

Guidelines for the empirical panel project

- It is recommended to work on the empirical project in small groups of two to three persons. You can also do the project on your own. In any case, please submit only one report per project.
- The topic of the project should be related to the contents of the course, i.e. it should focus on panel data.
- Your project can be motivated by economic theory, but this is not required. You can also use comparable variables that are not even economic. If you rely on a full-fledged theory model, please keep its description short and refer to the source literature.
- You are supposed to find your own data, no data will be provided. You can use data from various sources, such as Eurostat or Statistik Austria, for example national-accounts data. The world is full of data. It is not recommended to analyze data from standard textbooks. Kindly indicate the source in your report. You can also use non-economic data with panel characteristics, such as temperature data or rainfall data on several locations.
- All methods have been explained in the course on the basis of Stata. You can also use other software, such as EViews, R, Gauss, as long as it contains panel modules.
- It is difficult to provide rules on the length of your report; this depends on type font and writing style. Ten pages are a reasonable guideline. The report should contain all information on what you have been doing and why you have been doing it. Good reports are more like essays than like sequences of tables and figures. Pure software print-outs without comments are not acceptable.
- Avoid plagiarism. Please consider that even the technical description of a procedure is copyrighted when it comes from a software manual. Avoid long citations. Avoid footnotes. List all referenced sources at the end of your report, in alphabetical order. Make your data and source codes accessible.
- An oral presentation of the project is recommended and carries 5 points. The last slots of the course will be reserved for the presentations. Kindly communicate in good time whether you would like to present, and specify the topic and the names of the project group.
- Please submit your project report by **June 30, 2018**.