

**Title:** *Comparing Wealth Distribution Across Rich Countries: First Results from the Luxembourg Wealth Study*

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The new Luxembourg Wealth Study (LWS - see <http://www.lisproject.org/lws.htm>) will for the first time create a harmonized cross national wealth and asset database. The aim of this paper is to summarize the initial results based on countries participating in the initial phase of the Luxembourg Wealth Study: Canada, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States. Conceptual and practical issues that need to be addressed in preparing harmonized and comparable wealth data across countries are also outlined.