

# Microsimulation: Barriers to Entry?

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# Entry to what?

1. Using existing microsimulation models
2. Building a new model
3. Microsimulation as a valued approach
  - Institutional investment and use in policy-making
  - Academic respect and mainstream journal publication

# Reducing barriers: EUROMOD experience (1/3)

(EUROMOD is a multi-country tax-benefit model)

## 1. “Using existing models”

- Some models are “private”
- EUROMOD is intended for widespread use
  - Interface (navigation and editing) is in familiar Excel
  - Boundary [interface : code] is shifted ←
  - Ease of use plus flexibility e.g. link to/ interaction with user’s own labour supply model(s)
  - Training and user support
  - Multi-country collaboration promotes use

# Reducing barriers: EUROMOD experience (2/3)

## 2. “Building new models”

- Can use EUROMOD framework to build model for country X
  - Short-cut design stage; off-the-peg framework and functions
  - Input data in specified format plus use of the interface to manipulate compiled functions
  - 8 new EU countries currently being implemented; SAMOD for South Africa.... More to come?

## Reducing barriers: EUROMOD experience (3/3)

### 3. “Recognition”

- Work on extending EUROMOD to EU NMS has had a role in promoting microsimulation at national level for policy purposes: “model building” is more than the technical tasks
- Generally: need for really good exemplars
  - Case studies where microsimulation made a significant difference
  - Good papers in mainstream journals

# Enduring issues

- Intellectual Property and “credit where it is due”
- Access to input micro-data for model users
- Model maintenance within an academic context