Example multiple ITS text

For each CLUSTER a separate interrupted time series will be fitted allowing for a level change and slope change, so that time trends in absence of INTERVENTION are accounted for. Model fit will be assessed using visual check of the fit (e.g. residual plots, ACF-, PACF- plots) and the residual mean squared error RSME (= the typical distance from model predictions to observed values). Model reduction (model with level and slope change vs model with level change only) will be considered quantitatively by comparing fit measures (e.g. information criteria, residual mean squared error RMSE) and qualitatively using the visual check of the fit. Although in principle each CLUSTER could have a different type of model with the best fit (e.g. level change only, slope change only, or level and slope change), we will for interpretability apply the predominantly best model fit to all the CLUSTERs, and describe deviations for CLUSTERs that did not have this as best model. In case the best model is predominantly the level and slope change model, we will take the change from the average of first two to the average of the last two periods (as derived from this model) as an interpretable summary measure for the INTERVENTION effect.

The variation and size of INTERVENTION effects of the different CLUSTER will be visualized using a forest plot. In case the treatment effects are sufficiently consistent, the following analysis will be performed. The overall INTERVENTION effect will be based in a meta-analysis of all the CLUSTER effects. Effect modification (interaction) will be investigated, e.g. due to <…..> will be investigated using meta-regression (with the relevant factor) and visualized using subgroup plots (categorical factors) or scatter plots (continuous factor). In case there are clearly positive and negative effects depending on CLUSTER, meta-regression and subgroup analyses will be attempted to explain this heterogeneity in order to address the question for which kind of CLUSTERs INTERVENTION is sensible and for which it is not.

In case other analyses are reported instead of and/or additional to those which are preplanned, changes in the analyses will be reported.