

**Income distribution results in National Accounts:
Perspectives and Restrictions of the OECD Basic Approach in Micro-Macro-Integration**

Albert Braakmann
German Statistical Office

Florian Schwahn
German Statistical Office

International debate on the measurement of economic well-being calls for integrating data on socioeconomic disparities in a national accounts framework. In recent years, possibilities to display income (and other) distribution figures from national accounts by socio-economic groups as important additional indicator for economic welfare have already been examined by some statistical offices and are currently promoted at the level of international organizations (Eurostat/OECD).

This paper first presents an analysis of the income distribution in Germany, generated according to an international approach by integrating national accounts data and household budget survey figures for the year 2008. This requires that income broken down by component is conceptually harmonized, that grossed-up survey values are confronted with the national accounts level and that an adjustment coefficient for each single income component of disposable income is applied. The income divergences in Germany are assessed by comparing results before and after methodological adjustments.

The second question addressed by the paper is in how far the adjustments carried out to the micro data have an impact on distribution indicators like the S80/20-ratio, the median or the Gini-coefficient. This enables to conclude on how statistical techniques in the process of micro-macro-integration are influencing income distribution indicators. Given the high priority assigned to distribution issues by international organizations (eg. OECD, Eurostat), this paper is providing a contribution to assess these endeavours against the background of available data resources.