**Notes for preparing the term paper for the PhD course Microeconomics of Development. Spring 2014**

1. Sarris 23-05-2014

The term paper will involve the processing and tabulation of data on a specific topic from a micro household survey. The surveys that you can examine for determining which is the one you would like to work on are available at the World Bank web site. The surveys are all part of the World Bank LSMS (Living Standards Measurement Survey) project.

The Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) is a research project that was initiated in 1980 as a response to a perceived need for policy relevant data that would allow policy makers to move beyond simply measuring rates of unemployment, poverty and health care use, for example, to understanding the determinants of these observed social sector outcomes.  The program is designed to assist policy makers in their efforts to identify how policies could be designed and improved to positively affect outcomes in health, education, economic activities, housing and utilities, etc.

The link is

[http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTLSMS/0,,contentMDK:21478196~menuPK:3359066~pagePK:64168445~piPK:64168309~theSitePK:3358997,00.html](http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTLSMS/0%2C%2CcontentMDK%3A21478196~menuPK%3A3359066~pagePK%3A64168445~piPK%3A64168309~theSitePK%3A3358997%2C00.html)

or just type World Bank LSMS in google and you will see a variety of world bank links to the surveys. The first link is the one above, the LSMS homepage, and from there you can navigate and find all the relevant data sets.

For your term paper you will have to select a country a year of data and a topic for investigation, such as agriculture education, income, etc. Once you select it and download the data, then the term paper will involve constructing descriptive tables for various items from the survey, or build up some new variables froom the ones in the surveys, so as to show some new things. For instance you may want to investigate what type of product, the agricultural households in county X produce, in terms of share or percentage of the households producing a certain crop, the average area cultivated, the average yield achieved, etc.

So after perusing the data, you should construct various descriptive tables in a manner that can be easily comprehended, and exposed. For your analysis you can use any statistical data analysis package you are familiar with, such as Stata, SPSS, etc. If you are not familiar with any package, then you should become familiar with at least one of those that are available at the grad student computer lab. Inquire Marlen Logotheti or Maria Kolomitsini about this, or the person responsible at the computer lab. My suggestion is to become familiar and use with Stata.

The length of the term paper should be between 15-30 pages but not longer. You may want to have an introduction to the topic you are investigating, in the sense of giving some literature review of what has been written about the country and area of your choice, and then exhibit your tables and results.

Please send us an email indicating the country and topic you have chosen, by the end of May. The paper itself is due June 30, 2014. You should email your papers to asarris@econ.uoa.gr and gmergos@econ.uoa.gr