

EU-AFD Research Facility on Inequalities

3rd Public Conference

Inequality and Redistribution in low and middle income countries

4 November 2019

AFD - Le Mistral, Auditorium Nelson Mandela (Paris)

In 2017, the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) and the French Agency for Development (AFD) have launched the Research Facility on Inequalities, a fund aiming to enhance the knowledge and understanding of economic and social inequalities. As an elementary objective, the action intends to initiate a common reflection on ways to strengthen the contribution of EU development cooperation to the fight against inequalities, in the framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This funding, of 4 million euros, is being used to implement and coordinate the EU-AFD Research Facility on Inequalities over a three-year period (2017-2020). The Research Facility on Inequalities responds to the identified demand from national governments, international organizations and development partners for accurate and reliable evidence on policies and interventions that can effectively reduce inequality.

Besides funding research projects, the Research Facility on Inequalities aims to spark a more reflective discussion, and therefore foster knowledge, on timely and policy relevant issues that deal with inequalities. Hence, we regularly organize conferences and workshops in order to create a space for such exchange. In this context, AFD is organizing a conference, on the 4 November 2019, at the AFD headquarters in Paris, on the topic of *Inequality and Redistribution in low and middle income countries*. Redistributive policies represent powerful policy instruments for improving equality of outcome through the redistribution of income and for enhancing equality of opportunity by improving the distribution of income-generating assets, such as human capital and wealth.

In low and middle income countries such reality is even more evident. These countries have the particularity of having a large proportion of their population considered as poor or recently graduated from that status, but still in a vulnerable position. According to François Bourguignon, taxation and income transfers to the poorest segment of society are the most direct way to keep inequality in check and reduce poverty in the short term. Therefore, the goal of this conference is to bring together academia, political actors and civil society to discuss about these issues.

The first panel will focus on how to build effective tax policies and discuss the measures which can be taken in order to structure a progressive tax system and the different factors that contribute to making tax systems more or less effective for revenue collection. The second panel addresses the question of the distributive impact of social spending, through the analysis of different types of social programs and policies and their contribution in terms of inequalities reduction. The third panel will seek to articulate fiscal and social spending policies, including an evaluation of whether domestic resources are sufficient to cover the important but fundamental costs for reducing inequality. Finally, the last panel will bring into the discussion the issue of climate change and the challenges it might pose in terms of shaping social policies, but also taxation.

9h00 – 9h30	Registration
9h30 – 9h45	Opening speech – Thomas Melonio – AFD
9h45 – 10h00	Introduction – Anda David – AFD
10h00 – 11h30	<p>Panel 1: Building effective tax policies</p> <p>Chair: Elina Scheja – SIDA</p> <p><i>The purpose of the panel is to discuss measures that can be taken in order to structure a progressive tax system and the different factors that contribute to making tax systems more or less effective for revenue collection.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ingrid Woolard – Stellenbosch University - Grégoire Rota-Graziosi – CERDI - Jaidi Larbi – Policy Center for the New South
11h30 – 11h45	Coffee Break
11h45 – 13h15	<p>Panel 2: Maximizing the impact of social spending</p> <p><i>The panel will address the question of the distributive impact of social spending, through the analysis of different types of social programs and policies and their contribution in terms of inequalities reduction.</i></p> <p>Chair: Juergen Hohmann – EU DEVCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liyousew Borga – University of Luxembourg - Manuela De Allegri & Martin Rudasingwa – Heidelberg University - Stefanie Bitengo – National Social Protection Secretariat of Kenya
13h15 – 14h15	Lunch
14h15 – 14h45	<p>Keynote lecture: Nora Lustig – CEQ (video)</p> <p>Inequality & redistribution in LIC & MIC – Taxes and spending combined</p>
14h45 – 16h15	<p>Panel 3: Resource mobilization for social spending</p> <p><i>The panel will address the issue of the link between tax policies and social spending, including an assessment of whether domestic resources are sufficient to cover the significant but fundamental costs to tackle inequalities.</i></p> <p>Chair: Carlos Gradín Lago– UNU Wider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Erica Gerretsen – EU DEVCO - Susana Ruiz – Oxfam Intermon - Anne-Sophie Robilliard – DIAL
16h15 – 16h30	Coffee Break
16h30 – 18h00	<p>Panel 4: Climate change and inequality: what are the policy options?</p> <p><i>This panel will highlight the options of using social protection as a support tool for populations most exposed to climate change, but also the policy implications of a just transition.</i></p> <p>Chair: Hélène Djoufelkit – AFD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diloá Jacob Bailey Athias – Development Pathways - Jean Louis Lambeau – International Labour Organization (ILO) - Nicolas Berghmans – IDDRI
18h00 – 18h10	Closing speech – Erica Gerretsen – EU DEVCO
18h10 – 20h00	Cocktail