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Les défis de développement pour les villes et les régions dans une Europe en mutation

The impact of economic crisis on income disparities in Athens

Mr Yannis PSYCHARIS

Panteion University Professor

Leof. Andrea Siggrou 136 17671 Athens Economic and Regional Development

Greece

psycharis@panteion.gr

Mr Panayotis PANTAZIS

Panteion University of Social and Political Scienc PhD Student

Pedion Areos 38334 Volos Greece

ppantaz@prd.uth.gr +302421074487 +302421074380

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Résumé / Summary

Declared income is a key variable in economic and social analysis. However, while aggregate declared income reflects the prosperity and welfare conditions that prevail in a certain economy over a certain period of time, the geography of declared income provides additional evidence on the variations in wealth and wellbeing of people across space within a city. The geography of declared income becomes a further intriguing subject of study in times of economic crisis with soaring unemployment rates and severe cuts in wages and pensions. Nowhere are these conditions more evident than in Greece during the period of the Great Recession that began in 2008. This short article aims at portraying the geographical aspects of inequalities in declared income in Athens before and during the economic crisis. The analysis is based on inflation-adjusted estimations of declared household income during the period 2000-2013. The analysis that is conducted at the Municipal level is another novelty of this research.

More precisely, this paper sets out to examine the impact of economic crisis on declared income across Municipalities in Athens. Analysis is based on a unique dataset with a sample of declarations with individual data covering the period 2000-2013. The study period has been divided into two sub-periods 2000-2008 and 2008-2013 in order to be able to make comparisons in declared income before and after the economic crisis. Among the issues that are examined are that of the social segregation and economic disparities in Athens and the evolution of economic and social disparities over time and across space. The paper shows that there has been a distinct geography of income inequality among Municipalities in Athens. The geographical pattern in inequality will be presented by descriptive and thematic cartography analysis. In addition, the paper proposes an econometric model in order to provide potential explanations on the inequalities of declared

income across Municipalities and over time. Athens is a large agglomeration the analysis provides insights about the inequalities in large cities and communicates with the relevant literature in this field.

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