

Finansdepartementet  
Internationella och Ekonomiska avdelningen,  
Fördelningsanalysenheten

16 September 2021

It is with enthusiasm that we welcomed the news that the Inquiry on Statistics on Household Debts and Assets proposed that the Swedish Government should be able, under a new legislative authorisation in the Official Statistics Act (2001:99), to provide that a statistical authority shall release data to LIS.

The Interim report from the Inquiry on statistics on household assets and liabilities (Fi 2021: 02) released in April provides a thorough description of LIS and the background of the exchanges between LIS and Statistics Sweden concerning the provision of microdata to LIS. The consequences of the lack of recent Swedish data from the LIS and LWS Databases is accurately stressed, and the report showcases on the significant academic and societal impact that the re-introduction of Swedish data in LIS would bring about. Because of Sweden's originality in terms of equity as a societal principle, the end of the collection of wealth data in 2007 together with the end of the provision of Swedish income and wealth data to LIS, has placed a barrier to the research of social science, and in particular to the use of Sweden as the benchmark in comparative research in the area of income and wealth distributions.

We were glad to see how the respect of data protection was at the core of the report, and that security and confidentiality measures at LIS were scrutinized in depth and deemed appropriate. Data protection is a fundamental pillar of LIS, both in terms of processing of personal data during the daily office tasks and in terms of processing of the microdata it receives from external data providers.

The conclusions proposed by the report will allow LIS to obtain (again) Swedish microdata with a view to harmonizing it and integrating it to the LIS and LWS Databases. This is a very important step forward for comparative research as it will allow thousands of researchers around the world to use Sweden as the benchmark in comparative research in the area of income and wealth distributions.

We are looking forward to hearing about the final outcome of this matter.

Teresa Munzi  
LIS Director of Operations

---

**lisdatacenter.org**

François Bourguignon, *President*  
Peter Lanjouw, *Secretary General*

ASBL/Non-profit Organisation  
R.C.S. Luxembourg F733

LIS Cross-National Data Center  
Maison des Sciences Humaines  
11, porte des Sciences - 5<sup>ème</sup> étage  
L-4366 Esch-Belval - LUXEMBOURG  
+352-466 644-5950  
admin@lisdatacenter.org