

#### **Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis,**

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# The case of higher education and universities

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Make an impact

# **Introduction: BCA analysis in France (1)**

The paper was presented and discussed in 11th SBCA annual conference (2019, Washington), in a session focusing on BCA analysis for education policy.

Since 2012 a Law makes *socio-economic evaluation* (or Benefit-Cost Analysis-BCA) compulsory for investments including a participation of the state or public organisations (*établissements publics*).

This new kind of evaluation has to complement the usual *financial analysis* of the investment project.

- -BCA Analysis aims at producing some specific accounts that identify and give a price/value to every benefit and every cost including indirect costs and indirect benefits as well as externalities.
- -One **practical issue** at stake for this kind of analysis is **to propose a value** that can be **used by the practitioners** (CO<sup>2</sup> value, value of a year of human life, etc.) to evaluate the very value (not the financial return!) of a given project.

In France BCA analysis is currently used by practitioners for:

- -health real estate (hospital, etc.)
- -transport infrastructures (highways, bridges, etc.)

...But not for Higher education and Research real estate and tech projects (Universities and Research buildings, etc.).



# **BCA** analysis in France (2)

The successive waves of PIA (*Plan d'Investissement d'Avenir*) have secured a high level of public investment for Higher Education and Research...

.... But they (legally) need some BCA analysis to examine investment options; the stakeholders (Universities, labs, etc.) don't know how to do!

The Commissariat Général à l'Investisment asked for a clear guide to start examining projects

France Strategie was in charge of writing such a guide (by French Ministry of Higher Education and research)...

... and consulted some stakeholders and experts.

Some guides (report of the **Jaspers group**) are available at European level for **Research projects** (recommended by European Bank for Reconstruction and Development)

... but nothing is available to put a value on education degrees!

We propose some tools stemming from EDHEC microsimulation experience



# The economic value of a degree

In education economics it is usual to distinguish:

- -The private return: wage premium over the course of a lifetime (taking into account unemployment risk).
- -The public/tax return: the tax premium (linked to the wage premium) over the course of a lifetime
- -Some externalities (external effects): the impact of the educated individual on other "production functions" (production of health, children education, crime, democracy, etc.)

What do we need to produce a value:

- -The average wage (and tax\*) career for a given diploma...
- ...and the **conterfactual option** (entering directly the labour market)
- -An externality correction
- -A discount rate\*\*.

\*Income tax, Social contributions, VAT

\*\*Given (it is already produced by previous reports)



# Estimating a set of Mincer wage equations (1)

How to estimate annual wage at a given point in time?

A usual assumption in economics, there are several independent "average effects" (all things being equal):

- -Diploma (number of year, type of diploma)
- **-Experience** on the labour market
- -An individual **residual** (Luck? Risk? Measurement error?...)

#### The data:

French labour force survey (education, labour position, experience)

+ Tax statement of the household (wage, income tax)

Estimateurs	Bac	Bac +2	Bac+3	Master recherche	Master professionnel	Ecoles de commerce	Ecoles d'ingénieurs	Bac+8
Constante	9,339 (0,000)	9,547 (0,000)	9,691 (0,000)	9,618 (0,001)	9,634 (0,000)	10,019 (0,001)	10,081 (0,000)	10,161 (0,001)
Expérience	0,050 (0,000)	0,046 (0,000)	0,039 (0,000)	0,067 (0,000)	0,072 (0,000)	0,075 (0,000)	0,061 (0,000)	0,035
Expérience au carré	-0,001 (0,000)	-0,001 (0,000)	-0,001 (0,000)	-0,001 (0,000)	-0,001 (0,000)	-0,001 (0,000)	-0,001 (0,000)	0,000
Spécialités :								
Arts/Lettres/ Langues		-0,053 (0,001)	-0,082 (0,000)	-0,183 (0,001)	-0,280 (0,001)			-0,185 (0,001
Droit/Eco./ Gestion		0,003 (0,000)	0,165 (0,000)	0,176 (0,001)	0,214 (0,000)			0,096
SHS		-0,009 (0,000)	-0,096 (0,000)	-0,111 (0,001)	-0,102 (0,001)			-0,162 (0,001
Sciences et techniques		0,149 (0,000)	0,087 (0,000)	0,174 (0,001)	0,189 (0,000)			0,063
Santé/Social/ Education		0,018 (0,000)	0,006 (0,000)	0,029 (0,001)	-0,093 (0,001)			0,163
Non renseigné/ Multispécialités		-0,108 (0,001)	-0,080 (0,000)	-0,085 (0,001)	0,071 (0,001)			0,026 (0,001
Général	-0,014 (0,000)							
Professionnel	0,032 (0,000)							
Technique	-0,018 (0,000)							
R <sup>2</sup>	0,27	0,35	0,30	0,39	0,40	0,29	0,44	0,23

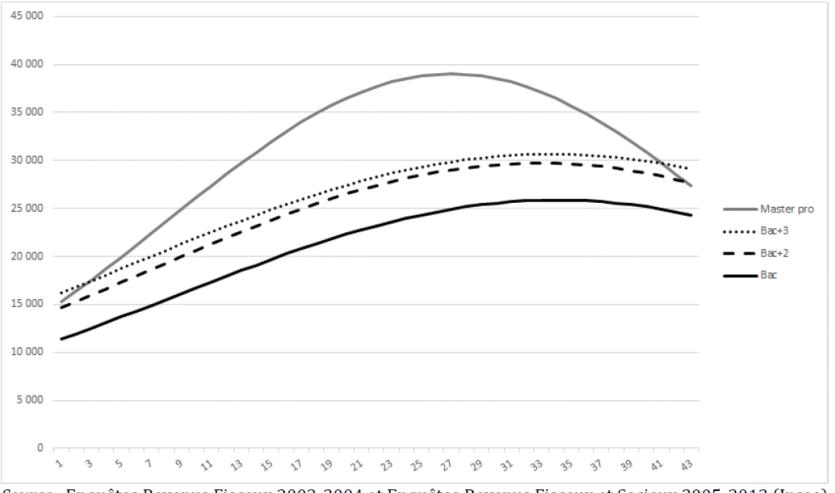
Source : Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux 2003-2005 et Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux et Sociaux 2004-2013 (Insee) – Calculs : Edhec Business School.

Champ : Individus diplômés déclarant un revenu salarial non nul, mais pas d'allocation chômage de pensions de retraite ni de revenus d'indépendants.

Note: la variable expliquée est un log de salaire annuel exprimé en euros 2013; les écarts types des estimateurs sont entre parenthèses; \*\*\* pour significatif au seuil de 1%.



# Estimating a set of Mincer wage equations (2)



Source: Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux 2003-2004 et Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux et Sociaux 2005-2013 (Insee) – Calculs des auteurs.

Champ: Individus diplômés déclarant un revenu salarial non nul, mais pas d'allocation chômage de pensions de retraite ni de revenus d'indépendants.



## **Employment rate by diploma**

At a given point in time, the wage value is weighted by the **risk of being in unemployment** that is computed from the same data set.

Diplôme	Ensemble	Arts/Lettres/ Langues	Droit/Eco./ Gestion	SHS	Sciences et techniques	Santé/Social/ Education	Autres	Général	Professionnel	Technique
Bac	81%	np	np	np	np	np	np	78%	84%	83%
Bac +2	88%	83%	86%	83%	90%	87%	81%	np	np	np
Bac+3	86%	81%	86%	84%	88%	89%	83%	np	np	np
Master recherche	86%	82%	85%	86%	89%	91%	82%	np	np	np
Master pro	89%	84%	90%	87%	91%	85%	83%	np	np	np
Ecoles de commerce	87%	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	np
Ecoles d'ingénieurs	93%	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	np
Bac+8	93%	90%	87%	85%	94%	94%	86%	np	np	np

Source: Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux 2003-2005 et Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux et Sociaux 2004-2013 (Insee) –

Calculs: Edhec Business School.

Champ : Individus diplômés ayant au moins une année d'expérience et moins de 60 ans.

Notes : np pour « non pertinent ».



# Average individual tax rate by diploma

From the same data one can compute an individual average income tax rate and compute the tax return.

Diplôme	Ensemble	Arts/lettres/ Langues	Droit/éco./ gestion	SHS	Sciences et techniques	Santé/Social/ Education	Autres	Général	Professionnel	Technique
Bac	4,7%	np	np	np	np	np	np	5,7%	3,0%	4,3%
Bac +2	5,3%	7,5%	5,3%	5,8%	5,2%	5,1%	4,6%	np	np	np
Bac+3	6,4%	6,2%	9,0%	4,8%	6,2%	5,7%	5,9%	np	np	np
Master recherche	8,4%	6,7%	10,1%	6,7%	7,7%	7,3%	7,5%	np	np	np
Master pro	8,3%	7,9%	9,2%	6,9%	6,8%	6,5%	7,2%	np	np	np
Ecoles de commerce	11,0%	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	np
Ecoles d'ingénieurs	8,9%	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	np	np
Bac+8	11,8%	9,0%	10,1%	14,9%	8,1%	13,7%	7,8%	np	np	np

Source: Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux 2003-2005 et Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux et Sociaux 2004-2013 (Insee) –

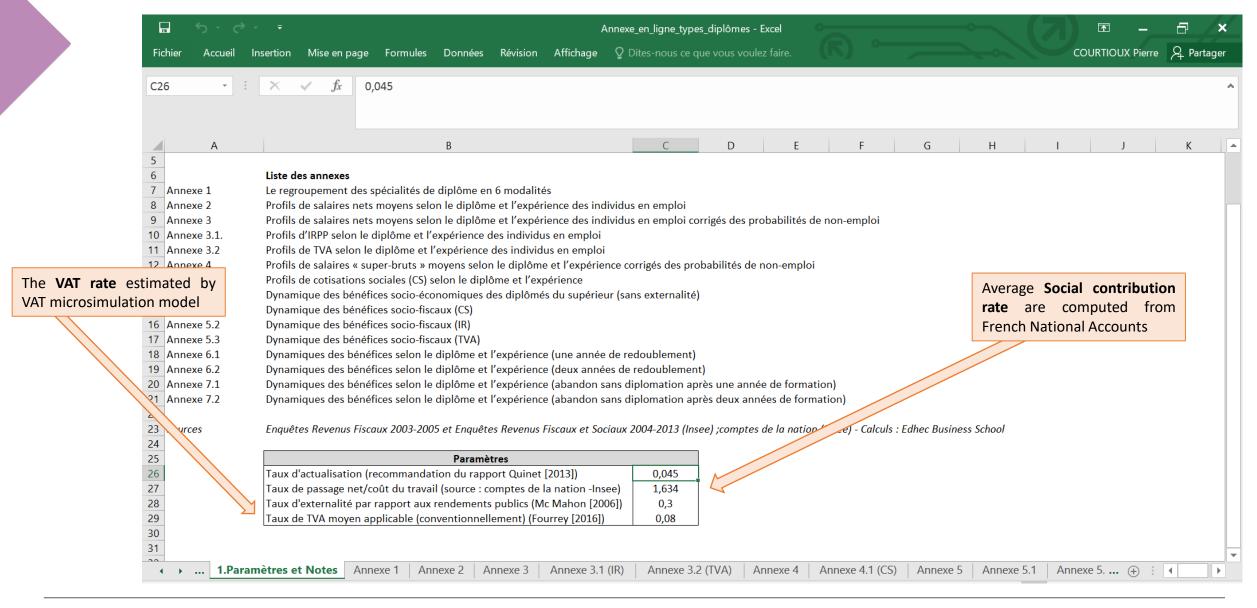
Calculs: Edhec Business School.

Champ : Individus diplômés ayant au moins une année d'expérience, moins de 60 ans, un salaire supérieur à 0 et dont le ménage déclare un revenu supérieur à 0 à l'administration fiscale.

Notes : np pour « non pertinent ».



# A free tool for practitioners (1): parameters





### **Externalities**

#### A very preliminary work:

A very rough appraisal for developed countries like FR!

#### **Externality:**

30% of public returns

Type of outcome affected by education (1)	Per cent change in outcome of education after 40 Years (2)	Basis for estimate (3)	Source (4)
Better public health	Positive, but public versus private health effect unknown	Micro-regressions only. AIDS educ. potential	Grossman and Kaestner (1997)
2. Lower pop. growth	0 % in Africa, ↓elsewhere	↓ fertility but↑ health	Appiah and McMahon (2002)
3. Democratization	36 % ↑ in democracy (i.e. freedom house index up 2.9 (from 3.7) to 6.6	Note: This investment of \$13.80 per capita raises gross enrolment rate	
	Includes 2.3 % for more volunteering. 2 % of market rate	by about 20 % points.	
	Includes more fin.gifts: 12 % give over 3 % of their income	Volunteering and financial giving are at each income level	
4. Human rights	4 % ↑ in human rights, on freedom house index		
5. Political stability	3.1 %↑ in political stability, internat' country risk guide		Appiah and McMahon (2002)
6. Lower crime rates	2 % ↓ in homicide rate		
	1.2 % ↑ in property crime	But secondary enrolment reduces property crime 9 % if income controlled for.	Appiah and McMahon (2002)
	Plus 2 % rate of return due to	Less incarceration costs	Lochner (1999)
7. Deforestation	0.3 % ↓ in annual forest (and wildlife) destruction rate	All occur from combined indirect effects of slower population growth, less poverty, more democracy and faster economic growth.	Appiah and McMahon (2002)
8. Water pollution (For India, better data)	13 % ↓ in water Pollution		McMahon (2002)
9. Air pollution	14 % ↑, growth increases it.		
10. Poverty reduction	18 % ↓ in Poverty	Pri. & Jr. sec in villages	Appiah and McMahon (2002)
11. Inequality reduced	8 % ↓ in Inequality (in GINI)	Only if access widened	Appiah and McMahon (2002)

source: Chapman et Lounkaew (2015) adapted from MacMahon (2006).



## Counterfactual and pricing of the education option

The pricing method and the choice of the counterfactual are embedded in the French Higher Education institutions

#### Rather than:

- -entering a 2-years degree (BTS, IUT), one can enter the Labour market with a BAC education level
- -entering a 3-years (University licence), one can enter the Labour market with a BAC education level
- -entering a **Master** degree, one can enter the Labour market with a **licence** education level
- -entering a **PhD** degree, one can enter the Labour market with a **Master** education level

How to do with *Grande école* degree (Business and engineering schools)?

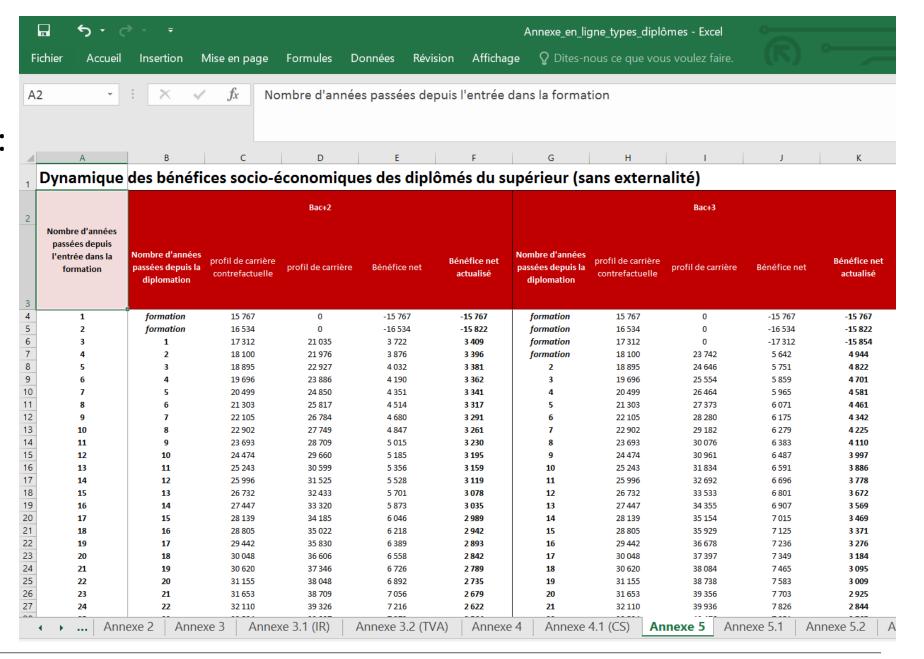
We have to take into account the selection/elite effect.

Assumption: rather than enter a *Grande école* one can easily follow the same kind of curriculum at *University*!

With the Mincer equations estimated, one can identify the wage career of University degrees in Business or in Science!



# A free tool for practitioners (2): simulation





## Socio-economic benefits of higher education diploma

Diplômes		Bac +2	Bac+3	Masters universitaires	dont Master recherche	dont Master professionnel	Ecoles de commerce	Ecoles d'ingénieurs	Bac+8
Bénéfices socio-économiques (sans externalité)		86 108	91763	74 304	44 074	86 820	108 397	187 379	223 643
Bénefices liés aux cotisations sociales [1]		33 466	35 604	28 830	17 101	33 686	42 058	72 703	86 773
Bénéfices liés à l'IRPP [2]		4 651	9 013	11 500	10 304	11 995	18 330	23 032	32 878
Bénéfices liés à la TVA [3]		4 546	4 493	3 638	2 158	4 251	5 307	9 174	10 950
Ensemble des bénéfices socio-fiscaux [4]*		42 663	49 110	43 967	29 563	49 932	65 695	104 909	130 601
Bénéfices liés aux externalités	[5]	12 799	14 733	13 190	8 869	14 980	19 709	31 473	39 180
Bénéfices liés aux externalités (hypothèse d'homogénéité) [6		16 819	16 819	16 819	16 819	16 819	16 819	16 819	16 819
Bénéfices socio-économiques Min.		98 907	106 496	87 494	52 943	101 800	125 216	204 199	240 462
(y.c. externalités)**	Max.	102 928	108 583	91 123	60 894	103 640	128 105	218 852	262 823
Répartition des diplômés dans la population totale		39%	32%	13%	4%	9%	2%	8%	7%

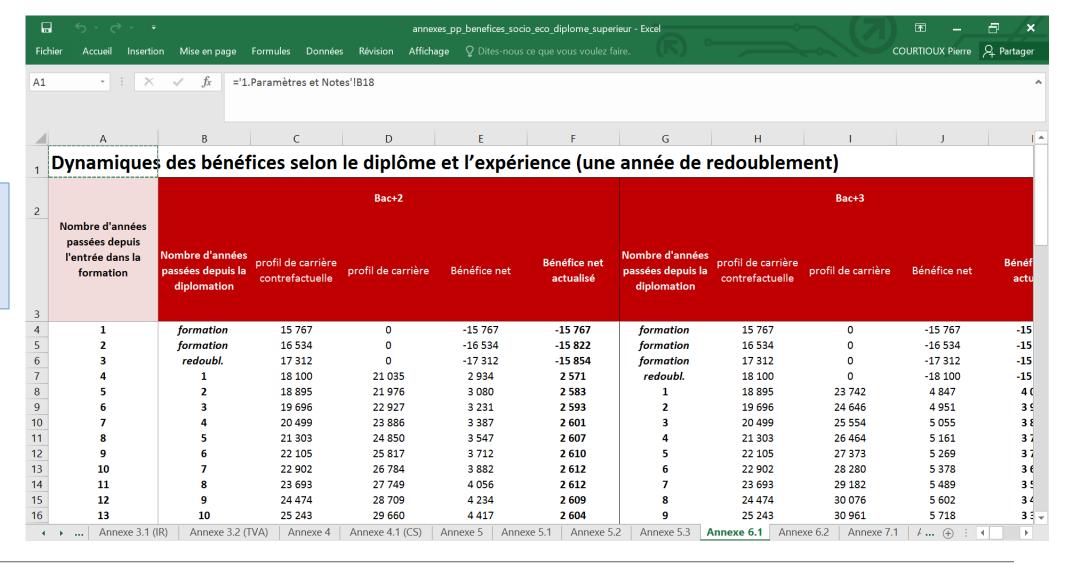
Source : Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux 2003-2005 et Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux et Sociaux 2004-2013 (Insee), comptes de la Nation (Insee) – Calculs : Edhec Business School.

Notes : (\*) [4] = [1] + [2] + [3]; (\*\*) la fourchette des bénéfices socio-économiques est obtenue sur la base du minimum et du maximum des lignes [5] et [6].



# Estimating the cost of repeating and drop-out (1)

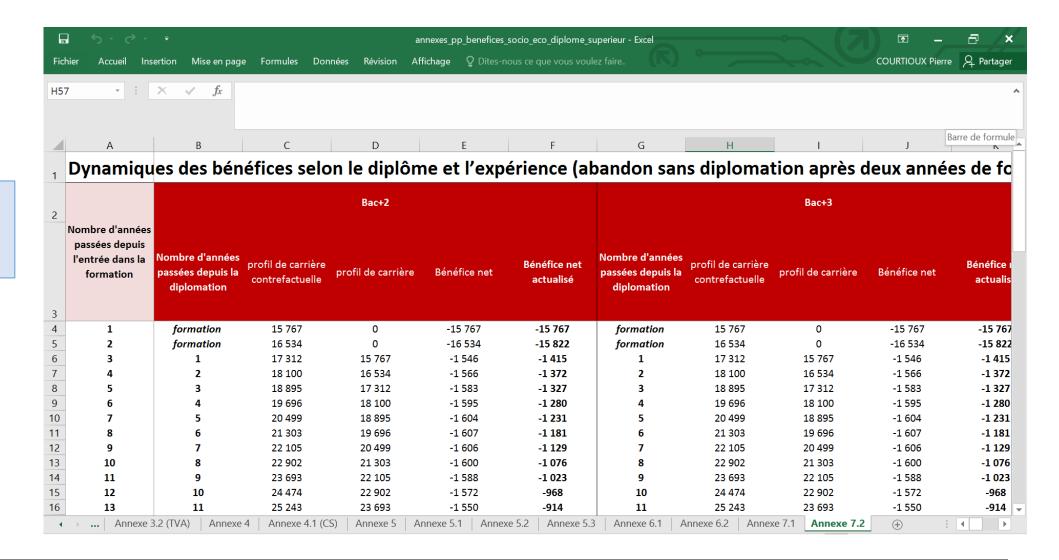
Example:
One repeating year
(« redoublement »
in French)





# Estimating the cost of repeating and drop-out (2)

Example:
Drop-out after two
years of training





# Estimating the cost of repeating and drop-out (3)

Diplômes	Bac +2	Bac+3	Masters universitaires	dont Master recherche	dont Master professionnel	Ecoles de commerce	Ecoles d'ingénieurs	Bac+8
Bénéfices socio-économiques (sans externalité)	86 108	91 763	74 304	44 074	86 820	108 397	187 379	223 643
Bénéfices socio-économiques (sans externalité) d'un étudiant ayant redoublé une année	60 952	66 225	41 961	13 033	53 939	61 334	137 362	180 115
Bénéfices socio-économiques (sans externalité) d'un étudiant ayant redoublé deux ans	36 741	41 787	11 011	-16 671	22 473	16 298	89 498	138 461
Coûts socio-économiques (sans externalité) d'un étudiant ayant abandonné au bout d'une année	-21 586	-21 586	-29 143	-29 143	-29 143	-48 642	-48 113	-33 897
Coûts socio-économiques (sans externalité) d'un étudiant ayant abandonné au bout de deux ans	-42 243	-42 243	-57 031	-57 031	-57 031	-95 482	-94 443	-66 335

Source : Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux 2003-2005 et Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux et Sociaux 2004-2013 (Insee), comptes de la Nation (Insee) – Calculs : Edhec Business School.



# Benefit of continuous education for some tertiary diplomas

With a set of assumptions, the value of entering the labour market now and entering higher education later (continuous vocational training) is possible...

Diplômes	Bac +2	Bac+3	Master professionnel
Bénéfices socio-économiques de la FI (sans externalité)	86 108	91 763	86 820
Bénéfices socio-économiques de la FC (sans externalité) d'un salarié formé après 22 ans d'expérience sur le marché du travail*	70 613	57 699	82 385
Bénéfices socio-économiques de la FC (sans externalité) d'un salarié formé formé après 32 ans d'expérience sur le marché du travail**	46 403	37 008	8 335

Source : Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux 2003-2005 et Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux et Sociaux 2004-2013 (Insee), comptes de la Nation (Insee) – Calculs : Edhec Business School.

Notes : (\*) soit 40 ans pour un individu ayant obtenu son Bac à 18 ans, (\*\*) soit 50 ans pour un individu ayant obtenu son Bac à 18 ans. Fl pour formation initiale, FC pour formation continue.



# Benefit of a student orientation reform

With a set of assumptions and some statistics on student success, one can produce *ex ante* evaluation of a given reform...

	Valeur des bénéfices socio-économiques		le degré de réussite des e e socioéconomique corre	
	(sans externalité) en €	Scénario de référence	Scénario 1 : baisse du taux d'échec de 25 points de pourcentage	Scénario 2 : le taux d'échec est ramené à 0
	Diplômés du Bac ent	rant dans une formatio	n Bac+3	
Réussite sans redoublement*	91 763	28%	28%	28%
Réussite avec un redoublement*	66 225	12%	12%	12%
Réussite avec deux redoublements*	41 787	5%	5%	5%
Abandon après deux redoublements	-42 243	55%	30%	0%
Diplomation après 32 années de carrière	57 699	0%	25%	55%
Bénéfice moyen par individu suivant la formation (en €)		12 496	37 482	67 464
Diplo	ômé Bac+3 entrant dans	une formation de Mast	er professionnel	
Réussite sans redoublement*	86 820	50%	50%	50%
Réussite avec un redoublement*	53 939	15%	15%	15%
Abandon après deux redoublements	-57 031	35%	10%	0%
Diplomation après 32 années de carrière	32 454	0%	25%	35%
Bénéfice moyen par individu suivant la formation (en €)		31 540	53 911	62 860

Source : Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux 2003-2005 et Enquêtes Revenus Fiscaux et Sociaux 2004-2013 (Insee), comptes de la Nation (Insee), (\*) MENESR [2017] – Calculs : Edhec Business School.



#### **Conclusion**

The methodology helps to valuate different investment options in higher education:

- -New education **buildings**
- -Implementation of digital tools in higher education

-...

In the development of such a tool there is a kind of **trade-off** between being more precise (microsimulation tools, etc.) and being easy to use for practitioners

