



**World Input-Output Database:  
Construction and Applications**

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## **Attachment 2**

**Final Report Fp7 project World Input-Output Database: Construction and Applications (WIOD), Grant agreement no: 225 281**

### **4.2.**

## **USE AND DISSEMINATION OF FOREGROUND**

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### 1. Summary

This project was committed to disseminate knowledge (i) between members within the consortium, and (ii) to interest groups and stakeholders outside the consortium. This was done in a variety of ways:

- *Meetings.* Dedicated workshops have been organized to disseminate knowledge within the work packages (WPs), while bi-annual project board meetings ensured WP-coordination. Two large conferences have been organized to disseminate knowledge within the consortium and between the consortium and the outside community (which was also invited to participate and present papers that were related the WIOD project). At the end of the project, a one-day event was organized in Brussels to mark the official launch of the database. This meeting targeted policy makers and their organizations. Keynote speakers were Karel de Gucht (EU Commissioner for Trade) and Alejandro Jara (Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization). This event led to several reports in the media.
- *Publications.* Because the final database became only available (as scheduled) at the end of the project, only few papers have been published. The exceptions are a couple of papers prepared in WP6 on methodological issues (for which the final WIOD data were not necessary). Several working papers and policy briefs for non-specialist policy-makers have been made available on the internet and disseminated widely, see below. A substantial number of papers is currently in preparation and draft versions have been (and will be) presented at conferences. Academic working papers will be submitted to peer-reviewed journals. The beneficiaries in the project have a wealth of experience in this area and leading reputations in the field.
- *Working visits.* To optimize research activities amongst various consortium partners various bilateral visits have been carried out.
- *Internet.* A dedicated website was used to air the activities and results of the project. In particular, the world input-output database has been made available to the public (and is free of charge) on the internet on April 16, 2012. An internal newsletter was used to keep all consortium members up-to-date.

- *Transfer of software and model expertise.* The used models in the project have been transferred for in-house analysis within the European Commission.
- *Promotion of WIOD.* Even before the project started in May 2009, WIOD has been promoted at various conferences. In particular, every year several sessions have been organized at the international input-output conferences where consortium partners presented their preliminary results. The international input-output conference is attended by the potential users of the WIOD database. The input-output community is well aware of the existence (and contents) of WIOD.

## 2. General strategy

The knowledge generated by the research was managed and guided by the Project Coordinator, Erik Dietzenbacher, alongside the other members of the Management Team, the Project Board and the Committee of External Experts. Beneficiaries have been encouraged to circulate initial results in the working paper series, present papers at international conferences, workshops and seminars, and thereby receive feedback on their work. Feedback was also assured by frequent interactions between the beneficiaries at different nodes in the consortium. This ensured that the knowledge that eventually appeared in the final reports incorporates the state-of-the-art in terms of methodology, and has received input from a wide variety of perspectives and specialisms. Beneficiaries were (and still are) encouraged to publish individual papers in leading journals, to subject the work to further professional scrutiny, as well as to circulate work package results among the academic community. The work was also be presented at the final launch meeting in Brussels. This was an open event during which the research was presented to a large audience of policy-makers, members of the academic sector, and private- and public-sector organizations.

Members of the project are affiliated to a wide variety of organizations such as Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS, Seville), Energy-Economy-Environment Modelling Laboratory (E3MLab at ICCS, Athens), Vienna Institute for International Studies (WIIW), Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO, Vienna), CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB, the Hague), Erasme (CRSA, Paris), the Groningen Growth and Development Centre (GGDC at RUG), Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW, Mannheim), The Conference Board Europe (Brussels) and others. In addition, the consortium members have participated (or co-ordinated) projects that were funded by the European Commission, such as the EU KLEMS project and the MODELS project. These organizations and the projects they were involved in have extensive networks that cover the whole gamut from academia, statistical organizations, policy analysts and policy makers, both at the national and international level. In addition, they have widely circulated working papers series and/or significant business or policy presence.

The output of the WIOD project, which includes a database, new models, a comprehensive final report and (in the future) a substantial number of research papers, has the potential to have considerable impact in a number of important areas. This potential was built up by incorporating

moments of discussion, consultation and dissemination at the beginning, middle and end of the project. In particular, meetings held at the start and middle of the project provided opportunities for feedback from policy makers and experts, ensuring that the project sustained its policy relevance. The latter in particular with regard to the Commission's own policies in the area as well as maximizing the potential of the research in question to contribute to Europe's needs in terms of socio-economic and environmental issues.

The project also stimulated tight co-operation between the members of the WPs that were responsible for constructing the database. In particular in the stage of fine-tuning and adjusting to each other the different parts of the database, it was crucial to have face-to-face discussions about details on a frequent basis. Funds had been set aside in the budget to allow for travel by consortium members to meet with and work with other team members. Such expenditures facilitated the collaboration and exchange of ideas that was a central component of the successful implementation of the project.

### **3. Meetings**

As noted above, several meetings have been scheduled to discuss the intermediate results of research activities and options for further development of the database and its applications. After a kick-off meeting (Amsterdam, May 15, 2009, preceded by a data construction meeting on May 14), yearly consortium meetings have been organized in cities where consortium members are located (Vienna, May 28, 2010; Seville, May 25-26, 2011; Groningen, April 26, 2012). The members of the Committee of External Experts have been invited to these meetings, as well as well as the members of the Committee of Stakeholders and (occasionally) some researchers and policy makers who were not directly involved in the project (e.g. WTO).

In addition to the full consortium meetings (which were scheduled for months 12, 24 and 36), project board meetings were planned for months 18 and 30 to monitor and guide the work. The Project Board was the decision-taking body in WIOD and consisted of the members of the Management Team and the work package leaders. The two project board meetings were held in Amsterdam (November 4, 2010) and Mannheim (November 28, 2011).

Next to these consortium and project board meetings, two intermediate meetings with a specific focus have been organized. During the first half of the project, a thematic meeting on data construction issues was held in Paris (December 3-4, 2009). This meeting was to yield agreements among the researchers involved in WP1 – WP5 on industry classification schemes, standard practices to compute variables, etcetera. In the second half of the project, a similar meeting on modeling issues was organized in Seville (May 27, 2011). This meeting was attended by researchers operating in WP7 – WP9. The main objective of this meeting was to arrive at a final division of tasks concerning the analysis of scenarios and policy measures among the partners involved in modeling tasks.

In the final month of the project, a meeting was scheduled in Brussels (April 16) aiming at policymakers. The WIOD database was officially launched in a one-day event was hosted by DG Trade. Next to keynote speeches by Karel de Gucht (EU Commissioner for Trade) and Alejandro Jara (Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization) several presentations on the database and modeling experiments have been given to raise the awareness of the data and applications. The media were also invited to this meeting, which resulted in several articles (e.g. the Wall Street Journal).

Finally, two academic conferences have been held. When making the plans for the first consortium meeting in Vienna, the idea rose to have it accompanied by an “open part” which took place in the form of a two-and-a-half day conference (May 26-28, 2010). For this, researchers outside the WIOD consortium have been explicitly invited and quite a number of other researchers have been selected on the basis of their abstract (submitted in response to our Call for Papers). The reason for this choice was that a number of groups and individuals all over the world are currently working on databases of (or related to) input-output tables. Typically, the differences are with respect to scope, size, or focus. What is common to most endeavours is the problems that are faced in the construction phase. Therefore, it was felt useful to all that are involved in database construction, to communicate about experiences, results, and problems. Furthermore, inviting potential users of the WIOD database would also lead to increased awareness of the project. The total number of participants to the *WIOD Conference on Industry-Level Analyses of Globalization and its Consequences*, was more than 95. Keynote speeches were delivered by Alejandro Jara (WTO), Mark de Haan (Statistics Netherlands), Joyashree Roy (Jadavpur University, Calcutta), Dale Jorgenson (Harvard University), Erik Dietzenbacher, and Marcel Timmer.

The second academic conference was held in Groningen at the end of the project. The *Final WIOD Conference: Causes and Consequences of Globalization*. Again, it was a two-and-a-half day event (April 24-26, 2012) that was also “open” to participants from outside the consortium. The total number of registered participants was 110 and keynote speeches were delivered by Adrian Wood (Oxford University), Dale Jorgenson (Harvard University), and Glen Peters (Center for International Climate and Environmental Research in Oslo).

#### **4. Publications**

In addition to the WIOD working paper series, website and meetings, each of the participating institutions had access to its own working paper series, had its own website, and ran its own public and research-oriented meetings. These were all exploited to disseminate the work of the project. Further, the work has been presented at major academic conferences in the field such as those organized by the International Association of Income and Wealth (IARIW) and the International Input-Output Association (IIOA) in which Erik Dietzenbacher, Bart Los, Marcel Timmer and Bart van Ark play important roles by organizing sessions and by being editors of the associated journals: *Economic Systems Research* (journal of the International Input-Output

Association) and Review of Income and Wealth (journal of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth). Having been published as discussion papers, and their findings widely discussed, papers will be revised and submitted to leading scientific journals. Sets of sessions devoted to WIOD have been organized at the annual International Input-Output Conferences in Sao Paulo (2009), Sydney (2010), Alexandria, VA (2011), and Bratislava (2012).

The likely impact of the project was (and will be further) enhanced by writing for non-academic, non-specialist audiences, using language that is clear and accessible to all. The non-technical summary, papers and the final report aim at raising public participation and awareness. Moreover, the diversity of the research team's professional experience ensure that – even before the project's outputs are made public – the findings are subject to a broad range of viewpoints and to considerable scrutiny.

## **5. Internet**

The Internet was used to air the activities and results of the project both within the consortium and beyond. Newsletters were regularly sent by e-mail by the management team to keep all consortium partners up-to-date. Work within WIOD was disseminated through a dedicated project-website which contained the following contents:

- Information on the project, including work package descriptions and beneficiaries
- A working papers series
- Background materials such as methodological notes and links to other related projects
- The world input-output database. The database was made available first for restricted access only. At the end of the project (on April 16, 2012), the database was made fully public. The database was placed on a dedicated website. In particular, efforts have been made to make the database as user-friendly as possible by providing various cross-cuts and summaries of the data which will enable various groups of users to quickly identify the tables needed.

The website was organized and maintained along the same lines as the [www.ggdc.net](http://www.ggdc.net) and the [www.euklems.com](http://www.euklems.com) sites, where comparable datasets have been made accessible and which are maintained by Groningen (RUG).

## **6. IPR and Access rights**

Most of the data generated within the project were first available on a restricted basis (i.e. for consortium partners and Commission services, and any other party indicated by the Consortium). The preliminary data sets have been used internally by the consortium to kick-start the tasks that crucially depended on the availability of data. This restricted use also provided feedback to the data construction groups in order to improve the preliminary database. After extensive validation by users within the consortium, the database was made public on April 16, 2012.

All data regarding input-output tables (IOTs), international trade data, socio-economic accounts and environmental accounts that were generated in the project are disseminated. More specifically, the set of IOTs include harmonized inter-country SUTs, inter-country world IOTs in current and constant international prices for each country and major regions. International trade data include an industry level dataset of bilateral trade flows of goods and services for each country. The socio-economic accounts include quantities and prices of output, capital, labour and intermediate inputs at the industry level for each country. The environmental accounts include industry-level indicators of energy use; land and materials use; water consumption; emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants; and tropospheric ozone formation.

The databases have been made public under a so-called ONP (Open Network Provision) license, which is applicable to the users of the database. The ONP license is intended to guarantee open access to the data contained in the database to third parties free of charge for research purposes.