: [1] This covers the entire population living in private households in Germany, except for people in institutions, i.e. for example soldiers living in military caserns, or old people living in nursing homes.

The response rate for households recruited in Germany for the 2012 sample is 9.5% for the overall sample. It accounts for both the rate of response at contacted addresses and at household interviews. For more methodological details, see Statistisches Bundesamt (2014).

3.2 Data adjustment

The data have been cleared up such that within household relations are coherent, i.e. assuring that young children are not living on their own and that family relations are consistent. Variables for the identification number of the person, of the household, and if applicable of the mother and the father in the household have been adjusted accordingly. However, these adjustments were only of minor relevance in case of Germany.

For reasons of consistency between demographic variables at the time of the interview and income variables that refer to the previous year, age has been assigned at the beginning of the interview year. As a consequence, children born after the income reference year (2011) and before the interview (April-November 2012) have been excluded from the data set. This drops 98 individual observations, but leaves the number of households unaffected.

3.3 Imputations and assumptions

In this section, the reference time period is described, the relation between gross and net incomes is explained, and a correction for non-take-up of some social benefits applied in EUROMOD for Germany is introduced. In addition, disaggregation techniques applied to disentangle harmonized UDB benefit data are described, an approach of approximation of the benefit entitlement basis for contributory benefits is illustrated, and the imputation of housing costs, as well as other imputed variables is briefly addressed.

3.3.1 Time period

The time over which the micro data for "*LEBEN IN EUROPA 2012*" has been collected was April 2012 to November 2012. Demographic information has been reported with reference to

the time of the interview. This refers to information at the individual level, such as marital status, social status, and education, as well as at the household level, such as tenure status, household composition, and living conditions. For reasons of consistency between demographic variables at the time of the interview and income variables referring to the previous year, age has been assigned at the beginning of the interview year.

The reference period, over which households reported incomes, was the entire previous year 2011. This relates to any monetary information, on income from all sorts of sources (employment income, retirement income, capital income, private transfers, and social benefits), as well as any expenditures reported (taxes on income and social security contributions and expenditures for housing).

The reference period for labour market information is two-fold. There is information that refers to the time of the interview, such as number of hours usually worked per week in the main job, if the person is actively looking for a job, if the person has ever worked before, the person's current employment status, as well as the type of occupation, the position in the job, and the industry of employment. Then there is information that refers to the income reference period, i.e. the entire previous year, such as employment activity by month, reported in the number of months spent in full-time work, part-time work, unemployment, retirement, studying, or inactivity. Then there is information that refers to a longer period, such as the number of months ever spent in work (as an employee or self-employed), which has been reported as of the time of the interview and which refers to the entire working life.

All monetary information on incomes and expenditures has been converted into monthly averages in EUROMOD, regardless of the actual number of months of receipt. This means that, as the reference period usually is the entire previous year, incomes and expenditures have been assumed to be received, respectively paid, continuously and at the same rate throughout the entire year. No additional information on the number of times a particular income or benefit has been received throughout the year could have been exploited.

3.3.2 Gross incomes

The UDB data for Germany contain information about the sum of direct taxes and social security contributions paid during the income reference period (*tis*). This includes, for the direct taxes, personal income taxes, payroll taxes, church taxes, and solidarity surcharge. For the social security contributions, it includes contributions to statutory pension insurance, statutory and private health insurance, statutory and private long-term care insurance, and unemployment insurance. There is no single information on any of these components available in the data.

For most of the income variables, there is only information on the pre-tax values available in the SILC data for Germany. Respective net variables are either empty or identical to the gross variable. Only in case of several social benefits at the individual level (PY090, PY100, PY110, PY120, PY130), for some observations, the net variables are filled in and differ from respective gross variables. For these observations, a gross-to-net conversion has been undertaken, i.e. taxes and social security contributions have been imputed. However, in EUROMOD simulations, only gross (pre-tax) information is applied, no net variables are used. Also the aggregate information on taxes and social contributions paid (tis) is only used for validation of EUROMOD simulations, but it is not used in the simulations and does not affect them.

3.3.3 Disaggregation of harmonized variables

In the framework of the UDB data, information on individual-/household-level benefit receipt and amounts, as reported in the national data for "*LEBEN IN EUROPA 2012*", has been aggregated to broader benefit categories, for the sake of harmonization across countries. For Germany, this aggregate UDB data from Eurostat was the only source of micro data that could

have been used for simulation. There has been no possibility to validate disaggregation or simulation effort with the national data (before harmonization) at all.

However, in order to simulate policies of the single social benefits, individual-/household-level information on receipt and amounts of the single benefits is indispensable. Thus, the national EUROMOD team for Germany has made some effort to disaggregate the broader benefit categories in the UDB data into its original benefits, at the individual-/household-level. Generally, the procedure was to infer eligibility and benefit amounts from observed information on individual/household characteristics, current activity, and receipt of aggregate benefits. In addition, for contributory benefits, the benefit function has been inverted in order to infer the benefit entitlement basis (also see Section 3.3.4).

In more detail, firstly, each of the single benefits had to be assigned to one of the broader UDB categories. This means that we had to decide whether for example pensions from the statutory accident insurance, as they are reported in the original national data, are more likely to be aggregated to old-age benefits, or to sickness benefits, or to disability benefits.[9] By that way, all the single benefits categories reported in the original data were assigned to one of the following aggregate categories: pensions from private plans, unemployment benefits, old-age benefits, survivors' benefits, sickness benefits, disability benefits, education related allowances, family/children related allowances, social exclusion, and housing allowances. This has been done according to Table 3.2.

[9] There was no way to get documentation on this aggregation from the national statistical office for Germany and we were not able to fully verify our assignments of the single benefits to the broader categories, but we rather had to rely on our good guesses and on some oral statements from office staff on a few specific variables.

Table 3.2 Disaggregation of Harmonized Benefit Data

Income source	EU-SILC variable	Name of tax-benefit instrument (in English and national language)
Pension from private plans	PY080G	
		Regular income from private old-age pensions and life, inability to work, or accident insurances (Rente aus der privaten Vorsorge durch Lebens-, Renten-, Berufsunfähigkeits- oder Unfallversicherung)
		Benefits from private long-term care insurances or daily sickness allowances from private health insurances (Leistungen aus privater Pflegezusatz- oder Krankentagegeldversicherung)
Unemployment benefits	PY090G	
		Unemployment benefits I (Arbeitslosengeld I)
		Unemployment benefits II (Arbeitslosengeld II, kein Sozialgeld)
		Benefits for business start-ups (Förderung der Existenzgründung: Ich-AG, Überbrückungsgeld)
		Benefits for re-training (Umschulungszuschüsse)
		Severance pay (Kurzarbeitergeld, Schlechtwettergeld, Wintergeld, Konkursausfallgeld, Umschulungsgeld, u.ä.)
		Benefits for early retirement (Vorruhestandsgeld)
Old-age benefits	PY100G	
		Old-age pension of statutory pension insurance (Altersrente der gesetzlichen Rentenversicherung)
		Old-age pension for civil servants (Pension, Altersruhegehalt)
		Pension for employees in public service (Rente der Zusatzversorgungskassen des öffentlichen Dienstes)
		Pension from employer schemes (Werks- bzw. Betriebsrente)
		Pension schemes for self-employed, freelancers, and farmers (Rente berufsständischer Versorgungswerke, landwirtschaftlicher Alterskassen und Landabgaberenten) and Supplements to old-age pension insurance contributions for farmers (Zuschüsse der landwirtschaftlichen Alterskassen)
		Old-age pension from a foreign country (Auslandsrente)
Survivors' benefits	PY110G	
		Rente/Pension fuer Hinterbliebene (Witwen-, Waisenrente/-pension)
Sickness Benefit	PY120G	
		Sickness benefits from the statutory health insurance (Krankengeld der gesetzlichen Krankenversicherung)
Disability benefits	PY130G	
		Pension from the statutory accident insurance (Rente der gesetzlichen Unfallversicherung)
		Long-term care benefits from the statutory accident insurance (Pflegegeld)
		Pensions for reduced ability to work from the statutory or employer pension insurance (Erwerbsminderungs- oder Berufsunfähigkeitsrente der gesetzlichen oder betrieblichen Rentenversorgung)
		Pensions for disability to work for civil servants (Pension aufgrund von Dienstunfähigkeit)
		Benefits for war victims and burden sharing (Lastenausgleichsrente, Rente der Kriegsopferversorgung)
Education related allowances	PY140G	
		Education and professional training benefits, scholarships (BaFöG, Stipendium, Berufsausbildungsbeihilfe)
Income from rent	HY040G	
		Gross income from rental of a property or land (Bruttoeinkünfte aus Vermietung und Verpachtung, vor Abzug von Steuern und ohne Betriebskosten)
Income from capital	HY090G	
		Gross income from interest, dividends, or profit from capital investments in unincorporated business (Q50 from HH-Questionaire: Bruttoeinkünfte aus Wertanlagen: Zinsen, Dividenden und Gewinne -- vor Abzug von Steuern)
Family/children related allowances	HY050G	
		Maternity-leave benefits (Mutterschaftsgeld)
		Parental-leave benefits (Erziehungsgeld)
		Child benefits (Kindergeld)
		Additional child allowances (Kinderzuschlag, nicht des öffentlichen Dienstes)
Social exclusion	HY060G	
		Social benefits (Sozialgeld)
		Social assistance (Sozialhilfe, laufende Hilfe zum Lebensunterhalt)
		Means-tested basic old-age assistance (Bedarfsorientierte Grundsicherung im Alter oder bei Erwerbsminderung)
		Advances on alimony payments (Unterhaltsvorschuss)
		Benefits from non-profitable charity organizations (Geldleistungen von Wohlfahrtsorganisationen, z.B. AWO)
Housing allowances	HY070G	
		Housing benefits (Wohngeld, ohne Wohngeld in Verbindung mit Arbeitslosen-/Sozialgeld)
		Housing benefits under unemployment benefits II and social assistance (Wohngeld in Verbindung mit Arbeitslosen-/Sozialgeld)

So far, this only relates to categorising the benefits. Now in the second step, it comes to actually disentangling the aggregate micro benefit data at the individual/household level. Therefore, eligibility and amounts have to be assigned, while only receipt and amount of the broader aggregate benefits is known. This has generally been done with the help of observed information on individual characteristics (like age, gender, marital status, and health status), on current activity (months spent in retirement, work, unemployment, and education), on employment (employment status, industry, weekly hours worked, search activity, employment income), on household characteristics (household composition, presence and number of children), on benefit receipt for aggregate benefits, on benefit regulations (eligibility, rates, and maximum and minimum amounts), and on the little that is known on work history (months ever in work).

However, in many cases, this observed information was not sufficient to determine eligibility and amounts perfectly. In these cases, we generally proceeded following two approaches, often in a combination of the two: 1) assigning aggregate benefits to exactly one of the disaggregated benefits, in case this was possible, assuming only one of the aggregate benefits is received at a time. However, this assumption can well be violated so that some error is inevitable with this approach. But, often this was the only possible approach when benefits depend on (unobserved)

contributions. For example, old-age pensions were assumed to be either for civil servants, or for public service, or for farmers, or for self-employed, or for employees (according to labour status), but not to more than one of these for the same individual. 2) Where possible, eligibility and amounts of disaggregated benefits have been determined directly, i.e. by inferring from observed information, or say imputing the benefit. For example, child benefits are non-contributory in Germany. Eligibility and amounts only depend on the age of the child. Programming this benefit can be done directly, and it already comes close to simulating it for current law. The difference being that here the benefit entitlement basis is not yet simulated; it is either observed (at means tested benefits), or it is unobserved (at contributory benefits), or there is none because benefits are universal (e.g. child benefits). These approaches shall be clarified in the following when disaggregation procedures are described in detail for the single aggregate benefit categories.

For income from employment (*yem*), there has been no need to disaggregate because none of the single components has been simulated. Income from employment consists of the single components: wages and salary from main and second jobs, severance pay from last job, 13th and 14th month wages, Christmas bonuses, holiday payments, profit sharing, other special incomes, bonuses to cover work-related travel expenses related to public transport, and military or civil service payments.

Similarly, there has been no need for disaggregation at income from rent (*ypr*), which only consists of income from rental of a property or land, and at income from capital (*yiy*), which only consists of income from interest, dividends, or profit from capital investments in unincorporated business. This means that these benefits have been treated as compound benefits in the simulations. This is relevant for income from rent at personal income taxation (policies *tin_de*, *tinit_de*, *tinjt_de*), where it has been assumed that this income is entirely taxable under income from rent. Similarly, income from capital has been assumed at income taxation to be entirely taxable, apart from any allowances for capital income, where applicable.

Unemployment benefits (*bun*) have been disaggregated into six components by the following procedure.

1. Firstly, observed benefit amount is assumed to be entirely referring to “Benefits for early retirement” for individuals who are pensioners, or sick or disabled, or inactive, or report “other” employment status if they report either full-time “pensioner” or some months “pensioner” and some months “in work” and at the same time are aged between the minimum age for early retirement (55) and one year younger than regular retirement age (64).

2. Secondly, the observed aggregate benefit amount is assumed to be entirely referring to “unemployment benefits II (ALG II)” for individuals who have not been assigned early retirement benefits and who do not report “unemployed” or who report exactly the basic benefit rate for ALG II. Benefits are also assigned for all individuals who do report “unemployed” if also report not to be “actively searching for a job” (in order to disentangle ALG II from ALG I). In addition ALG II is assigned to all individuals who report “unemployed” and 12 months spent in unemployment if they have ever been in work fewer months than the median months among the unemployed.

3. Thirdly, observed benefits are assigned to “unemployment benefits I (ALG I)” for those who report “unemployed”, and 12 months spent in unemployment, and “actively searching for a job”, and have at least been employed 12 months in their life (eligibility criterion for ALG I), and are aged younger than regular retirement age (65), and are currently working less than 15 hours a week (threshold for ALG I receipt), and earn less than 165 euros per months from employment (maximum additional earnings threshold for ALG I), and are not in receipt of ALG II.

4. Then, observed benefits are assigned to "severance payments" for all individuals who report "unemployed", and less than 11 months spent in unemployment (proxy for short-term character of these benefits), and are not in receipt of ALG II.

5. Next, observed benefits are assigned to "benefits for business start-ups" for individuals who report "self-employed", and who are aged at least as old as the retirement age, and are not in receipt of ALG II.

6. Then, observed benefits are assigned to "benefits for re-training" for individuals who do not report "self-employed", and who are aged at least as old as the retirement age, and are not in receipt of ALG II. Also the remaining residual is assigned to these benefits.

7. Finally, some ex-post corrections based on the magnitude of and compatibility among the benefits has been carried out. By way of example, individuals that after the previous procedure were assigned to receive (non-contributory) unemployment benefit II, but the magnitude of the benefit was well above the minimum-income threshold, were in this step "ex-post" reclassified to being recipient of (contributory) unemployment benefit I.

Old-age pensions (*poa*) have been disaggregated into six components by the following procedure.

1. Firstly, "old-age pensions for civil servants" have been simulated, applying the time ever employed, an average monthly pension (from pension statistics for 2011), and a factor regulated in pension law that determines the pension for each year spent in full-time civil-service employment. The observed benefit amount is assumed to be entirely referring to "old-age pensions for civil servants" if it falls in a band of +/- 35% of the simulated amount (chosen such that the aggregate fit is good), and if the individual is not working in the agricultural sector.

2. Secondly, "Pensions for employees in public service" are simulated. Civil servants usually get these benefits on top of their pensions. Thus it is assumed that they are already included in the simulated old-age pensions for civil servants. The share of these benefits from total pensions for civil servants has been estimated to be about 17% (from SOEP and EVS micro data). This share is assigned to the same group that receives 1) and it has been subtracted from 1).

3. Thirdly, the observed benefit amount is assumed to be entirely referring to "Old-age pensions for self-employed and farmers" for individuals who are not civil servants, and who work either in the agricultural sector, or who do not work in the agricultural sector, but report "self-employed". Benefits are also assigned who report "pensioner" and have positive income from self-employment that is greater than average in the group of self-employed.

4. Then, observed benefits are assigned to "Old-age pensions from the statutory pension insurance" for individuals who report "pensioner", and who are not civil servants, and who do not work in the agricultural sector, and who are in not in receipt of any other old-age pension.

5. Then, observed benefits are assigned to "Old-age pensions from employer schemes" for individuals who report "employee", and who are not civil servants, and who do not work in the agricultural sector, and who are not in receipt of any other old-age pension. For those individuals who remain with zero benefits, it is assumed that benefits are included in old-age statutory pensions under 4) and they have been subtracted from 4) at a share of 9% (estimated from SOEP and EVS data).

6. Finally, observed benefits are assigned to "Old-age pensions from a foreign country" if individuals are foreigners and they do not receive income from any other old-age

pension. It is also assigned if individuals report "unemployed", or "student", or "sick or disabled", or "inactive", or report "other" employment status, and they do not receive any other old-age pension.

Disability benefits (*pdi*) have been disaggregated into five components by the following procedure.

1. Firstly, a preliminary proxy for pre-spell employment income has been estimated. A linear regression for employment income (*yem*) on demographic variables (quadratic in age; gender; marital status; education; number of months in work; civil servant; sector; industry) has been estimated, conditional on the group of employees. The prediction for the entire population has been applied as a preliminary proxy for pre-spell employment income.

2. Secondly, the observed benefit amount is assumed to be entirely referring to "Pensions for reduced ability to work" for individuals who are not civil servants, and who report either "employee", or "self-employed", or "pensioner", or "unemployed", or "inactive", or "sick or disabled", and at the same time are neither in receipt of pensions from the statutory accident insurance, nor long-term care benefits from the statutory accident insurance.

3. Thirdly, "Long-term care benefits from the statutory accident insurance" have been simulated. The degree of incapacity has been approximated by their number of working hours per week. Then, the degree of incapacity has been multiplied by the long-term care allowance for 2011.

4. Then, "Pensions from the statutory accident insurance" have been simulated, applying the proxy, and the benefit rate of 67% from pre-spell earnings. Benefits have been assigned for individuals who are not civil servants, and who are sick or disabled, and who have ever been employed before, and who are not actively looking for a job, and who are not in receipt of unemployment benefits I. Full-time and part-time work is accounted for, approximated by current hours worked. At maximum, observed compound benefits are assigned.

5. Then, the observed benefit amount is assumed to be entirely referring to "Pensions for disability to work for civil servants" for individuals who are civil servants, either in pension age or not.

6. Finally, the residual benefits from the compound disability benefits are assumed to be entirely referring to "Benefits for war victims and burden sharing".

Family benefits *(bfa)* have been disaggregated into maternity-leave benefits, parental-leave benefits, child benefits, and additional child allowances.

1. Firstly, for maternity-leave benefits, the fixed benefit amount is imputed if there is a child in the household aged less than one year, and the mother has ever been in work before (eligibility). This rate is differentiated by part-time and full-time employment and unemployment, according to the labour status. Benefits are capped at the observed aggregate amount.

2. Then, parental-leave benefits are imputed in a similar manner if a child aged one year or younger is present and parents work less hours than the benefit threshold. A fixed benefit rate is applied to current earnings (as a proxy for pre-spell earnings) and the amount is again capped at the observed aggregate amount.

3. Then, child benefits are imputed, depending on the age of the children and its education status, again capped at observed family benefits.

4. Finally, additional child benefits are assigned for each child in a household that receives unemployment benefits II, but these do not cover the needs of the children (approximated by the distribution of these benefits).

Benefits for social assistance (*bsa*) have been disaggregated into five components by the following procedure.

1. Firstly, the observed benefit amount is assumed to be entirely referring to "Social benefits for children (*Sozialgeld*)" for children aged younger than 18, who live in a household that is recipient of unemployment benefits II.

2. Secondly, the observed benefit amount is assumed to be entirely referring to "General social assistance" for individuals who are aged between 18 and 65, and who report "sick or disabled", and who are not in receipt of unemployment benefits II.

3. Thirdly, the observed benefit amount is assumed to be entirely referring to "Means-tested old-age assistance and assistance for reduced ability to work" for individuals who are in retirement age and not in receipt of unemployment benefits II. They are also assigned to individuals who are aged between 18 and 65, and who do not report "sick or disabled", and who have ever been employed before, and are currently working non-zero hours, and who are not in receipt of unemployment benefits II.

4. Then, the observed benefit amount is assumed to be entirely referring to "Advances on alimony payments" for individuals who are single parents with children aged younger than 12 years, and who report either "divorced", or "widowed", or "living separately", and who are at the same time neither in receipt of general social assistance, nor of means-tested old-age assistance and assistance for reduced ability to work.

5. Finally, the residual benefits from the compound social assistance benefits are assumed to be entirely referring "Benefits from non-profitable charity organizations".

Housing benefits (*bho*) have been disaggregated into those benefits paid under the framework of both unemployment benefits II and social assistance, and those housing benefits paid in the framework of the separate benefit relating to the "*Wohngeldgesetz*". The disaggregation mechanism used here is very simple in that it allocates the benefit to one or the other category depending on whether households are recipients or not of unemployment benefits II or social assistance. If households are recipients of these benefits, then it is assumed the housing benefits are also paid under the framework of unemployment benefits II or social assistance.

Some rules have been applied in general to all disaggregated benefits: At maximum, the total aggregate benefit amount has been assigned, and it is assured that all disaggregated amounts sum up to the respective reported aggregate benefit amount. Thereby, for each aggregate, all sub-component benefits have been adjusted successively, as long as this constraint was not fulfilled.

For some benefits, there has been no need for any disaggregation. There has been no need to disaggregate survivors' pensions (*psu*). They only consist of pensions for widows and orphans, from any scheme. Similarly, education benefits (*bed*) have been treated as a compound benefit, which consists of education and professional training benefits and scholarships. It has been assumed that these benefits all relate to the social education benefits from the "*Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz*" (*BaFöG*). In the next section, another approach that was applied in order to help disaggregate the benefits is described.

3.3.4 Approximation of Benefit Entitlement Basis

The benefit entitlement basis is essential for simulations of benefit receipt and amounts in the framework of EUROMOD. For most of the contributory benefits that have been simulated, the benefit entitlement basis is some past, usually pre-spell income, often the after-social-contributions income from employment. The problem for the simulations is that past income from employment is not observed. But, this information can be inferred from benefit receipt under certain conditions. An attempt in this direction has been made in order to be able to simulate any contributory benefits at all.

For contributory benefits, the benefit function can be inverted to infer the entitlement basis if all parameters of the function, except for the entitlement basis, are known. This does not hold for most pensions, as for pensions both the income level, on which contributions have been made, and the duration of contributions are unknown. As a consequence, this procedure has not been applied to any old-age pensions. However, for most other contributory benefits, the duration of contributions is not so important, and only the income level needs to be approximated. In this case, inversion of the benefit function yields a proxy for the necessary information.

This procedure can, of course, only be applied for individuals for whom a spell is observed, because otherwise benefit receipt is unobserved, so that the benefit amount is also unknown, and thus more than one parameter of the benefit function is unknown. However, as for most of the contributory benefits that have been simulated the entitlement basis is very similar (pre-spell after-social-contributions income from employment), an average of all approximated bases, over all contributory benefits, can be generated, and thereby a proxy for the entitlement basis results, also for individuals who are not in receipt of a specific contributory benefit, if they are in receipt of any simulated contributory benefit.

Contributory benefits that contribute to the generation of this proxy are: unemployment benefits I, sickness benefits from statutory health insurance, sickness benefits from private health insurance, long-term care benefits from statutory accident insurance, parental-leave benefits, and disability pensions from statutory accident insurance.

For unemployment benefits I, the number of months benefits were received has been considered. The benefit function has been differentiated by individuals with kids and without kids, and by individuals earning additional income from employment. For the latter group, it has also been considered that they are only allowed to earn additional income up to a threshold. The relevant income for this threshold considers taxes and social security contributions paid, as well as a lump-sum allowance for earnings-related expenses.

For sickness benefits from statutory health insurance, sickness benefits from private health insurance, long-term care benefits from statutory accident insurance, parental-leave benefits, and disability pensions from statutory accident insurance, the benefit function has been simply inverted, conditional on benefit receipt.

An average over all approximated benefit bases has been generated, at the individual level. For those individuals who report “employee”, but for whom the proxy evaluates to zero because they are not in receipt of any of the contributory benefits, current earnings, deflated from 2012 to 2011 (by growth rate of employee income from national accounts), have been applied. This has also been done for individuals with a zero proxy who do not report “employee”, but who earn positive income from employment. For those with zeros who do not report “employee” and who earn zero income from employment, estimated wages (*yivwg*) and current hours (*lhw*) have been applied.

3.3.5 Imputation of Tax Deductions/Allowances

Since the EUROMOD program release 6.36, the scope of simulating personal income taxation has been extended by accounting for tax allowances and tax deductions, by imputing amounts actually deducted. In earlier releases, simulations for deductions from taxable income for expenses that are work related or related to child care, for example, are significantly limited because relevant information on expenditures is not observed in the EU-SILC data. Therefore, in many cases, simplifying assumptions have been made, which imply that individuals either do not declare any tax deductions at all, or that lump-sum minimum allowances apply, in case eligibility for allowances is observed but the actual amount deducted is not. As a result, aggregate allowances and deductions were significantly under-simulated, and aggregate taxable income as well as aggregate simulated tax liabilities from personal income taxation were significantly over-simulated (by about 9 percent) in EUROMOD, compared to external figures from official tax statistics for Germany.

Imputation Strategy

Since the program release 6.36, actual amounts of tax deductions are imputed in order to improve on the quality of the simulation of personal income taxation for Germany. The strategy is to use information from external data on the frequency and the amount of tax allowances and tax deductions actually applied by tax payers. The official income tax statistics for Germany are a suitable data source providing detailed information on the several relevant types of allowances and deductions. Information from the tax statistics for the population of tax payers are imputed into the EU-SILC micro data and used in the EUROMOD simulation of personal income taxation, as a kind of proxy for the allowances and deductions that are not observed in the sample of individuals in the EU-SILC micro data.

In order to account for the heterogeneity in the frequency and the amount of tax allowances and deductions across the distribution of taxable income, micro data from the income tax statistics are utilized. Micro data from the income tax statistics (FAST*: Faktisch anonymisierte Daten aus der Lohn- und Einkommensteuerstatistik*) is available every three years, with a lag of about six years. The team of national developers at DIW Berlin has access to the latest available micro data of FAST for 2004. Moreover, aggregate information from the official tax statistics for 2007 is used for validation. It is assumed that the distribution of deductions did not change significantly between the years of the tax statistics for which micro data is available (2004) and the respective policy years simulated.

The empirical strategy involves imputing allowances and deductions, for each relevant type of allowance and deduction, by means of regression imputation, where the heterogeneity in the distribution of the allowances and deductions is captured conditionally on an appropriate income concept and relevant socio-demographics that are available in both the FAST and the EU-SILC data sets. As most of the tax deductions are significantly more relevant in the upper deciles of the income distribution, whereas in the lower deciles typically lump-sum allowances apply, this approach captures a great part of the heterogeneity in this distribution of deductions and allowances across the population of tax payers. Given a probability for the frequency of the allowances and deductions, mean amounts observed in the tax statistics are imputed into the EUROMOD simulations, at the household (i.e. tax unit) level and conditionally on the relevant income concept, which is typically defined to be the sum of taxable income from all sources, i.e. before applicable allowances and deductions.

Imputation Methodology

The strategy is to impute information of the amounts of relevant tax allowances and deductions at the tax unit level from the *FAST* micro data into the SILC micro data by methods of regression imputation. Generally, the regressions for deductions and allowances have been

estimated on the *FAST* data, and the coefficient estimates have been used for the prediction into the SILC data 2010. The regressions have been estimated separately by several groups of relevant types of allowances.

Relevant deductions and allowances have been grouped into these seven groups:

1) Expenses related to income from employment (commuting, two households, others): *tintaee*
2) Expenses related to other income (mostly pension income): *tintape*
3) Special expenses for alimonies (that do not fall under extraordinary expenses): *tintasp*
4) Other special expenses (e.g. church taxes): *tintaox*
5) Extraordinary expenses for alimonies (that do not fall under special expenses): *tintadp*
6) Extraordinary expenses for childcare: *tintace*
7) Other extraordinary expenses: *tintals*

Probabilities for positive allowances and conditional amounts of allowances have been estimated with a function of income as the main explanatory variable. The relevant income concept varies across the seven groups. For groups 1) and 2), income from respective source is relevant, whereas for groups 3)-7), the sum of taxable incomes from all sources is relevant (see below for details).

The imputation strategy follows a two-stage regression imputation approach. At the first stage, the probability of positive expenses in each of the seven groups is estimated (Probit estimator). In case of groups 1) and 2), the first-stage estimation is not needed, as expenses are positive for each tax unit in the data that has positive respective income, filled either with actual expenses or with a lump-sum amount. The imputation is thus undertaken for each tax unit that has positive respective income in the SILC data. In case of groups 3)-7), probability estimates will be used at the imputation.

At the second stage, conditional on positive expenses in the group, linear OLS regressions have been estimated, only for conditional observations (log-expenses on the left-hand side) and separately for each group of expenses as well as separately for groups of joint or individual taxation rules. The explanatory variables that have been applied in regressions at both stages and that are applied at the imputations (the Z-variables) include:

a. Income
    i. functional form: quadratic-log
    ii. definition: varies over the groups
        1. Gross income from dependent employment (for group 1)
        2. Other income, such as pension income (for group 2)
        3. Sum of income from all sources (for groups 3 to 7)
b. Socio-demographic characteristics (of the male in case of couples taxed jointly)
    i. Age
    ii. Social status (employee, self-employed, pensioner, unemployed, non-employed, student)
    iii. Number of children in the household

Regressions have been estimated at the level of tax units. This implies that jointly taxed couples represent a single observation. No selection correction has been undertaken at the second stage estimation (identical Z-variables at both stages).[10]

The regressions at the first and the second stage deliver coefficient estimates, which in turn are used to predict probabilities and conditional amounts, given the same explanatory variables with similar distributions, into the SILC data. As a result, average imputed probabilities for the seven groups of expenses and average conditional amounts as well as aggregate amounts (weighted by household weights) can be evaluated by the two groups of jointly and individually taxed units. This shall be done in the section following the next one.

Implementation in EU-SILC and EUROMOD

Tax deductions and allowances are imputed into SILC and used in EUROMOD as input variables. They are not simulated as separate policies, nor are they connected to any simulated income. They will not change if simulated incomes change. This approach has been chosen since the imputed deductions and allowances are typically related to market incomes, which are not simulated in EUROMOD, and not to income from any benefits.

Thus, tax deductions and allowances have been imputed *before* the input data is loaded within EUROMOD, i.e. at the stage where the EU-SILC input data are prepared. In the case of Germany, UDB data for EU-SILC need to be disaggregated, in case of several compound benefit variables.[11] After this has been done, and before the EUROMOD input data set is outputted, tax deductions and allowances are imputed.

The resulting variables for special expenses (*tintaox* + *tintasp* + *tintapv*; imputed) and extraordinary expenses (*tintadp* + *tintace* + *tintals*; imputed) are then available in EUROMOD.[12] They are uprated to future policy years by the default uprating factor (CPI). They are then applied in the simulation of personal income taxation (tin_s, where several tax parameters and income from sources are defined) to account for allowances and deductions at the tax unit level.

3.3.6 Other Imputed Variables

Housing expenditures (*xhcrt*) have been imputed for the EUROMOD simulations. Observed housing costs in the EU SILC data are underreported compared to official German consumption survey data (EVS). Therefore, housing expenditures have been imputed in the simulations. Firstly, the flat size is estimated from the reported number of rooms, assuming an average room in a rented flat has 25 square meters and in an owned flat or house 27.3 square meters, as reported in the EVS data. Then, an OLS regression of monthly rent paid, including imputed rents for owner-occupiers, on flat size is estimated, separately for renters and owners. The estimated coefficient is imputed in the SILC data and monthly rent is predicted from flat size. This predicted rent is imputed for all renters, while for the owners, observed imputed rents are applied.

[10] A selection correction appears unnecessary in this application, as the main interest lies on the fit of the regressions instead of the causal interpretation of single coefficient estimates.
[11] See *Section 3.4.4*. for further details.
[12] The variable *tintapv* has not been imputed, it is simulated in EUROMOD, based on simulated social security contributions. *tintapv* denotes the sum of deductions of special expenses for old-age provision. For this variable, imputations of actual amounts from the FAST 2007 are not applicable to policy years later than 2010 because there has been a policy reform in Germany in 2010, which significantly affected this type of deductions.

Holdings of financial assets have been imputed, inferring them from the observed income from capital (*yiy*). It has been assumed that income from capital has been received as an average rate of return on the stock of financial assets. As a proxy for this rate of return, an average interest rate has been applied. This is the annual average of monthly rates for the year 2012 of the interest rate on deposits for households, with maturity of 1-2 years.[13] It evaluates to 2.0425%. Inverting the rate of return function, applying the calibration for the rate, returns the stock of financial assets, on average for the year 2011.

Regional information on residence is missing in the German part of the UDB SILC data (DB040). There has been no possibility to apply any other information that was helpful to impute the missing regional information. As a result, no imputation for the regional information has been implemented.

3.4 Updating

To account for any time inconsistencies between the input dataset and the policy year, updating factors are used. Each monetary variable (i.e. each income component) is updated so as to account for changes in the non-simulated variables that have taken place between the year of the data and the year of the simulated tax-benefit system. Updating factors are generally based on changes in the average value of an income component between the year of the data and the policy year. For detailed information about the construction of each updating factor as well as the sources that have been used, see Annex 1.

As a rule, updating factors are provided both for simulated and non simulated income components present in the input dataset. Note however that in the case of simulated variables, the actual simulated amounts are used in the baseline rather than the uprated original variables in the dataset. Updating factors for simulated variables are provided so as to facilitate the use of the model in cases when the user wishes to turn off the simulation of a particular variable. The list of uprating factors as well as the sources used to derive them can be found in Table 3.5 below.

[13] See ECB, MFI interest rates: http://sdw.ecb.europa.eu/browse.do?node=2018774.

Table 3.5. Raw indices for deriving EUROMOD uprating factors

Index	Constant name	Values of the raw indices								Source	Income components uprated by the index
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016		
Consumer Price Index (2015=100)	$f_cpi	92.1	93.2	95.5	97.5	99.1	99.9	100	99.6	Eurostat	yxy01 – yxy06, kfb, ypp, ysv, bunot, buntr, byr, bhl, bsaam, bsapu, bsaot, pdiot, pdiwr, poapu, poa00, poaps, poaps01, poaps02, poaab, tpr, tad, kivho, xmp, xpp, kfbcc, tinta*, all sim. ben.
Harmonized Consumer Price Index (2015 = 100)	$HICP	92.1	93.2	95.5	97.5	99.1	99.9	100	99.6	Eurostat	
Average gross earnings; overall economy (EUR per year)	$f_yem0	34215	35091	36103	37014	37707	38664	39767	40874	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yem
Average gross earnings; agriculture and fishing (EUR per year)	$f_yem1	19447	19725	20687	21000	21623	21560	22203	22731	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yem
Average gross earnings; mining, manufacturing and utilities (EUR per year)	$f_yem2	45003	47044	48427	49227	50813	52178	53328	54812	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yem
Average gross earnings; construction (EUR per year)	$f_yem3	35133	35590	36595	37423	37388	38381	39454	40552	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yem

Average gross earnings; wholesale and retail trade (EUR per year)	$f_yem4	27044	27594	28051	28821	29295	30033	30980	31842	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yem
Average gross earnings; hotels and restaurants (EUR per year)	$f_yem5	27044	27594	28051	28821	29295	30033	30980	31842	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yem
Average gross earnings; transport and communication (EUR per year)	$f_yem6	51209	52964	55069	57081	56912	58823	62740	64486	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yem
Average gross earnings; financial intermediation (EUR per year)	$f_yem7	58444	58350	60857	62321	64115	65672	67336	69210	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yem
Average gross earnings; real state and business (EUR per year)	$f_yem8	27720	28518	29846	31214	31302	32254	33873	34816	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yem
Average gross earnings; public administration and defence (EUR per year)	$f_yem9	34513	35140	36115	36855	37668	38556	39549	40650	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yem
Average gross earnings; education (EUR per year)	$f_yem10	34513	35140	36115	36855	37668	38556	39549	40650	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yem
Average gross earnings; health and social work (EUR per year)	$f_yem11	34513	35140	36115	36855	37668	38556	39549	40650	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yem
Average gross earnings; other (EUR per year)	$f_yem12	20295	21275	21821	22685	23095	23900	24204	24878	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yem
Aggregated gross earnings; overall economy (billion	$f_yivwg0	1.008.327	1.037.105	1.085.549	1.129.454	1.163.291	1.207.749	1259.759	1294.825	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yivwg

EUR per year)											
Aggregated gross earnings; agriculture and fishing (billion EUR per year)	$f_yivwg 1	5.038	5.076	5.490	5.722	5.986	6.256	6.429	6.608	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yivwg
Aggregated gross earnings; mining, manufacturing and utilities (billion EUR per year)	$f_yivwg 2	274.261	282.101	299.985	313.054	322.772	333.091	344.794	354.392	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yivwg
Aggregated gross earnings; construction (billion EUR per year)	$f_yivwg 3	53.283	54.421	56.997	59.204	59.592	61.945	64.139	65.924	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yivwg
Aggregated gross earnings; wholesale and retail trade (billion EUR per year)	$f_yivwg 4	188.344	191.977	200.041	208.214	214.056	222.518	232.292	238.758	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yivwg
Aggregated gross earnings; hotels and restaurants (billion EUR per year)	$f_yivwg 5	188.344	191.977	200.041	208.214	214.056	222.518	232.292	238.758	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yivwg
Aggregated gross earnings; transport and communication (billion EUR per year)	$f_yivwg 6	43.920	43.907	46.172	48.395	49.635	52.441	55.484	57.028	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yivwg
Aggregated gross earnings; financial intermediation (billion EUR per year)	$f_yivwg 7	49.142	49.355	50.154	51.418	52.675	53.907	54.849	56.376	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yivwg
Aggregated gross earnings; real state and business (billion EUR per year)	$f_yivwg 8	94.691	101.476	109.460	115.675	119.690	126.547	137.143	140.960	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yivwg

Aggregated gross earnings; public administration and defence (billion EUR per year)	$f_yivwg9	247.973	256.394	263.164	271.482	281.028	290.927	302.299	310.714	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yivwg
Aggregated gross earnings; education (billion EUR per year)	$f_yivwg10	247.973	256.394	263.164	271.482	281.028	290.927	302.299	310.714	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yivwg
Aggregated gross earnings; health and social work (billion EUR per year)	$f_yivwg11	247.973	256.394	263.164	271.482	281.028	290.927	302.299	310.714	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yivwg
Aggregated gross earnings; other (billion EUR per year)	$f_yivwg12	42.805	43.385	44.701	46.654	47.980	49.837	51.679	53.118	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yivwg
Lagged average gross earnings; overall economy (EUR per year)	$f_yxy0	34145	34215	35091	36103	37014	37707	38664	39740	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yxy
Lagged average gross earnings; agriculture and fishing (EUR per year)	$f_yxy1	19426	19447	19725	20687	21000	21623	21560	22160	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yxy
Lagged average gross earnings; mining, manufacturing and utilities (EUR per year)	$f_yxy2	45950	45003	47044	48427	49227	50813	52178	53630	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yxy
Lagged average gross earnings; construction (EUR per year)	$f_yxy3	33809	35133	35590	36595	37423	37388	38381	39449	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yxy
Lagged average gross earnings;	$f_yxy4	27106	27044	27594	28051	28821	29295	30033	30869	National Statistical Office, National	yxy

wholesale and retail trade (EUR per year)										Accounts	
Lagged average gross earnings; hotels and restaurants (EUR per year)	$f_yxy5	27106	27044	27594	28051	28821	29295	30033	30869	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yxy
Lagged average gross earnings; transport and communication (EUR per year)	$f_yxy6	50984	51209	52964	55069	57081	56912	58823	60460	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yxy
Lagged average gross earnings; financial intermediation (EUR per year)	$f_yxy7	59294	58444	58350	60857	62321	64115	65672	67500	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yxy
Lagged average gross earnings; real state and business (EUR per year)	$f_yxy8	27769	27720	28518	29846	31214	31302	32254	33152	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yxy
Lagged average gross earnings; public administration and defence (EUR per year)	$f_yxy9	33408	34513	35140	36115	36855	37668	38556	39629	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yxy
Lagged average gross earnings; education (EUR per year)	$f_yxy10	33408	34513	35140	36115	36855	37668	38556	39629	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yxy
Lagged average gross earnings; health and social work (EUR per year)	$f_yxy11	33408	34513	35140	36115	36855	37668	38556	39629	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yxy

Lagged average gross earnings; other (EUR per year)	$f_yxy12	19890	20295	21275	21821	22685	23095	23900	24565	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yxy
Aggregate self-employment income (billion Euro)*	$f_yse	197.65	213.59	222.9	229.39	236.99	238.84	218.412	217.538	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yse
Aggregate income from capital in private households (billion Eur)	$f_yiy	389.46	384.99	412.89	412.11	413.28	413.28	382.280	326.967	National Statistical Office, National Accounts	yiy, yiyot
HIPC Actual Rents for Housing (2005 = 100, annual data)	$f_housingrents	104.4	105.5	106.9	108.1	109.6	111.2	100	100.7	Eurostat	ypr, bho, xhc, xhcrt, xhcot xhcmomi
Updating factor of 1	$f_one	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		yds, ydses_o
Current pension value (Eur, weighted average of West/East German values)	$f_publicpension	26.58	26.58	26.79	27.44	27.66	28.17	28.17	28.78	Statutory Parameter, Public Pension Insurance	pdi00, poass, psu, psuor, psuwd
Average old-age pension for employees (Eur per month)	$f_poass_av	742	740	743	759	766	772	806	803	Public Pension Insurance	
Average wage for civil servants (Eur/month)	$f_poacs	2770	2810	3280	3380	3450	3477	3574	3559	National Statistical Office	poacs
Average old-age pension for civil servants (Eur per month)	$f_poacs_av	2430	2490	2510	2540	2610	2670	2700	2689.2	National Statistical Office	
Average survivors' pension (Eur per month); Renten wegen Todes	$f_psu_av	513	512	513	523	526	530	535	533	Public Pension Insurance	
Average Orphans' Pension (Eur per month)	$f_psuor_av	156	155	155	157	156	157	158	158	Public Pension Insurance	

Average Widows' Pension (Eur per month)	$f_psuwd_av	569	567	570	581	585	590	593	590	Public Pension Insurance	
Aggregate income tax and ssc (billion Euro)	$f_tis	389.83	387.95	409.01	431.54	448.66	452	491.126	489.161	National Statistical Office	tis
Aggregate net wealth of private households (billion Euro)*	$f_afc	151.4	149	130.7	136.5	135.9	137	137.15	136.6	German Central Bank	afc
Average disability pension (Eur per month) from pension insurance	$f_pdi00_av	704	695	692	699	699	704	720	717	Public Pension Insurance	

***** Earnings for 2016 have been uprated according to ecfin projections on earnings (nominal compensation per employee). The data is available under: *http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/ameco/user/serie/SelectSerie.cfm*. The rest of variables has been provisionally uprated for 2016 by using the average harmonized price index for the months January-March 2016.

4. VALIDATION

4.1 Aggregate Validation

EUROMOD results are validated against external benchmarks. Detailed comparisons of the number of people receiving a given income component and total yearly amounts are shown in the Annex. Both market incomes and non-simulated taxes and benefits in the input dataset as well as simulated taxes and benefits are validated against external official data. The main discrepancies between EUROMOD results and external benchmarks are discussed in the following subsections. Factors that may explain the observed differences are also discussed.

4.1.1 Components of disposable income

There are no major differences between the definitions of disposable income in EUROMOD and in the EU-SILC data (see Table 4.1). Almost all income components listed in Table 4.1 are included in both income concepts. There is one exception. Disposable income in EUROMOD does not include fringe benefits (*kfb*), such as for example company cars, while the EU-SILC concept does include them. Apart from this deviation, the concepts of disposable household income in EUROMOD and in EU-SILC are identical.

Note moreover that some variables listed for the EUROMOD concept in Table 4.1 are aggregate variables. That means they have been harmonized for the UDB micro data set, and have been disaggregated again by the national team in the context of the EUROMOD simulations (also see Section 3.3.3 for more details). As a consequence they consist of several income components, some of which have been simulated in EUROMOD and some not. These variables are income from private pension plans (*il_ppen*), old-age pensions (*poa*), disability pensions (*pdi*), unemployment benefits (*bun*) and social assistance (*bsa*).

In Table 4.1, these variables are only listed in its aggregate form and the single income components are left out. This is the reason why the EUROMOD variables in Table 4.1 are all listed with the respective label for the non-simulated variables (i.e. omitting the _s), although many of them, or many of their components, have actually been simulated in EUROMOD. Also see Section 3.3.3 for more details on the exact composition of the aggregate income and benefit variables and its components.

Income taxes and social security contributions are only observed as a total in EU-SILC (variable *HY140G*). In EUROMOD, however, income taxes are simulated for income in general (*tin*) and income from capital (*tinkt*). Also social security contributions are simulated, differentiated by social status, for employees (*ils_sicee*), for the self-employed (*ils_sicse*), and for pensioners (*ils_sicpe*). Repayments/receipts for tax adjustments (*HY145N*) as well as regular taxes on wealth (*tpr*) are observed in EU-SILC, while they have not been simulated in EUROMOD.

The composition of disposable household income in EUROMOD does not change over the policy years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Table 4.1 Components of disposable income

	EUROMOD [2011-2016]	EU-SILC [2011]	
	ils_dispy	HY020	
Employee cash or near cash income	yem	PY010G	+
Employer's social insurance contribution	ils_sicer	PY030G	0
Company car	--	PY021G	+
Contributions to individual private pension plans	--	PY035G	0
Cash benefits or losses from self-employment	yse	PY050G	+
Pension from individual private plans	il_ppen	PY080G	+
Unemployment benefits	bun	PY090G	+
Old-age benefits	poa	HY100G	+
Survivor' benefits	psu	PY110G	+
Sickness benefits	bhl	PY120G	+
Disability benefits	pdi	PY130G	+
Education-related allowances	bed	PY140G	+
Income from rental of a property or land	ypr	HY040G	+
Family/children related allowances	bfa	HY050G	+
Social exclusion not elsewhere classified	bsa	HY060G	+
Housing allowances	bho	HY070G	+
Regular inter-household cash transfer received	ypt	HY080G	+
Interests, dividends, etc.	yiy	HY090G	+
Income received by people aged under 16	yot	HY110G	+
Regular taxes on wealth	tpr	HY120G	-
Regular inter-household cash transfer paid	xmp	HY130G	-
Tax on income and social contributions	tis	HY140G	-
Repayments/receipts for tax adjustment	--	HY145G	0

Notes: Some variables in EUROMOD (namely il_ppen, poa, pdi, bun, bfa, bsa, bho) are aggregated variables. They consist of several components, some of which have been simulated in EUROMOD and some not.
Source: For EU-SILC, Eurostat (2012) – EU-SILC 065 (2012 operation) – Description of Target Variables: Cross-sectional and longitudinal, 2012 operation (Version May 2012).

4.1.2 Validation of incomes inputted into the simulation

Firstly, the number of people in and out of the labour force in the population is compared for the EU-SILC data (which for these variables is identical to EUROMOD) and external data from the Federal Employment Agency (see Table 4.2 in the Annex). The number of employed people includes people employed in jobs where full social security contributions have to be paid (sozialversicherungspflichtige Beschäftigung) as well as people in marginal employment (geringfügige Beschäftigung), such as mini and midi jobs. The number of unemployed people includes those who are registered as unemployed at the employment agencies as actively searching for a job.

The figure for employed individuals from the EU-SILC micro data for 2011 is almost identical to the corresponding figure from the employment agencies.

The figure for unemployed individuals from the EU-SILC micro data for 2011 is lower than the corresponding external figure.

Both the number of employed people and the number of unemployed people have been calculated in the EU-SILC data from information on the number of months spent in employment

and unemployment over the entire year 2011. This information has been averaged over all months in 2011 and has been aggregated to the population.

Next, the components of market income in the EU-SILC data shall be validated, with respect to the number of recipients as well as the aggregated total incomes received in the population in a year. Table 4.3 in the Annex tabulates the number of recipients for each component of market income, as it has been defined in EU-SILC for 2011, and compares it to figures from external statistics. As all the components of market income have not been simulated in EUROMOD, the number of recipients remains constant throughout all simulated years. Thus, the number of recipients for the input database is only displayed for 2011 in Table 4.3.

The sum of all components of market income, minus expenditures for alimony payments (*xmp*) is defined to be "original (market) income" in EUROMOD. About 60.4 million individuals receive some market income. There are no comparable figures for this specific income definition from external sources. The number of individuals receiving positive income from employment (*yem*) is slightly higher in EUROMOD (38,800), and thus also in EU-SILC, than in external figures (36,604), which here is the Federal Employment Agency.

For income from self-employment (*yse*), the number of recipients in EU-SILC is lower than that in the external data. On the contrary, number of recipients of private pension income is much higher in the EU-SILC data than in the GSOEP data (ratio of about 290%). Recipients of capital income are slightly lower in EU-SILC than in the GSOEP, whereas the number of recipients of property income coincides in both data (ratio of 103%).

Income from private transfers (*ypt*) is presented in Table 4.3 in terms of numbers of households receiving this income component, as it has been reported at the household level. This number is slightly higher in EU-SILC than in the external data (GSOEP). Unfortunately there is no external data against which the number of individuals receiving other income (*yot*) or fringe benefits (*kfb*) can be validated. Other income includes mainly income from children aged 16 and younger. But, it may also capture other income components that have not been reported elsewhere and that may significantly vary between the data sets. The same holds for fringe benefits, which consist for example of company cars. The number of individuals for who rents have been imputed (*kivho*) because they are owner-occupiers is very higher in EU-SILC than in GSOEP (ratio of 143%).

The respective aggregate amounts for the components of market income are displayed in Table 4.4. All market income, after alimony payments have been subtracted, sums up to some 1,269bn euros in the population captured by EU-SILC. Some 1,116bn of it relates to income from dependent employment (*yem*). This figure matches fairly well the corresponding number from external sources (1,082bn), which in this case again is the Federal Employment Agency. The ratio for this variable also remains very close to one for the years it has been uprated.

For some other income components, the rate of coverage is significantly less than 100%. This is the case for income from self-employment (*yse*) and property income (*ypr*). For the first one of the two, this corresponds to the under-coverage of the number of recipients (see Table 4.3). In the case of property income, the number of recipients is captured accurately, while the aggregate amount is clearly under-captured.

The remaining income components are each significantly over-covered in the EU-SILC. For imputed rents (*kivho*) and for private transfers (*ypt*), this corresponds to the over-coverage of the number of recipients documented earlier, although over-coverage of aggregate amounts is in both cases even greater.

Now it comes to the taxes and benefits that have not been simulated in EUROMOD. Actually, most of them are benefits, and only one is a tax, namely property taxes (*tpr*). They are all available in the model and they are also outputted from it, but they are not altered by the model

simulations. They are passed through the model and come out of it just like they have been put into it. Therefore, figures on recipients and aggregated amounts just reflect the coverage of these variables in the EU-SILC data. Numbers of recipients are tabulated and compared to external data in Table 4.5 in the Annex.

Many of these benefits are minor benefits. Only a small group of people in the population receives them. As a consequence, there is not much external information on recipients for many of these benefits. In many cases, it is difficult to find a comparable benefit in external data that fits the exact definition of the respective variable in EU-SILC. In official statistics, they are often aggregated under some compound benefit. Micro data often is not reported in such detail to find a comparable variable. For this reason external data for many benefits could not be found. This is why many of the columns of Table 4.5 are empty, while some of them are filled in for selected years only.

Benefits are tabulated in the aggregated variables, i.e. the variables they have been grouped with in the UDB data, as well as the disaggregated variables, in which they have been reported in the national SILC data. For more methodological details on how the disaggregated variables have been derived, see Section 3.3.3. None of the old-age benefits has been simulated. Unfortunately, there is no external information available to validate the aggregated variable for old-age pensions (*poa*) and one of its components (*poaps*). However, official statistics are available for the two most important disaggregated old-age benefits, i.e. the ones from the statutory pension insurance (*poass*), which are covered fairly well in terms of number of recipients (with an accuracy of about 95%), and the old-age benefits for civil servants (*poacs*), which are strongly over-represented in SILC data (ratio of about 220%).

Most of the disability benefits are also not simulated. Recipients of pensions for reduced work ability (*pdi00*) are well captured (ratio of 90% with respect to official statistics), whereas recipients of disability benefits for war victims (*pdiwr*) seem strongly over-captured. This discrepancy is likely to be linked to the disaggregation procedure described in Section 3.3.3. Survivor's benefits (*psu*) are strongly over-represented in the EU-SILC as well. Among the unemployment benefits, only the minor ones have not been simulated. The fit in number of recipients of these benefits between EU-SILC and official statistics is very weak and possibly a direct consequence from the disaggregation procedure. Against this background, benefits for early retirement (*byr*) and benefits for business start-ups (*bunot*) are strongly under-estimated in SILC as compared to official statistics, whereas re-training (*buntr*) benefits are reasonably captured by the disaggregation procedure. Unfortunately, no official statistics for the three minor social assistance benefits listed in Table 4.5 are available.

Aggregate amounts for the non-simulated taxes and benefits are compared between EU-SILC and external sources in Table 4.6. Euros received over an entire year by the whole population of benefit recipients are displayed. There is a little bit more information available on total sums paid for these benefits in external data, compared to the number of recipients. Often official statistics report aggregate amounts paid for particular benefits, but they do not state the number of individuals or households receiving it.

Ratios for old-age benefits from the statutory pension insurance (*poass*) and from employer schemes (*poa00*) are close to 100%, whereas schemes for civil servants (*poacs*), pensions for employees in public service (*poapu*) and pensions from a foreign country (*poaab*) seem to be over-captured by the input database. Unfortunately, no external information could be found for pensions of the self-employed (*poaps*).

For disability benefits, the fit is very good for the major disability benefit, namely the disability benefit (pension) from the statutory pension system *(pdi00)*, where the ratio with respect to official statistics is almost one. Unfortunately, no official statistics for disability benefits for civil servants could be found. The aggregate amount of benefits for war victims and from

burden sharing (*boawr*) is strongly over-estimated in the input database (being around 5 times here than in the external statistics), which corresponds to the highly over-estimated number of recipients. On the contrary, aggregate amounts of survivor's benefits (*psu*) are under-captured in the EU-SILC, although to a lesser extent (ratio of about 69%).

There is also not much external information on the total amounts received in terms of the minor unemployment benefits that have not been simulated in EUROMOD, and no information at all for amounts of benefits for re-training (*buntr*) and severance payments (*ysv*). The aggregate amount of benefits for early retirement are somewhat under-captured in the input database (ratio of 83%), whereas the disaggregation procedure on EU-SILC fails to capture any benefits for business start-ups.

Among the minor benefits of social assistance that have not been simulated, there was no external information available for either benefits from charities (*bsapu*) or social benefits for children (*bsaot*). For the latter, this is because this benefit is paid as an add-on to unemployment benefits II (*bunnc_de*) and thus is often reported in compound figures together with it. In fact, social benefits have been simulated in EUROMOD as a compound benefit, together with unemployment benefits II (*bunnc_de*, see Section 2.4.8). They shall nevertheless be listed in Table 41 among the non-simulated benefits, because they have not been simulated in a separate policy. External information on benefits for advances on alimony payments (*bsaam*) indicates that these are strongly under-captured in the input database (ratio of 50%).

4.1.3 Validation of outputted (simulated) incomes

In this section, results from the EUROMOD simulation of taxes and benefits are presented and validated in terms of numbers of recipients and aggregated amounts against external data. The simulations are based on the assumption that all benefits are taken up completely, i.e. individuals are assumed to actually receive income from all benefits in exactly the amount that they are assumed to be eligible for.

Results on the number of recipients for all benefits that have been simulated in EUROMOD are presented in Table 4.7. in the Annex. Compared to the previous Tables containing figures on recipients of market income and non-simulated benefits, Table 4.7. has an additional column – as it is the case for all following tables. In this column, figures from EU-SILC data displayed. These may now differ from corresponding output figures from EUROMOD (second column), as the latter have been simulated. Recipients may vary over time for means-tested benefits, as the means test changes.

According to the simulation, sickness benefits in 2011 were received by 1,074,000 individuals. This figure practically coincides with the number of recipients observed in the input data – even though the simulation is independent of observing receipt of this benefit. Unfortunately, there is no official statistics about the number of recipients of sickness benefits from private health insurance companies, which makes it impossible to validate the simulated figure against an official aggregate.

Disability pensions from the statutory accident insurance (Pen. (St. Ac.), *pdiss*) have been received by 966,000 individuals in the simulated population in 2011. This overestimates the 748,000 recipients who are reported in official statistics. In the simulations for 2011-2016 this figure stays constant because pdiss is a contributory benefit, and contributions have not been simulated. Official statistics for the period 2011-2014 display a slight decrease in the number of recipients.

The picture is similar for the results of long-term care benefits from the statutory accident insurance (*pdiac*). The simulated number of recipients (39,000) falls well above the actual number of recipients reported in official statistics (14,000). The corresponding figure from EU-

SILC fully coincides with the simulated figure, as the degree of incapacity has been derived from the input data, which indicates that discrepancies between the simulated and the external statistics figure may have their origin in the disaggregation procedure.

For the two major unemployment benefits, the fit in terms of number of recipients is quite accurate. In particular, in 2011 the number of recipients of unemployment insurance (*bunct*) accounts for 101% of the official figure, whereas the number of recipients of unemployment assistance (*bunnc*) accounts for 116% of the official figure. Both simulated figures are similar to those of the disaggregated input data.

Next, we validate the four components of the aggregated variable family benefits (*bfa*). The most important family benefit, namely the child benefit (*bch00*), is slightly over-simulated for 2011 (ratio of 116% with respect to the external figure) and less so for years 2012-2016 (ratio of ca 106%). Unfortunately, for the additional child benefit (*bchot)* only external statistics for years 2011 and 2013 are available. However, the figure of simulated recipients achieves a ratio of 100% with respect to the external figure. Unfortunately, no official statistics on the number of recipients of maternity leave benefits (*bmact*) are available. The number of recipients of parental leave benefits (*bplct*) are slightly under-simulated in EUROMOD (ratio of 85%). In this case, the slight discrepancy could be due to the fact that simulations are based on prior incomes, which have been approximated, and on the exact date of birth of the child, for which there is no information in EU-SILC and has also been approximated.

The number of households in receipt of old-age social assistance (bsaoa) – one of the major components of social assistance – is significantly over-simulated in EUROMOD (ratio of 225% in 2011). However, recipients of general social assistance (bsa00) – the other major component of social assistance – are under-simulated (ratio of 76%).

With regard to education benefits (*bed*), the simulations over-predict the number of recipients (ratio of 170%). Here the reason may point out to take-up problems of this benefit (cf Report of the Federal Government to the Parliament 2014).

The number of recipients of housing benefits is well met by the simulations (ratio of 94% to 126% with respect to official statistics).

Now, it comes to the taxes and social security contributions that have been simulated in EUROMOD. The second panel of Table 4.7. displays numbers of contributors as simulated. No external data on the number of contributors could be found, with the exception of social security contributions paid by employees. The latter are only slightly over-simulated in EUROMOD, with a ratio of 111% with respect to external official statistics.

In the EU-SILC data for 2011, about 36.7m households pay either income taxes or contribute to any scheme of social security (*tis*). The respective number of households simulated for 2011 is with 36.5m very close to the observed figure. In terms of individuals, about 34.9m individuals have been simulated to have their employers contribute to social security (*ils_sicer*). The number of those who contribute themselves in terms of employee social security contributions (*ils_sicee*) is a bit lower (31.8m). This is because for those individuals employed in mini jobs, the employer is obliged to pay all the social contributions (also see Section 2.5.1). About 2m individuals have been simulated to contribute to social security schemes as self-employed persons (*ils_sicse*), i.e. the statutory or the private health insurance as well as the statutory pension insurance, and about 16.3m pensioners have been simulated to contribute to social security for pensioners (*ils_sicpe*), i.e. the statutory or the private health insurance and the respective long-term care insurance. There are no comparable external figures for contributors to social security (with the exception of employees, which are covered with a ratio of 111% in 2011) as the national accounts usually only report aggregate sums but no numbers of contributors.

Unfortunately, there is less information available for the number of tax payers. Official statistics on income tax are only available every three years and only with a lag of about five years. The number of individuals paying positive income taxes (*tin* and *tingt*) is simulated to be about 43.7m. Tax allowances here represent both imputed tax allowances (see section 3.3.5) and modelled tax allowances (see Table 2.15).

Aggregate amounts for the simulated benefits are validated in Table 4.8. The aggregate amounts of the two major simulated disability benefits, corresponding to the disability pensions from the statutory accident insurance (*pdiss*) and the long-term care benefits from the statutory accident insurance (*pdiac*), are significantly over-simulated (ratios over 200%). This correlates with the coverage in terms of recipients reported in Table 4.7.

Simulation results for the aggregate sums of the unemployment benefit I (*bunct*) are about 64% of those from external statistics. This does not correspond to the accurate coverage of recipients presented before. With regard to unemployment benefits II (*bunnc*), the simulated aggregated amounts are very precise (ratios between 100% and 104%).

Next we come to simulated family benefits (*bfa*). At the most important family benefit in terms of aggregate spending, namely the child benefits (*bch00*), simulated amounts slightly overstep the official statistics figures (ratios between 0.98 and 1.08). At the minor family benefits, sums deviate somewhat between simulations and external data. Aggregate sums of parental-leave benefits (*bplct*) are under-simulated (ratio around 0.57). This result does correspond to the slight under-simulation of recipients of *bplct* (Table 4.7). The simulated aggregated amount of additional child benefits (*bchot*) is somewhat over-simulated, with a ratio of 128% in 2011, which corresponds to the slightly over-simulated number of recipients shown in Table 4.7.

At the two major benefits from social assistance, the picture is ambiguous. Both aggregated amounts are over-simulated, but the magnitude of the over simulation is bigger for old-age social assistance (*bsaoa*). However, the higher of the aggregated amount of old-age social assistance directly correlates with a too large simulated number of recipients. In the case of basic social assistance (*bsa00*), the slight over-simulation in terms of aggregated amounts does not correspond to the slightly under-simulated number of recipients.

Education benefits (*bed*) are over-simulated (the aggregated simulated amount being about twice as large as the amount reported by official statistics). This again corresponds with the too large number of recipients presented before.

Finally, the aggregated amount of housing benefits is very precisely simulated in 2011 (ratio of 93% with respect to external statistics) although the quality of simulation worsens over time.

Aggregate amounts of simulated taxes and social security contributions are compared to external figures in the second panel of Table 4.8. External information from national accounts has been utilised to validate the simulated social security payments. Social contributions in general have been simulated (*tsc*) quite precisely. The ratios oscillate between 117% and 111% over the years. The range of ratios is greater when taking a closer look at the social contributions for the single groups in detail, particularly in the case of contributions paid by the self-employed. Contributions from employers (*ils_sicer*) are slightly over-simulated in amounts by about 10% in 2011. Contributions for employees (*ils_sicee*) are also over-simulated in EUROMOD than in national accounts (ratio of 114% in 2011). On the contrary, contributions from the self-employed (*ils_sicse*) are heavily under-simulated, which is explained by the under-simulation of recipients of self-employment income. Contributions from pensioners (*ils_sicpe*) are also somewhat under-simulated (ratio of 75% for the year 2011).

There is less information available for taxes[14]. Official statistics on taxable incomes and final amounts of incomes taxes paid is only reported in the official final income tax statistics. These statistics are only available every three years and only with a lag of about five years. This is why, at the time of finalization of this report, it has been decided to validate the results obtained with EUROMOD against the results produced by the national microsimulation model STSM (based on GSOEP data). For 2011, the coverage rate for the revenue from income tax (*tin*) is around 102% and around 104% for the tax base (*tintb*).

4.2 Income distribution

All income distribution results presented here are computed for individuals according to their household disposable income (HDI) equivalised by the "modified OECD" equivalence scale. HDI are calculated as the sum of all income sources of all household members net of income tax and social security contributions. The weights in the OECD scale are: first adult=1; additional people aged 14+ =0.5; additional people aged under 14=0.3.

4.2.1 Income inequality

The distribution of equivalised disposable household income is presented in Table 4.9 in the Annex as income shares hold by income deciles. Simulated incomes for the five policy years (EUROMOD) are compared to external data, for which ratios of coverage are tabulated. The external source for the decile income shares is Eurostat statistics.

EUROMOD over-simulates the income share of the lowest decile (where the ratio of the simulated to the external figure amounts to 127%) and only slightly so the share of the second lowest decile (ratio of 106%). The income shares of third to ninth decile are simulated with an accuracy of 99%-104%. The highest decile is slightly under-simulated (ratio of 92%).

For the comparisons of the median, mean, Gini coefficient, and the inter-quantile ration (S80/S20), external data refers to official statistics from Eurostat. The mean and the median are very close to each other, whereas the Gini coefficient and the inter-quantile ratio is slightly lower in EUROMOD than in the statistics from Eurostat (ratios of ca 90% and 82% respectively).

4.2.2 Poverty rates

Poverty rates by gender and age are presented in Table 4.10. They are compared for the EUROMOD simulations with external data from Eurostat statistics. Their computation for the simulated data is based on the equivalised disposable household income that has already been analysed for its distribution in the previous section. Several definitions of poverty rates have been applied, always with respect to a share (40%, 50%, 60% or 70%) of the median income in the population. Poverty rates are differentiated by gender, and for the usual 60%-definitions they are presented separately for age groups.

As a result of the over-simulation of equivalised household incomes in the lower income deciles (see Table 4.10), poverty rates – which are based on that income distribution – are also under-simulated. Ratios range between 37% and 42% for the 40%-definition, and between 59% and 62% for the 50%-definition. Under-simulation is less severe, the closer we are to the median: ratios amount to ca 85% for the 60%-definition and to ca 93% for the 70%-definition. For the 60%-definition differentiated by age groups, the greatest deviations are found for the

[14] For details on the imputation of tax allowances, please see section 3.4.6.

group of individuals aged 50-64 years, while the smallest deviations are found for individuals aged 65 years and older.

4.3 Validation of minimum wage

There has been no general minimum wage implemented across all industries in Germany until January 2015. Unfortunately, at the time of writing there is no external statistics against which we can validate the simulation of the minimum wage.

In EUROMOD, the minimum wage policy is implemented although it is 'switched off' in the baseline. Table 4.10 shows the impact on household incomes of 'switching on' the minimum wage policy in EUROMOD. For the period 2011-2014, the results are the same as there is no minimum wage policy in place. However, minimum wage adjustment have an effect on the simulation results for 2015 and 2015, although the income, poverty and inequality effects are really minor.

4.4 Summary of "health warnings"

The model draws to a large extent on the disaggregation of harmonized variables (mostly benefits) described in Section 3.3.3. The fit of the disaggregated benefits is very good for some variables and quite poor for others. Unfortunately, it is very hard to conduct a more accurate disaggregation without further information on the variables that determine eligibility of such benefits.

Furthermore, the model over-simulates the income share hold by the lowest income decile, which indicates that the model does not simulate benefit receipt of households in the lower end of the income distribution very accurately. A reason thereof can be the over-simulation of old-age social assistance (*bsaoa*).

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- ***Sources for tax-benefit descriptions/rules***

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ANNEX 1: VALIDATION TABLES

Table 4.2-Number of employed and unemployed (in thousands)

	EUROMOD	External						Ratio					
	2011	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of employed	36,411	36,604	37,060	37,358	38,247	N/A	N/A	99%	98%	97%	95%	N/A	N/A
Number of unemployed	3,308	4,276	3,952	2,950	2,898	N/A	N/A	77%	84%	112%	114%	N/A	N/A

Notes: For the input data, number of employed and unemployed derived from months spent in employment and unemployment, averages over all months. For external data from employment agencies, only people registered as unemployed are reported (only registered). Number of employed includes people employed in jobs where full social security contributions have to be paid (sozialversicherungspflichtige Beschäftigung) as well as people in marginal employment (geringfügige Beschäftigung), such as mini and midi jobs.

Sources: Federal Employment Agency (2015) – Arbeitsmarkt 2014: Arbeitsmarktanalyse für Deutschland, West- und Ostdeutschland (http://statistik.arbeitsagentur.de).

Table 4.3-Market income in EUROMOD -Number of recipients (in thousands)

	EUROMOD name	EUROMOD	External						Ratio					
		2011	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Original Income	ils_origy	60,387	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Employment Income	yem	38,798	36,604	37,060	37,358	38,247	N/A	N/A	106%	105%	104%	101%	N/A	N/A
Self-employment Income	yse	3,423	4,548	4,548	4,483	4,405	N/A	N/A	75%	75%	76%	78%	N/A	N/A
Private Pension Income	il_ppen	2,091	722	741	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	290%	282%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Capital Income	yiy	48,370	62,700	60,500	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	77%	80%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Property Income	ypr	5,456	5,321	5,178	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	103%	105%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Private Transfers Received	ypt	2,654	1,640	1,716	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	162%	155%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Income	yot	382	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fringe Benefits	kfb	2,652	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Imputed Rents	kivho	31,110	21,821	21,040	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	143%	148%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Notes: Number of households for private transfers received. For all other variables, number of individuals.

Sources: EU-SILC 2012 and own simulations based on EUROMOD. For external figures: micro data from GSOEP (yiy, ypr, ypt, kivho) and aggregate statistics from the Federal Employment Agency (yem and yse).

Table 4.4-Market income in EUROMOD -Annual amounts (in mil.)

	EUROMOD name	EUROMOD						External						Ratio					
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Original Income	ils_origy	1,269,968	1,297,387	1,320,520	1,353,457	1,393,919	1,423,870	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Employment Income	yem	1,115,907	1,142,939	1,165,773	1,196,542	1,233,159	1,267,481	1,081,650	1,126,640	1,160,850	N/A	N/A	N/A	103%	101%	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Self-employment Income	yse	95,672	95,537	95,777	98,119	101,920	101,513	222,900	229,390	236,990	N/A	N/A	N/A	43%	42%	40%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Private Pension Income	il_ppen	2,071	2,115	2,149	2,167	2,169	2,160	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Capital Income	yiy	33,345	33,483	33,190	32,389	31,741	27,148	29,743	17,384	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	112%	193%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Property Income	ypr	23,890	24,192	24,494	24,872	25,174	25,350	40,996	43,821	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	58%	55%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Private Transfers Received	ypt	12,936	13,263	13,511	13,854	14,249	14,646	5,031	5,093	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	257%	260%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Income	yot	233	239	243	249	256	264	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fringe Benefits	kfb	8,961	9,148	9,299	9,374	9,383	9,345	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Imputed Rents	kivho	152,159	155,346	157,895	159,170	159,329	158,691	70,906	70,441	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	215%	221%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Sources: EU-SILC 2012 and own benefit disaggregation. For external figures: micro data from GSOEP (yiy, ypr, ypt, kivho) and aggregate statistics from the Federal Employment Agency (yem and yse).

Table 4.5-Tax benefit instruments included but not simulated in EUROMOD

-Number of recipients/ payers (in thousands)

	EUROMOD name	EUROMOD	External						Ratio					
		2011	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Benefits														
Pensions	ils_pen	21,087	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Old-age Benefits	poa	18,168	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Employer Schemes	poa00	14,523	3,339	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	435%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Civil Servants	poacs	3,287	1,493	1,512	1,534	1,172	1,205	N/A	220%	217%	214%	280%	273%	N/A
Public Service	poapu	3,287	2,185	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	150%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Self-Employed	poaps	107	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stat. Pens. Insur.	poass	14,433	15,160	15,251	15,519	17,627	N/A	N/A	95%	95%	93%	82%	N/A	N/A
Foreign Country	poaab	250	193	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	130%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disability Benefit	pdi	2,082	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stat. & Employer	pdi00	1,475	1,634	1,678	1,719	1,722	N/A	N/A	90%	88%	86%	86%	N/A	N/A
Civil Servants	pdiot	138	N/A	11	10	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	1302%	1330%	1394%	N/A	N/A
War Victims	pdiwr	501	N/A	34	N/A	29	N/A	N/A	N/A	1456%	N/A	1712%	N/A	N/A
Survivor Pension	psu	3,359	5,815	5,786	5,757	5,725	N/A	N/A	58%	58%	58%	59%	N/A	N/A
Unempl. Benefits	bun	5,590	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Business Start-Ups	bunot	-	128	69	19	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Re-Training	buntr	44	57	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	77%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Severance Pay	ysv	498	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Early Retirement	byr	71	336	317	288	246	N/A	N/A	21%	22%	25%	29%	N/A	N/A
Social Assistance	bsa	1,359	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Social Benefits	bsaot	424	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alimony Pay	bsaam	95	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Non-Prof. Charity	bsapu	264	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Taxes and Social Insurance contributions														
Property Taxes	tpr	18,300	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Notes: Number of individuals for: ysv, psu, poa00, boawr, poaab, poass, poacs, poapu, poaps, poa. For all other variables, number of households.

Sources: EU-SILC 2012 and own benefit disaggregation . For external figures: Official statistics (ysv, bunot, buntr, byr, bho, boawr, poass, poacs, psu).

Table 4.6-Tax benefit instruments included but not simulated in EUROMOD -Annual amounts (in mil.)

	EUROMOD name	EUROMOD						External						Ratio					
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Benefits																			
Pensions	ils_pen	352,453	361,293	365,578	373,003	373,406	378,517	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Old-age Benefits	poa	298,413	305,934	309,551	315,975	316,093	320,121	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Employer Schemes	poa00	20,096	20,517	20,854	21,022	21,043	20,959	18,010	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	112%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Civil Servants	poacs	64,800	66,776	68,159	70,529	70,608	70,312	40,600	42,400	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	160%	157%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Public Service	poapu	13,272	13,550	13,773	13,884	13,898	13,842	7,654	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	173%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Self-Employed	poaps	2,641	2,696	2,741	2,763	2,765	2,754	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stat. Pens. Insur.	poass	196,691	201,463	203,078	206,823	206,823	211,301	171,758	174,695	177,021	N/A	N/A	N/A	115%	115%	115%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Foreign Country	poaab	913	932	947	955	956	952	618	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	148%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disability Benefit	pdi	19,566	20,022	20,231	20,543	20,549	20,841	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stat. & Employer	pdi00	13,893	14,230	14,344	14,609	14,609	14,925	14,738	15,235	15,701	N/A	N/A	N/A	94%	93%	91%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Civil Servants	pdiot	1,793	1,830	1,860	1,875	1,877	1,870	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
War Victims	pdiwr	3,620	3,696	3,757	3,787	3,791	3,776	N/A	431	N/A	388	N/A	N/A	N/A	858%	N/A	975%	N/A	N/A
Survivor Pension	psu	24,602	25,198	25,400	25,869	25,869	26,429	35,815	36,308	36,330	36,763	N/A	N/A	69%	69%	70%	70%	N/A	N/A
Unempl. Benefits	bun	36,609	37,376	37,989	38,296	38,334	38,181	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Business Start-Ups	bunot	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,711	890	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Re-Training	buntr	124	127	129	130	130	129	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Severance Pay	ysv	3,172	3,238	3,291	3,318	3,321	3,308	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Early Retirement	byr	1,079	1,102	1,120	1,129	1,130	1,125	1,306	1,315	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	83%	84%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Social Assistance	bsa	4,349	4,440	4,513	4,549	4,554	4,536	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Social Benefits	bsaot	912	931	946	954	955	951	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alimony Pay	bsaam	153	156	159	160	160	160	307	293	286	N/A	N/A	N/A	50%	53%	55%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Non-Prof. Charity	bsapu	630	643	654	659	660	657	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Taxes and Social Insurance contributions																			
Property Taxes	tpr	6260	6391	6496	6549	6555	6529	4670	4807	4951	3962	N/A	N/A	134%	133%	131%	165%	N/A	N/A

Sources: EU-SILC 2012 and own benefit disaggregation . For external figures: Official statistics (poass, poa00, poacs, poapu, boawr, bho).

Table 4.7-Tax benefit instruments simulated in EUROMOD -Number of recipients/ payers (in thousands)

	EUROMOD name	EUROMOD						SILC	Ratio	External						Ratio					
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2011	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Benefits																					
Sickness B.	bhl	1,071	1,071	1,071	1,071	1,071	1,071	1,063	101%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pen. (St. Ac.)	pdiss	966	966	966	966	966	966	-	N/A	748	738	727	717	N/A	N/A	129%	131%	133%	135%	N/A	N/A
LTC (St. Ac.)	pdiac	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	100%	14	14	14	14	N/A	N/A	285%	284%	285%	285%	N/A	N/A
U. Insurance	bunct	841	841	841	841	841	841	854	98%	829	849	915	888	N/A	N/A	101%	99%	92%	95%	N/A	N/A
U. Assistance	bunnc	5,356	5,419	5,400	5,401	5,348	5,269	4,154	129%	4,616	4,470	4,424	4,387	N/A	N/A	116%	121%	122%	123%	N/A	N/A
Child Ben.	bch00	10,174	9,322	9,322	9,322	9,322	9,322	10,970	93%	8,761	8,802	8,762	8,826	N/A	N/A	116%	106%	106%	106%	N/A	N/A
Add. Child A.	bchot	147	145	133	115	122	117	8,483	2%	146	N/A	120	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	N/A	111%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maternity L.	bmact	513	513	513	513	513	513	470	109%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Parental L.	bplct	565	572	572	572	572	572	1,016	56%	663	674	N/A	817	N/A	N/A	85%	85%	N/A	70%	N/A	N/A
General S.A.	bsa00	82	87	87	87	82	87	178	46%	108	113	122	N/A	N/A	N/A	76%	77%	72%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Old-Age S.A.	bsaoa	1,482	1,490	1,494	1,498	1,523	1,514	398	372%	659	705	757	N/A	N/A	N/A	225%	211%	197%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Education B.	bed	1,638	1,440	1,414	1,397	1,385	1,355	1,406	116%	963	979	959	925	N/A	N/A	170%	147%	147%	151%	N/A	N/A
Housing Benefits	bho	849	716	681	653	635	685	1,594	53%	903	783	665	511	N/A	N/A	94%	91%	102%	128%	N/A	N/A
Taxes and Social Insurance contributions																					
Taxes / SSC	tis	36,499	36,700	36,510	36,535	36,568	36,742	36,699	99%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SSC Total	tsc	51,879	51,879	51,879	51,888	51,913	51,913	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SSC: Employer Total	ils_sicer	34,857	34,857	34,857	34,857	34,857	34,857	#N/A	#N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SSC: Employee Total	ils_sicee	31,796	32,857	31,549	31,582	31,786	32,767	#N/A	#N/A	28,558	28,921	29,330	N/A	N/A	N/A	111%	114%	108%	N/A	N/A	N/A
SSC: Self-Empl. Total	ils_sicse	1,987	1,987	1,987	1,996	2,025	2,025	#N/A	#N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SSC: Pensioners Total	ils_sicpe	16,285	16,285	16,285	16,285	16,285	16,285	#N/A	#N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Income Tax	tin	43,716	45,001	45,387	45,890	46,256	46,757	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Taxable Inc.	tinty	56,610	57,500	56,431	56,470	56,642	57,308	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tax Allow.	tinta	80,652	80,652	80,652	80,652	80,652	80,652	80,652	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tax Base	tintb	80,650	80,651	80,652	80,652	80,652	80,652	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gross I. Tax	tingt	43,716	45,001	45,387	45,890	46,256	46,757	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Notes: Number of individuals for pdiss, bhlac, bhlps, bhl01, bunct, bmact, bplct, tsc, ils_sicer, ils_sicee, ils_sicse, ils_sicpe, tin, tinty, tinta, tintb and tingt. Number of households for bunnc, bfa, bch, bchot, bsa00, bsaoa, bed and tis.

Sources: EU-SILC 2012 and own simulations based on EUROMOD. For external figures: Official statistics (pdiss, bhlps, bhlac, bunct, bunnc, bsa00, bsaoa, bed, ils_sicee) as well as micro data from GSOEP (bfa, bmact, bplct, bchot, bch).

Table 4.8-Tax benefit instruments simulated in EUROMOD -Annual amounts (Mil.)

		EUROMOD						SILC	Ratio	External						Ratio					
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2011	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Benefits																					
Sickness B.	bhl	9,874	10,154	10,462	10,653	10,920	11,221	4,224	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pen. (St. Ac.)	pdiss	10,132	10,404	10,665	10,887	11,168	11,397	-	N/A	3,955	3,975	3,981	N/A	N/A	N/A	256%	262%	268%	N/A	N/A	N/A
LTC (St. Ac.)	pdiac	257	262	265	267	268	273	260	1	109	108	109	111	N/A	N/A	236%	242%	243%	242%	N/A	N/A
U. Insurance	bunct	8,737	8,912	9,079	9,175	9,216	9,211	9,961	1	13,776	13,823	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	63%	64%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
U. Assistance	bunnc	33,202	34,245	34,638	35,233	35,574	35,656	22,273	1	33,202	32,800	33,676	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	104%	103%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Child Ben.	bch00	36,027	32,840	32,840	32,840	33,549	33,903	33,296	1	33,213	33,373	33,314	33,472	N/A	N/A	108%	98%	99%	98%	N/A	N/A
Add. Child A.	bchot	494	483	454	406	411	385	5,731	0	385	372	352	324	327	N/A	128%	130%	129%	125%	125%	N/A
Maternity L.	bmact	398	398	398	398	398	399	479	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Parental L.	bplct	2,707	2,745	2,779	2,802	2,837	2,872	5,372	1	4,709	4,825	5,103	5,676	5,850	N/A	57%	57%	54%	49%	48%	N/A
General S.A.	bsa00	757	772	788	806	816	824	1,045	1	633	671	703	N/A	N/A	N/A	120%	115%	112%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Old-Age S.A.	bsaoa	9,027	9,169	9,302	9,520	9,794	9,862	1,610	6	3,420	3,670	4,051	N/A	N/A	N/A	264%	250%	230%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Education B.	bed	8,054	7,422	7,333	7,209	7,068	6,975	5,633	1	3,180	3,278	3,241	3,100	N/A	N/A	253%	226%	226%	233%	N/A	N/A
Housing Benefits	bho	1,397	1,198	1,160	1,115	1,089	1,370	2,762	1	1,500	1,185	985	845	N/A	N/A	93%	101%	118%	132%	N/A	N/A
Taxes and Social Insurance contributions																					
Taxes / SSC	tis	477,179	492,070	500,106	516,518	536,298	553,813	433,569	1	409,010	431,540	448,660	N/A	N/A	N/A	117%	114%	111%	N/A	N/A	N/A
SSC Total	tsc	443,319	451,495	454,199	465,938	479,638	493,800	-	N/A	494,860	508,570	518,950	N/A	N/A	N/A	90%	89%	88%	N/A	N/A	N/A
SSC: Employer Total	ils_sicer	191,356	194,427	196,269	201,589	207,539	212,693	#N/A	#N/A	173,782	179,852	184,215	191,409	199,413	N/A	110%	108%	107%	105%	104%	N/A
SSC: Employee Total	ils_sicee	187,371	190,948	190,783	195,801	201,565	208,486	#N/A	#N/A	164,960	170,564	174,333	181,608	189,061	N/A	114%	112%	109%	108%	107%	N/A
SSC: Self-Empl. Total	ils_sicse	10,831	10,976	10,879	11,230	11,514	11,571	#N/A	#N/A	23,670	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	46%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SSC: Pensioners Total	ils_sicpe	26,881	27,573	28,134	28,659	29,510	30,525	#N/A	#N/A	35,960	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	75%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Income Tax	tin	225,216	235,001	242,176	252,169	264,199	272,707	-	N/A	220,697	236,613	248,600	259,579	274,071	N/A	102%	99%	97%	97%	96%	N/A
Taxable Inc.	tinty	1,466,631	1,512,287	1,537,849	1,583,229	1,631,532	1,680,208	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tax Allow.	tinta	244,705	249,661	252,016	257,338	264,948	272,814	244,705	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tax Base	tintb	1,221,926	1,262,625	1,285,833	1,325,891	1,366,583	1,407,395	-	N/A	1,170,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	104%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gross I. Tax	tingt	213,709	222,984	229,780	239,228	250,613	258,656	-	N/A	221,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	97%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Notes: Sums for bsa00 and bsaoa exclude people in institutions. In the sum of taxes and social contributions (tis), contributions from employers are excluded. The variable tin contains the solidarity surcharge.

Sources: EU-SILC 2012 and own simulations based on EUROMOD. For external figures: Official statistics (pdiac, pdiss, bhl, bunct, bunnc, bchot, bmact, bplct, bsa00, bsaoa, bed, bch), national accounts for social security contributions and income tax and national microsimulation model STSM (based on GSOEP) for the tax base and gross income tax.

Table 4.9-Distribution of equivalised disposable income (shares by deciles)

	EUROMOD						External						Ratio					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
D1	4.08	4.06	4.03	4.03	4.01	3.99	3.20	3.40	3.20	2.40	0.00	0.00	127%	119%	126%	168%	N/A	N/A
D2	5.53	5.53	5.53	5.52	5.50	5.49	5.20	5.20	5.10	5.00	0.00	0.00	106%	106%	108%	110%	N/A	N/A
D3	6.56	6.54	6.54	6.53	6.50	6.50	6.30	6.40	6.30	6.30	0.00	0.00	104%	102%	104%	104%	N/A	N/A
D4	7.49	7.49	7.48	7.49	7.47	7.46	7.30	7.40	7.20	7.30	0.00	0.00	103%	101%	104%	103%	N/A	N/A
D5	8.44	8.41	8.43	8.42	8.40	8.39	8.30	8.40	8.20	8.30	0.00	0.00	102%	100%	103%	101%	N/A	N/A
D6	9.46	9.45	9.45	9.48	9.48	9.47	9.40	9.50	9.30	9.40	0.00	0.00	101%	99%	102%	101%	N/A	N/A
D7	10.65	10.67	10.68	10.68	10.70	10.72	10.70	10.70	10.50	10.70	0.00	0.00	100%	100%	102%	100%	N/A	N/A
D8	12.18	12.19	12.21	12.24	12.24	12.27	12.20	12.20	12.10	12.30	0.00	0.00	100%	100%	101%	99%	N/A	N/A
D9	14.36	14.39	14.40	14.41	14.45	14.46	14.50	14.50	14.40	14.70	0.00	0.00	99%	99%	100%	98%	N/A	N/A
D10	21.26	21.28	21.25	21.22	21.28	21.26	22.90	22.40	23.70	23.60	0.00	0.00	93%	95%	90%	90%	N/A	N/A
Median	19,598	19,880	20,212	20,611	20,984	21,338	19,043	19,595	19,582	19,733	0.00	0.00	103%	101%	103%	104%	N/A	N/A
Mean	21,956	22,285	22,652	23,095	23,520	23,882	21,549	22,022	22,471	22,537	0.00	0.00	102%	101%	101%	102%	N/A	N/A
Gini	26.06	26.15	26.16	26.18	26.31	26.35	29.00	28.30	29.70	30.70	0.00	0.00	90%	92%	88%	85%	N/A	N/A
S80/S20	3.71	3.72	3.73	3.73	3.76	3.77	4.50	4.30	4.60	5.10	0.00	0.00	82%	87%	81%	73%	N/A	N/A

Notes: Based on household disposable income (HDI), equivalised by the “modified OECD” equivalence scale. HDI are calculated as the sum of all income sources of all household members, net of income tax and social insurance contributions, computed at the individual level.

Sources: EUROMOD simulations and EU-SILC micro data for 2011. External source is Eurostat statistics.

Table 4.10-Poverty rates by gender and age

	EUROMOD						External						Ratio					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
40% median HDI																		
Total	1.69	1.74	1.74	1.77	1.82	2.21	4.30	4.20	4.20	5.40	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.41	0.41	0.33	N/A	N/A
Males	1.55	1.53	1.54	1.54	1.59	2.13	4.20	4.10	4.00	5.20	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.37	0.38	0.30	N/A	N/A
Females	1.82	1.94	1.93	1.99	2.05	2.28	4.30	4.40	4.40	5.60	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.44	0.44	0.35	N/A	N/A
50% median HDI																		
Total	5.79	5.91	5.94	5.97	6.10	6.32	9.70	9.60	9.40	10.50	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.62	0.63	0.57	N/A	N/A
Males	5.79	5.90	5.93	5.94	6.10	6.27	9.40	9.00	8.90	10.20	0.00	0.00	0.62	0.66	0.67	0.58	N/A	N/A
Females	5.79	5.92	5.96	5.99	6.10	6.38	9.90	10.10	9.90	10.70	0.00	0.00	0.59	0.59	0.60	0.56	N/A	N/A
60% median HDI																		
Total	13.28	13.29	13.36	13.44	13.65	13.65	15.80	16.10	16.10	16.70	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.83	0.83	0.80	N/A	N/A
Males	12.44	12.43	12.49	12.59	12.75	12.73	14.90	14.90	15.00	15.90	0.00	0.00	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.79	N/A	N/A
Females	14.09	14.12	14.19	14.27	14.52	14.54	16.80	17.20	17.20	17.40	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.82	0.83	0.82	N/A	N/A
70% median HDI																		
Total	21.94	21.98	22.14	22.24	22.47	22.63	23.70	23.60	23.30	23.70	0.00	0.00	0.93	0.93	0.95	0.94	N/A	N/A
Males	20.64	20.74	20.86	21.00	21.16	21.25	22.40	22.10	21.90	22.40	0.00	0.00	0.92	0.94	0.95	0.94	N/A	N/A
Females	23.21	23.19	23.38	23.45	23.73	23.95	24.90	25.00	24.70	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.93	0.93	0.95	0.94	N/A	N/A
60% median HDI																		
0-15 years	12.82	13.07	13.09	13.35	13.25	12.96	15.60	15.20	14.70	15.10	0.00	0.00	0.82	0.86	0.89	0.88	N/A	N/A
16-24 years	17.48	17.38	17.36	17.23	17.13	16.95	19.00	20.70	18.50	20.60	0.00	0.00	0.92	0.84	0.94	0.84	N/A	N/A
25-49 years	11.34	11.51	11.47	11.62	11.62	11.55	14.60	14.40	14.90	15.50	0.00	0.00	0.78	0.80	0.77	0.75	N/A	N/A
50-64 years	14.29	14.19	14.29	14.23	14.26	14.52	18.50	18.60	19.40	18.70	0.00	0.00	0.77	0.76	0.74	0.76	N/A	N/A
65+ years	13.73	13.45	13.76	13.86	14.98	15.12	14.20	15.00	14.90	16.30	0.00	0.00	0.97	0.90	0.92	0.85	N/A	N/A

Notes: Based on household disposable income (HDI), equivalised by the “modified OECD” equivalence scale. HDI are calculated as the sum of all income sources of all household members, net of income tax and social insurance contributions, computed at the individual level.
Sources: EUROMOD simulations and EU-SILC micro data for 2011. External source is Eurostat statistics.

Table 4.11-Minimum wage validation

	Baseline						Min Wage Incl.						Ratio					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Disposable income	1,277,340	1,297,020	1,317,899	1,343,445	1,367,018	1,387,463	1,277,340	1,297,020	1,317,899	1,343,445	1,374,060	1,394,329	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.01	1.00
Employment																		
Income	1,115,907	1,142,939	1,165,773	1,196,542	1,233,159	1,267,481	1,115,907	1,142,939	1,165,773	1,196,542	1,247,554	1,280,898	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.01	1.01
Income tax	225,216	235,001	242,176	252,169	264,199	272,707	225,216	235,001	242,176	252,169	266,557	274,755	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.01	1.01
SSC: Employee																		
Total	214,251	218,521	218,917	224,460	231,075	239,011	214,251	218,521	218,917	224,460	234,890	242,429	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.02	1.01
SSC: Self-Empl.																		
Total	10,831	10,976	10,879	11,230	11,514	11,571	10,831	10,976	10,879	11,230	11,514	11,571	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Gini	26.06	26.15	26.16	26.18	26.31	26.35	26.06	26.15	26.16	26.18	26.13	26.17	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.99
Poverty headcount	13.28	13.29	13.36	13.44	13.65	13.65	13.28	13.29	13.36	13.44	13.56	13.54	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.99

Annex 2: Policy effects in 2015-16

Preliminary: Indexation based on projected HICP for 2016[1]

In this section we analyse the direct tax-benefit policy effect on household disposable income in Germany between 2015 and 2016. We try to understand how changes (or non-changes) to tax-benefit policies have affected household incomes in the two periods, abstracting from changes in the population characteristics (e.g. increased unemployment) and the distribution of market/original gross incomes (e.g. reduction in wages). It should be noted that tax-benefit policies in a given year are taken as of 30th of June.

Table A2.1 and Figure A2.1 show the policy effect measured in real terms by income component and income decile group. The effect is estimated as the difference between simulated household net income under the 2016 tax-benefit policies (deflating the tax-benefit monetary parameters by Eurostat's Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices, HICP) and net incomes simulated under 2015 policies, as a percentage of mean equivalised household disposable income in 2015. Households are ranked based on their equivalised household disposable income. The total policy effect on household incomes is decomposed into the different components: public pensions, means-tested benefits, non-means-tested benefits, employee and self-employed social insurance contributions (SIC) and direct taxes. We isolate the policy effect from changes in market/original income, i.e. changes to market/original incomes are not considered as part of the policy effect and so, they have no effect on disposable income.

In 2015-16, households experienced on average a real income gain of 0.55%. Similar to the two previous years, the policy effect in the period 2015-16 was also progressive and had a small income-increasing effect: the income gain was larger at the bottom of the distribution (1.1% in the 1st decile group) than at the top (0.3% in the 10th decile group). The main effect at the bottom two decile groups was driven by an increase in means-tested benefits and in public pensions. Within the means-tested benefits, the strongest effect was due to an increase of housing benefits (Wohngeld) as well as a slight increase in the basic rate and means-test value for Unemployment benefit II (Arbeitslosengeld II), old-age social assistance (Grundsicherung im Alter und bei Erwerbsminderung) and basic social assistance (Sozialhilfe). Non-means-tested benefits such as the child benefit (Kindergeld) and the long-term care benefits from statutory insurance (Pflegegeld) also increased slightly which led to very small income gains for all households.

Public pensions increased both in nominal and real terms, yielding a small income gain for all households, especially for those in the lower half of the income distribution.

Between 2015 and 2016 the health insurance contribution rate increased from 8.2% to 8.4% for employees, self-employed and pensioners. As a result, households from all decile groups experienced a minor income loss. However, the loss due to increased SIC for employees, self-employed and pensioners was partially offset by a decrease in income tax liabilities. There was an increase in the level of the basic tax free allowance from 8,472 to 8,652 euros. Furthermore, the tax allowance for children increased from 3,576 to 3,624 euros and the tax allowance for lone parents increased from 1,608 to 1,908 euros. All these changes led to an overall decrease in direct taxes which translated in household income gains

[1] Results based on the final HICP will appear in the annual EUROMOD report Effects of tax-benefit policy changes across the income distributions of the EU-28 countries: 2015-16 (updated).

Table A2.1: Policy effect in 2015-16, using CPI-indexation, %

Decile	Original income	Public pensions	Means-tested benefits	Non means-tested benefits	Employee SIC	Self-employed SIC	Direct taxes	Disposable income
1	0.00	0.62	0.53	0.10	-0.16	-0.01	0.04	1.13
2	0.00	0.64	0.44	0.12	-0.22	-0.01	0.19	1.17
3	0.00	0.75	0.08	0.08	-0.27	-0.01	0.23	0.86
4	0.00	0.71	0.05	0.07	-0.27	-0.01	0.23	0.77
5	0.00	0.59	0.02	0.06	-0.27	-0.01	0.24	0.63
6	0.00	0.45	0.02	0.06	-0.25	-0.01	0.27	0.53
7	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.04	-0.26	0.00	0.31	0.44
8	0.00	0.27	0.02	0.03	-0.25	0.00	0.33	0.40
9	0.00	0.25	0.01	0.03	-0.23	-0.01	0.33	0.38
10	0.00	0.24	0.01	0.03	-0.18	-0.02	0.27	0.33
Total	**0.00**	**0.41**	**0.06**	**0.05**	**-0.23**	**-0.01**	**0.27**	**0.55**

Notes: shown as a percentage change in mean equivalised household disposable income by income component and income decile group. Income decile groups are based on equivalised household disposable income in 2015, using the modified OECD equivalence scale. Each policy system has been applied to the same input data, deflating tax-benefit monetary parameters of 2016 policies by Eurostat's Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), i.e. 0.996.

Figure A2.1: Policy effect in 2015-16, using CPI-indexation, %