



Research for evidence-based policy making

Amina Ebrahim – Research Associate UNU-WIDER
8 July 2019
SARB, Pretoria

UNU-WIDER

United Nations University – World Institute for Development Economics Research

- Part of the UN, a Think Tank, and a research Institute
- Create, strengthen and share policy relevant research to promote sustainable and equitable development for all
- Based in Helsinki – provides a forum for knowledge sharing, discussion, and debate across social science disciplines through the WIDER network

Introduction to SA-TIED

Regional growth and development in Southern Africa (2014-2016)

- NT and UNU-WIDER successfully collaborated on making new data available, which opened up for new approaches and policy formulation.
- Research emphasized growth and development in South Africa and within the region.
- Research and policy recommendations presented in December 2016

'Growth and development policy; New data, new approaches, and new evidence'

- [Part 1, South Africa](#) and [Part 2, Southern Africa](#)

Introduction to SA-TIED (cont.)

Southern Africa – Towards Inclusive Economic Growth (SA-TIED)

- Three-year programme, 2017 – 2020
- Scaling up and expanding collaborative efforts
 - UNU-WIDER, IFPRI, NT, TIPS, SARS, dti, DPME, and the EU
- Focus will remain maintained on:
 - **High-quality and policy-relevant research**
 - Capacity building in Southern Africa
 - Support in policy formulation

Organizing SA-TIED

Advisory Committee

Ernest Aryeetey
Ingrid Woolard
Kuben Naidoo
Marcus Cornaro

Overall Programme Leaders

Incoming (NT) / Finn Tarp (UNU-WIDER)

Operational Programme Managers

Duncan Pieterse (NT) / Finn Tarp (UNU-WIDER) / Channing Arndt (IFPRI)

Six thematic Work Streams

Enterprise development for job creation and growth

Public revenue mobilization for inclusive development

Macroeconomic modelling for policy formulation

Turning the tide on inequality

Climate change and energy transition as drivers of change

Regional growth for Southern Africa's prosperity

- High-quality and policy-relevant research
- Capacity building
- Communications and policy bridging

Organizing SA-TIED (cont.)

- Each Work Stream is co-managed by senior researcher from UNU-WIDER/IFPRI and a representative from a SA partner institution
- Benefits:
 - Helps us to identify knowledge gaps to inform policy making
 - Co-creating research outputs (capacity building)
 - Gives SA partner institutions access to worldwide network of experts

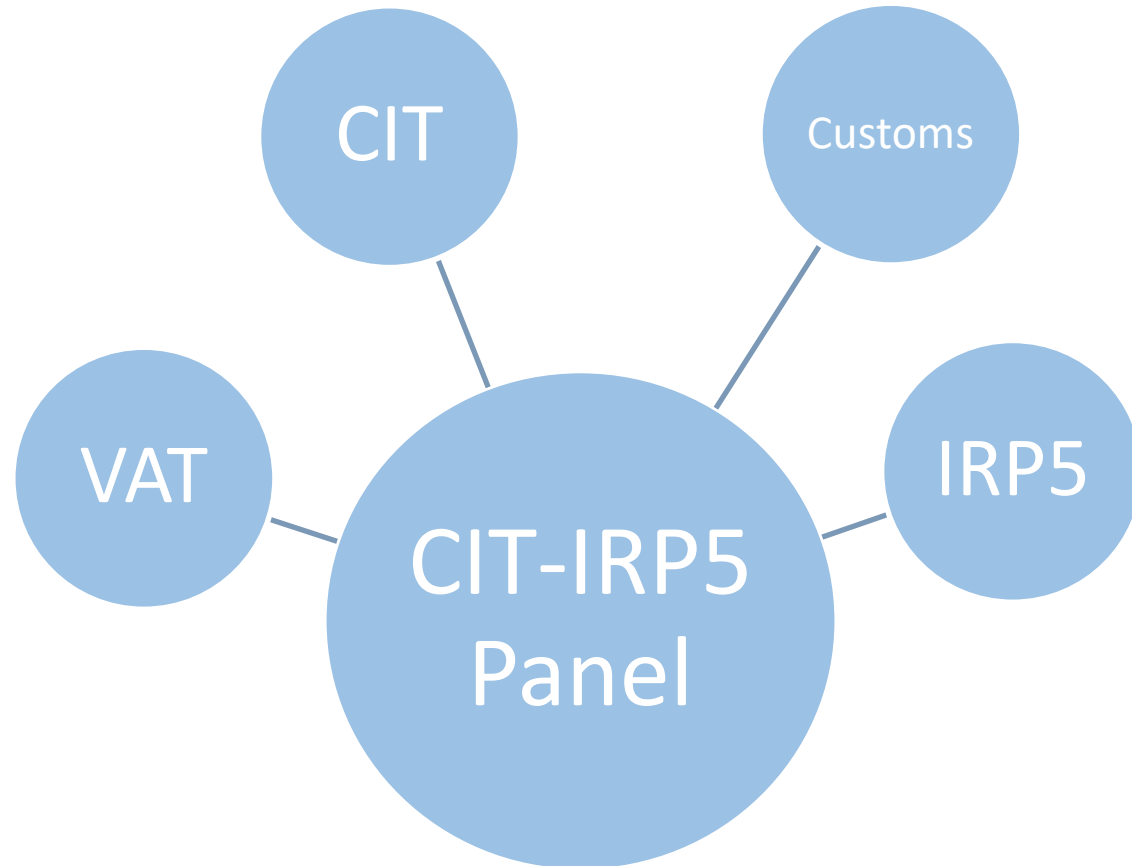
SA-TIED deliverables

- 150 research studies across the Six Work Streams
- Invest in and build individual and institutional capacities
 - Research collaborations; co-authoring of papers; capacity building of junior staff; improved collection and management of public data for research purposes
- Dedicated efforts to bridge research and policy
 - Policy briefs; policy dialogs with government stakeholders; project meetings, seminars, and conferences

Some key achievements in Year 1

- 63 working papers published across the six Work Streams
- Strong engagements with South Africa's research community. Four Calls for Papers launched in Year 1 (Two currently open...)
- PhD Scholarship Programme launched
- All research freely available on the SA-TIED website
- Building the infrastructure around tax-administrative data
 - Big data on firms and individuals

Matched Employer – Employee panel



- Firm level panel
- 2008-2017

Employment Panel

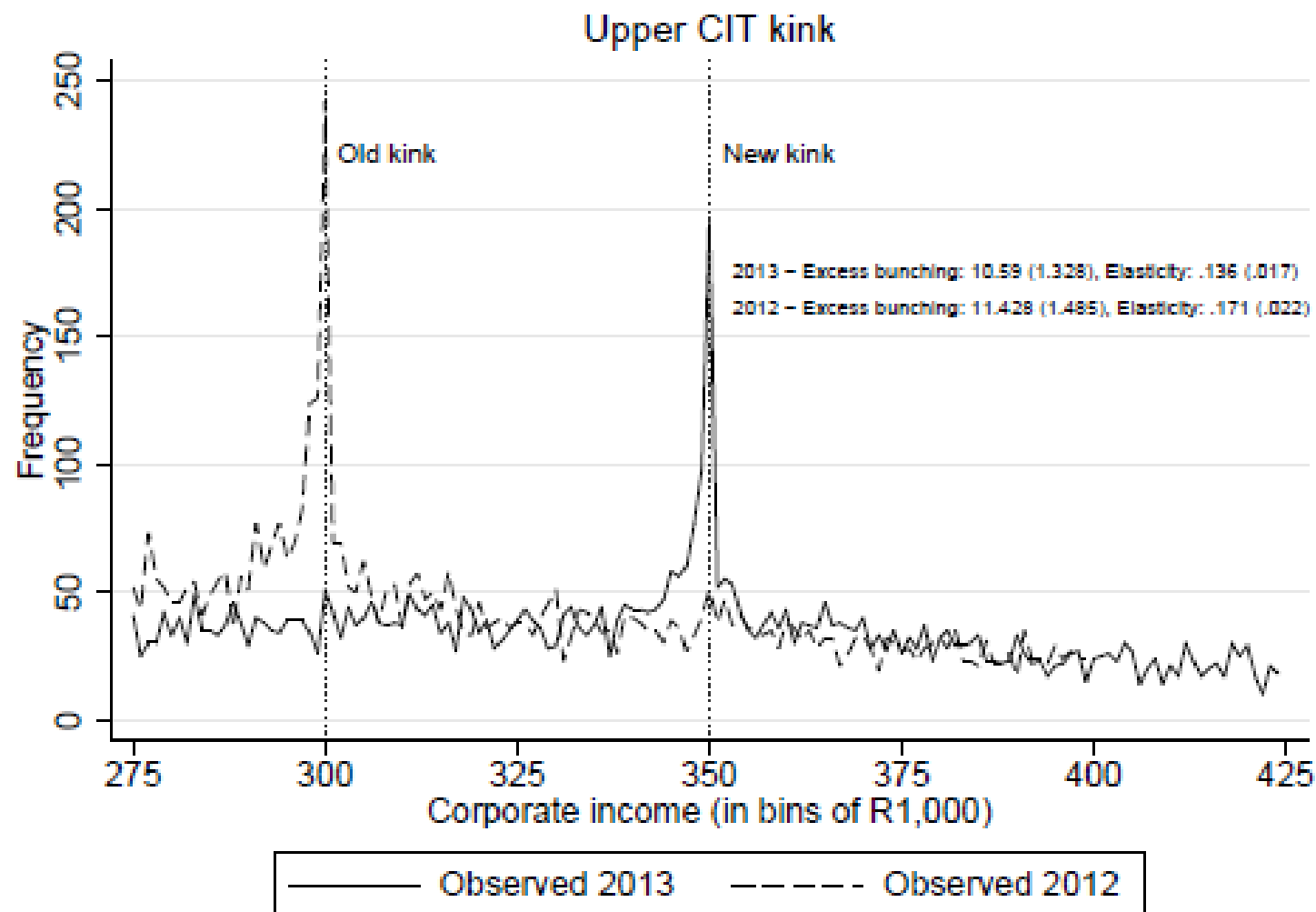
- Anonymised individual panel
- Employer issued tax certificates and Income Tax returns combined
- Includes:
 - Formal employment period
 - Type of income per person
 - Taxable income and tax liability

How do small firms respond to tax schedule discontinuities

By Wian Boonzaaier, Jarkko Harju, Tuomas Matikka, and Jukka Pirttilä

Effect on policy

- Response is driven by tax avoidance/tax planning
- Lack of distinctive real economic responses to tax incentives.



Examples of SA-TIED impact

Getting the research to stakeholders (and the public!)

1. SA-TIED commended by Tito Mboweni in his mid-term budget statement last year
2. Sound media coverage and discussions on the [“Big and Unprofitable”-paper.](#)
3. Soon to release ten selected and impactful SA-TIED research studies in collaboration with local SA media



More examples of impactful research

1. [How large is the wage penalty in the labour broker sector?](#)
2. [Modelling value-added tax in SA: assessing the distributional impact of the recent increase in the VAT rate and options for redress](#)
3. [The wage-setting power of firms: Rent-sharing and monopsony in South Africa](#)

Engage with SA-TIED

Join our research efforts by applying to our Call for Papers (sa-tied.wider.unu.edu)

- [Regional growth and development for Southern Africa's prosperity](#)
- [Enterprise development for job creation and growth](#)

The proposals are due July 21st.

SA-TIED Young Scholars Programme

- Open for South African master's students working on their thesis research (in the areas of the six Work Streams).
- Work with SA-TIED experts to turn thesis study into SA-TIED Young Scholar Paper.
- Opportunity to grow research skill and expand your network.
- Application opens in August 2019. See brochure for more information and key dates for next year's cycle.

SA-TIED Research Assistant Scheme

- Paid internship at the National Treasury for six months
- Open for young professional (minimum requirement Bachelor's degree)
- Opportunity to work with researchers and data under the SA-TIED programme
- Currently a position open as 'Research Assistant on macroeconomic modelling and forecasting'.



Questions?



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY
UNU-WIDER



national treasury

Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



IFPRI

INTERNATIONAL
FOOD POLICY
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE



planning, monitoring
& evaluation

Department:
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



the **dti**

Department:
Trade and Industry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

