



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

## **Supervisor Expression of Interest MSCA-IF Marie Sklodowska Curie Action-Individual Fellowship 2020**

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Department Name:	Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU)
Research topic:	SH2_11 Human, economic and social geography
MSCA-IF Research Area Panels	ECO_Economic Sciences
Politecnico di Milano Areas:	Territorial Fragilities
Brief description of the Department and Research Group (including URL if applicable):	<p>The Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (<a href="#">DAStU</a>) is a thematic and interdisciplinary research structure of the Politecnico di Milano. DAStU carries out research, among else, on the assessment, design and implications of urban policies.</p> <p>The Social Policy Lab (<a href="#">LPS</a>) is a research unit of DAStU. LPS has analysed the changing needs, practices and policies in a variety of areas, including social care, housing, income (re)distribution, and social investment, in a comparative perspective. LPS encourages and promotes inter-disciplinary work, drawing from a variety of perspectives in sociology, political science and economics.</p>



<p><b>Brief project description:</b> (max 1 page)</p>	<p><b>Evaluating the fiscal and distributional impact of public policies at local level using spatial microsimulation</b></p> <p>Microsimulation enables users to evaluate the effect of public policies on the distribution of incomes (e.g. poverty and inequality) and on government budgets, identifying ‘winners’ and ‘losers’. The public policies evaluated may be either actual or hypothetical, in the latter case taking the form ‘what if’ questions.</p> <p>EUROMOD, the European tax-benefit microsimulation model (Sutherland and Figari, 2013), is used widely by the research community in Europe and beyond, as well as by international organizations, including the European Commission and the OECD. EUROMOD simulates cash benefit entitlements, personal tax liabilities, and social insurance contributions, on the basis of the policy rules in place, data on household incomes, as well as socio-demographic characteristics from a household budget survey or another income survey, representative of the national population in a given point in time.</p> <p>Although well established, EUROMOD (as any other tax-benefit model) suffers from the same limitations as the underlying data. Crucially, sample size is set as the lowest figure required to achieve statistical significance at country level. As a consequence, the sample size is too small to allow the evaluation of public policies at subnational (i.e. regional or even local) level. For instance, the Italian version of the Eurostat survey EU-SILC (EU statistics on income and living conditions), the best available income survey in Europe, conducted by Istat under the common guidelines developed by Eurostat, records data on 7,500 households in all of Italy.</p> <p>The shortcomings of income surveys can be tackled by spatial microsimulation, which involves the creation of large-scale population microdata sets and the analysis of the impacts of any policy changes which modify the attributes contained in these micro databases in some way. Adding spatial detail to traditional microsimulation involves creating geographically-referenced microdata that refer to a particular locality. Since there are very few sources of geographically detailed microdata, there is a need to create these data using spatial microsimulation techniques by merging census and survey data to simulate a population of individuals within households (for different geographical units) whose characteristics are as close to the real population as possible (Ballas &amp; Dorling 2018).</p> <p>The Marie Sklodowska Curie Fellow selected will be a social scientist. His/her initial task will be to create a synthetic dataset, matching EUROMOD variables with Census data. S/he will then use this new tool to evaluate actual or counterfactual public policies at local level, with a view to assessing their contribution to combating territorial fragility, as manifest e.g. in urban poverty.</p> <p>The Marie Sklodowska Curie Fellow appointed will be supervised by Professor Manos Matsaganis (LPS, DASTU, Politecnico di Milano), with external support from Professor Dimitris Ballas (University of Groningen).</p>
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