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Supporting expertise in inclusive growth

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Deliverable 11.2

INTEGRATED DATA SET OF MINIMUM WAGES OVER TIME

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Abstract

This report - constituting Deliverable 11.2 for Work Package 11 of the InGRID-2 project - presents the statutory minimum wages in 85 countries.

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1. Introduction

Minimum wage (MW) is the claim for which an employee is entitled, and it is the lowest wage that employers can legally pay to their employees. To guarantee compliance with the MW law, the information about the current MW shall be available to both employees and employers.

This report introduces the *WageIndicator public database of minimum wages*. The database represents the unique collection of 3,100 MW rates stipulated by the law in 85 countries covering countries in Europe, Oceania, and both Americas in a most comprehensive database. Some countries have a universal MW across the economy, while others differentiate MW between different regions, characteristics of employment and types of workers. MW included in the database cover seven half years during the period 2018-2021.

The excel database is available on the project website - https://www.inclusivegrowth.eu/files/Output/D11.2-WageIndicator_database.xlsx.

2. Methodology

WageIndicator public database of minimum wages is a result of the long-term effort of WageIndicator Foundation that collects and publishes MW on its national websites in the national language (more than 10,000 MW web pages). MW are also published on the WageIndicator Foundation's website wageindicator.org in English. WageIndicator has developed the dedicated tool (Minimum Wage COBRA tool) to populate the MW database and to keep the database up-to-date.

2.1 Geographical coverage

The database covers 85 countries in Europe, Oceania and both Americas. Of the 86 countries in the database 10 countries provide no MW, 25 countries provide one single national MW rate, and the remaining countries provide multiple MW rates differentiated by several dimensions described below. Most countries in Europe provide a universal MW and there are seven European countries with no statutory MW: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Italy, Lichtenstein, Norway, and Sweden. In contrast, few countries in both Americas provide over a hundred MW rates, e.g., Brazil (201 rates), Ecuador (1,874), Mexico (120), Panama (183), and the US (228).

2.2 Regional dimension

The regional dimension of MW is captured in the database. There are seven countries which define MW differently for regions: Canada, Micronesia, Portugal, Switzerland, the US, and the UK.

2.3 Universe of MW rates

The database contains MW for more than 100 categories of workers. MW rates could be defined by economic sectors (NACE coding), occupation (ISCO coding), age category, firm size (in terms of employment or yearly revenue). The job and skill categories are captured in the database separately. The MW can be defined for skill categories or specific jobs (e.g., clerks), or it can relate to the job to be done for piece work.

In addition, several indicators are created to facilitate the comparison of MW for the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors and for domestic workers.

Table a1 in the Appendix describes the all dimensions of MW database. Users could trace changes in MW twice a year, from January 2018 until July 2021.

2.4 Monthly rates

MW can be set for an hour of work, a week of work, a day of work or a month of work. Most countries provide a monthly MW rates. Some countries provide several rates e.g., both an hourly and a monthly MW. Database includes harmonised monthly MW rates. Other MW units are converted to monthly rates using the working hours specified in the country's labour laws. For part-time workers, the amount of the MW shall be proportional to their working hours.

2.5 Currency

MW rates are published in national currency. The database includes the currency name and currency code (ISO 4217).

3. Conclusion

This report describes the *WageIndicator public database of minimum wages*. The database provides the users with up-to-date information concerning the MW that applies to the specific job, skill level and industry; and an overview of all MW's in the country and, where applicable, also by regions, age, and firm size. The database includes MW collected in 85 countries in Europe, Oceania, and both Americas. In total database has 3,100 MW rates. MW is provided bi-annually from January 2018 until July 2021. MW rates are harmonised and published as monthly rates in national currency.

appendix 1

Table a1. Description of the database variables

COLUMNS	EXPLANATION
code	Country code (ISO 3166)
countryname	Name country (in English)
alpha2	two-letter country codes (ISO 3166)
alpha3	tree-letter country codes (ISO 3166)
continent	Continent
MW_code	Unique ID: COUNTRY (1-3dgt) REGION (2dgt) BREAKDOWN (3dgt) RESERVE (2dgt) FOLLOWUP_NR PER COUNTRY (4dgt)
lvls	Number of levels in the MW database: 1 to 4 levels
H_lvl1_eng	Heading of level 1 [no heading if country has only one single MW] , e.g. State or Industry
LVL1_eng	Text of level 1, e.g. Bihar or Carpentry
H_lvl2_eng	Heading of level 2, e.g. Category or City
LVL2_eng	Text of level 2, e.g. General Workers or Dhaka
H_lvl3_eng	Heading of level 3, e.g. Job Type or Area
LVL3_eng	Text of level 3, e.g. Bartender or Area A
H_lvl4_eng	Heading of level 4, e.g. Skill level
LVL4_eng	Text of level 4, e.g. Unskilled
MW20XX	monthly minimum wage rate
currency	national currency code
currencycode	national currency numeric code
currency_english	national currency name
nrmwratespcntr	Number of MW rates per country: 0, 1, >1
agriculturerural	1 if MW is refers to rural region or agriculture sector
nonagricultural	1 if MW is refers to nonagriculture sector
domestics	1 if MW is refers to domestic worker
age	definition of age category
isco0801	Occupation category (ISCO1 levels)
nace2000	Industry category (NACE)
firmsize	Firm size category
gross	
MW_UNIT	

InGRID-2

Integrating Research Infrastructure for European expertise on Inclusive Growth from data to policy

Referring to the increasingly challenging EU2020-ambitions of Inclusive Growth, the objectives of the InGRID-2 project are to advance the integration and innovation of distributed social sciences research infrastructures (RI) on ‘poverty, living conditions and social policies’ as well as on ‘working conditions, vulnerability and labour policies’. InGRID-2 will extend transnational on-site and virtual access, organise mutual learning and discussions of innovations, and improve data services and facilities of comparative research. The focus areas are (a) integrated and harmonised data, (b) links between policy and practice, and (c) indicator-building tools.

Lead users are social scientist involved in comparative research to provide new evidence for European policy innovations. Key science actors and their stakeholders are coupled in the consortium to provide expert services to users of comparative research infrastructures by investing in collaborative efforts to better integrate microdata, identify new ways of collecting data, establish and improve harmonised classification tools, extend available policy databases, optimise statistical quality, and set-up micro-simulation environments and indicator-building tools as important means of valorisation. Helping scientists to enhance their expertise from data to policy is the advanced mission of InGRID-2. A new research portal will be the gateway to this European science infrastructure.

This project is supported by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 730998.

More detailed information is available on the website: www.inclusivegrowth.eu

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