

NEWSLETTER

for the Research Project

“Economic Transformation, Household Behaviour and Well-Being in Central Asia: The Case of Kyrgyzstan”

Issue #3
 January 2012

Major news:

- Collection of the LIK: 2011 Wave 2 data is finished
- Conference on “Well-being in Central Asia” to be held in May 2012 in Berlin
- Access information to the 2010 “Life in Kyrgyzstan” (LIK) Wave 1 Dataset

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1. About the Project

The project “Economic Transformation, Household Behaviour and Well-Being in Central Asia: The Case of Kyrgyzstan” funded by Volkswagen Foundation aims (1) to collect nationally representative panel survey data in Kyrgyzstan, (2) to investigate well-being and household behavior in this country, and (3) to improve research capacity within the Central

Asian region. The project runs from January 2010 through December 2012. The project is a collaborative endeavour of DIW Berlin, Humboldt University of Berlin, the Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE-Kyrgyzstan), and the American University of Central Asia (AUCA), the latter two being based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

2. Second Wave

Data collection for the second wave of the “Life in Kyrgyzstan” (LIK) panel survey was concluded in November 2011. The field survey commenced before the presidential elections (October 30th) and the majority of individuals and households were found and surveyed. The overall post-election situation was calm and without any major political riots, especially in the south.

This allowed enumerators to visit and interview households without any large disturbances. Next, the data cleaning process, followed by data analysis of the second wave will be on-going this upcoming spring. The survey is representative at the national level as well as for the South and North of the country.

3. Research Activities and Outcomes

3.1. Policy and Research Workshop in Bishkek

September 15th, 2011 – the project team organized a workshop on “Panel Data and the Life in Kyrgyzstan Survey” in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The workshop was hosted by the American University of Central Asia and was funded by the

Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Fifty representatives of the Kyrgyz government, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, universities, and think tanks attended and actively participated in the workshop. The workshop served as a

“The workshop served as a platform to exchange ideas on the policy and research relevance of panel survey datasets in Central Asia”

platform to exchange ideas on the policy and research relevance of panel survey datasets in Central Asia. Further, the project team presented preliminary survey and research results based on the first wave of the LIK survey.

The agenda of the workshop as well as all presentations that were given are accessible on the project website:

<http://www.diw.de/kyrgyzstan>
(under the section "Events")

3.2. Conferences / Workshops

During the course of 2011, the project team had the opportunity to attend several conferences and workshops and present their research work using the first wave results of the LIK dataset. Below you will find several of those conference venues and related on-going research papers:

Venues:

1. AUCA Open Lecture Series and workshop, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
2. CASI 1st International Annual Conference, AUCA, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
3. UCA Public Lecture Series, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
4. Summer School on Migration and Remittances in Central Asia, German-Kazakh University, Almaty, Kazakhstan
5. 4th Inter-University Doctoral Seminar in Development/Agricultural Economics, Heidelberg, Germany
6. HiCN Workshop on Conflict and Well-Being, Barcelona, Spain
7. DIW Development and Security Seminar Series, Berlin, Germany
8. Development Economics Seminar, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK
9. Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations, Chicago, IL, USA

Work in Progress:

1. Displacement in Kyrgyzstan: Evidence from a New Micro-Level Dataset (T. Brück, A. Kröger & M. Vothknecht) – *this paper focuses on the drivers of conflict-related displacement.*
2. Paternal Migration, Intra-Household Decision Making & Child Welfare (A. Kröger) - *this paper considers how paternal migration affects children's welfare and intra-household decision-making while the father is away and then after his return.*
3. Migration & Social Networks in Kyrgyzstan: Informal Transfers in the Sending Communities (T. Chakraborty, B. Mirkasimov & S. Steiner) – *this paper focuses on the impact of migration on transfer behaviour within social networks of households that are left behind.*
4. Intergenerational Mobility in Kyrgyzstan (T.Brück and D. Esenaliev) – *this paper analyzes the impact of the transition on educational mobility.*
5. Welfare Effects of Smallholder Market and Export Participation in Kyrgyzstan (D. Esenaliev & I. Teichmann) – *this paper analyzes the welfare effect of market and export participation of rural households.*
6. Addressing the Need for Better Quality Data in Central Asia – The LIK Survey (T. Brück, D. Esenaliev, A. Kroeger, A. Kudebayeva, B. Mirkasimov & S. Steiner) – *this paper summarizes micro-survey datasets in Central Asia, including the novel “Life in Kyrgyzstan”(LIK) dataset.*
7. The Kyrgyz Integrated Household Survey (KIHS): A Primer (D. Esenaliev, A. Kröger & S. Steiner) – *now available as DIW Data Documentation.*



Project members at the Workshop in Kyrgyzstan Bishkek, September 2011

4. “Well-Being in Central Asia” Conference in Berlin



Opening Remarks at the Workshop in Kyrgyzstan Bishkek, September 2011

The conference “*Micro-Level Analysis of Well-Being in Central Asia*” will be held at DIW Berlin on 10-11 May, 2012. We are pleased to announce that seventeen distinguished speakers were selected to present their research results during the conference. The sessions will cover broad topics such as subjective well-being, migration and remittances, marginalised groups and employment in Central Asia.

In addition, we are delighted to host a keynote lecture on “*Well-Being in Transition*” that will be delivered by

Prof. Nauro Campos
(Brunel University, UK).

The preliminary programme can be accessed on the conference website:

<http://www.diw.de/centralasia>

5. Access Information to the “LIK” Wave 1 Dataset

“The “Life in Kyrgyzstan” panel survey data can be used for scientific purposes by interested researchers”

The “*Life in Kyrgyzstan*” (LIK) panel survey data can be used for scientific purposes by interested researchers. However, the data is not freely available on the Web in accordance with data protection laws. Data access must comply with high security standards to maintain confidentiality and to protect personal privacy.

contract with DIW Berlin, contract holders receive the LIK dataset on DVD by insured mail. Students who wish to work with the data are very welcome to do so but they may not obtain the data themselves. Their supervisors (professors, lecturers, etc.) have to conclude the data distribution contract in this case.

Interested researchers are requested to send an email to kyr@diw.de describing the project they wish to conduct using the LIK dataset. After conclusion of a data distribution

The dataset is provided for a fee (€ 50 per wave), which covers the materials used to copy, document and deliver the data. Once the payment is received, the dataset on DVD will be mailed immediately.

6. Funding of the Project



This project is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation which is a nonprofit foundation under private law. The grant is received within the funding initiative “Between Europe

and the Orient - A Focus on Research and Higher Education in/on Central Asia and the Caucasus”. For further information:

<http://www.volkswagenstiftung.de>

For More Information on the Project:

VISIT THE PROJECT WEBSITE AT

<http://www.diw.de/kyrgyzstan>

OR

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