

EU SILC – Statistics on Income and Living Conditions.

Origin of the study	<p>The European project on Statistics on Income and Living Conditions follows on from where the pioneering European Community Household Panel survey (ECHP) left off.</p> <p>Launched in 1994, the ECHP expired in 2001, and since that time the European political scene has changed. Firstly there has been the introduction of an open method of coordination in the fields of social inclusion and pensions reform. Secondly Europe has enlarged from 15 to 27 member states (and demands for coverage of other neighbouring countries). And finally new recommendations for the collection of household income statistics have been published by the United Nations expert group in a detailed report.</p> <p>In recognition of these changes, the ECHP was replaced with data collection under the EU-SILC (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, regulations no.1177/2003 'Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions' et al). Seven countries launched EU-SILC in 2003, before it was extended to 15 countries in 2004, 27 countries in 2005, and 31 countries in 2009.</p>
Management Structure	
Statement of purpose.	<p>EU-SILC is the EU reference source for comparative statistics on income distribution, living conditions and social exclusion at European level, particularly in the context of the Open Method of Coordination (OMCs) on social inclusion, pensions and health care.</p> <p>The purpose of SILC is to allow the Member States and the European Commission to monitor national and EU progress towards key EU objectives in the area of social inclusion and of social protection, and to support mutual learning and identification of good (and bad) practices in terms of policies and institutional processes. This represents a major step forward in the development of EU cooperation in social policy, and has the potential to transform the framework within which Member States develop their national (and sub-national) policies to tackle poverty and social exclusion.</p>
Funded by	European Commission
Affiliations.	???
Co-ordinators	Eurostat
Government partners?	EU Working Group 'Statistics on Living Conditions'
Expert panels	The development of indicators, under the responsibility of the Social Protection Committee (SPC) Indicators Sub-Group, is a dynamic process. The work of the national delegations of experts, who make up the Group, and the secretariat provided by the European Commission Directorate-General on "Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities" (in close cooperation with Eurostat), has allowed the set of indicators (and breakdowns of these) to be considerably enriched.
Data set basic information.	
Dates.	Annual data: from 2003 onwards (depending on country availability), both cross-sectional and longitudinal data
Countries.	<p>2003: <i>Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Greece, Luxembourg, Austria, and Norway (7 countries).</i></p> <p>2004: <i>7 countries plus Estonia, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Finland, Sweden, and Iceland (15 countries).</i></p> <p>2005: <i>15 countries plus Czech Republic, Germany, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, and the United Kingdom (27 countries)</i></p> <p>2007: <i>27 countries plus Bulgaria, Romania, Switzerland, and Turkey (31 countries)</i></p>
Contents.	<p>EU-SILC is a multi-dimensional instrument focused on income but covering at the same time housing, material deprivation, labour, health, demography, education so as to allow studying the multidimensional approach of social exclusion. It is composed of primary (collected every year) and secondary (collected in general only one-shot) target variables. For countries using the integrated design, all variables will be in both cross-sectional and longitudinal components.</p> <p>The primary target variables concerns either household or individual information. Income variables as well as some complex variables are collected only for persons aged 16 and more. The variables can be regrouped into the following domains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At household level: (1) basic/core data, (2) housing, (3) material deprivation, and (4) income and tax. • At personal level: (1) basic/demographic data, (2) education, (3) health), (4) labour, and (5) income information. <p>One specific module per year has been included from 2005 only in the cross-sectional component. It is described</p>

	<p>with secondary target variables. The first EU-SILC modules are relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005: Inter-generational transmission of poverty; • 2006: Social participation • 2007: Housing conditions • 2008: Over-indebtedness and financial exclusion • 2009: Material deprivation • 2010: Intra-household sharing of resources (still under preparation) <p>Given the principle of flexibility of the implementation of the SILC project at national level, the corresponding sequence of questions needed to construct one target variable may vary from one country to another.</p>
Core data includes:	See content above.
Contextual data includes:	Socio-demographic contextual data is an integrated part of the core data/questionnaire.
Requirements of access.	<p>The EU-SILC data are cleaned and imputed, and then individual records are transmitted to Eurostat (without any direct identifiers (e.g. name, address, official identifiers)) and are freely available on Eurostat website (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=3134,70318806,3134_70394008&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL). Imputation procedures are set by Regulation n°1981/2003.</p> <p>EU-SILC framework Regulation n°1177/2003 makes provision for the release of anonymised micro data to researchers (encrypted CD-ROM with documentation). The full UDB containing 2006 EU-SILC data was available end of March 2008 (cross-sectional) and end of October 2008 (longitudinal). Price policy has been adjusted to avoid obstacle to access the data base. The cross sectional and longitudinal files are sold separately at the price 500€ for the first purchase and 250€ for subsequent waves.</p> <p>Details on the EU-SILC micro-data files to researchers in relation to (1) variable suppression and global recoding applied can be found at: http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/eusilc/library.</p>
Next wave/project.	
Next date and availability.	<p>There are 2 types of release:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cross sectional UDB containing the most recent wave of EU-SILC; • A longitudinal UDB containing all 4 years trajectories available at the time of the release. <p>The cross-sectional database covering year n should be disseminated by Eurostat in March of year n+2. The longitudinal database covering years up to year n should be disseminated by Eurostat in August of year n+2.</p>
<i>New content / questions.</i>	
Countries to be added.	Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are considering to introduce EU-SILC in the near future.
Previous content not repeated in the next wave.	
Countries not repeating the study in the next wave.	None.
Previous waves/projects.	<p>Over an eight year period (from 1994 to 2001), the ECHP (European Community Household Panel), ran in 14 of the then 15 Member States (with the exception of Sweden), and served as the source for many of the commonly agreed social inclusion indicators for this period. The role of the ECHP has therefore been crucial for the first two rounds of EU-15 National Action Plans on inclusion (2001 and 2003). In parallel, international recommendations on income (Expert Group on Household Income Statistics (The Canberra Group), 2001) were developed, and collection of gross income at component level (and not net income as implemented in the ECHP) appeared to be preferable for income distribution analysis.</p> <p>It is with the aims of solving the ECHP technical problems, of conforming to the internationally agreed definition of income and of extending the data collection to the enlarged EU (and beyond) that the decision was taken to stop the ECHP and launch EU-SILC.</p>
Methodology	
Sources and collection methods.	<p>EU-SILC framework fosters the use of existing sources and/or administrative data. However, in practice not all EUSILC variables can be obtained from register and administrative data. So, two groups of countries can be identified based on where data is sourced for EU-SILC.</p> <p>The first group, the so called register countries (DK, FI, IS, NL, NO, SE, SI), are countries where most income components and some demographic information are obtained through administrative registers. Other personal</p>

	<p>variables are obtained through interview. In the remaining countries, except Ireland, the full information is obtained through survey among household and interview with household members. In Ireland, upon the explicit agreement of the household collected, the information is obtained from administrative information.</p> <p>The specific mode of collecting information also varies from country to country, with a gradual shift from PAPI (Performance Application Programming Interface) to CAPI (Computer Assisted Interviewing). In 2006, PAPI was mainly used in 8 countries (CZ, EL, IT, LT, LU, HU, PL, SK). CAPI was the main interview mode in 10 countries (BE, EE, ES, FR, CY, LV, MT, AT, PT, and UK). In the register countries, the collection of additional variables was mainly conducted via CATI (Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview). Germany is the only country where questionnaires are sent by post.</p>
Unit of analysis.	In EU-SILC two types of collection of household and individual variables are recorded. In most countries (the non-register countries), all members aged 16 or more of selected households answer a personal questionnaire. In the register countries (DK, FI, IS, NL, NO, SE, SI), only a selected household respondent receives a personal questionnaire and household and income variables are collected either through register or through the selected respondent.
What is the sample design?	<p>According to the Commission Regulation on sampling and tracing rules (N° 1982/2003), the cross-sectional and longitudinal (initial sample) data are to be based on a <i>nationally representative probability sample</i> of the population residing in private households within the country, irrespective of language, nationality Regulation N° 1177/2003 defines the minimum effective sample sizes to be achieved.</p> <p>For the cross-sectional component, the plans are to achieve the minimum effective sample size of around 121 000 households or 250 000 individuals aged 16 and over in the EU as a whole (127 000, respectively 260 000 including Iceland and Norway). The allocation of the EU sample among countries represents a compromise between two objectives: the production of results at the level of individual countries, and production for the EU as a whole.</p> <p>Sample size for the longitudinal component refers, for any pair of consecutive years, to the number of individuals successfully interviewed in both the years. For this component, an effective sample size of around 187.000 individuals (195.000 including Iceland and Norway) is planned. The comparison between the minimum effective sample sizes and the achieved sample sizes is available in the annual quality report produced by Eurostat. It is available at: http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/eusilc/library?!=/quality_assessment&vm=detailed&sb=Title .</p>
<i>Sample threshold</i>	The minimum effective sample size is defined by Regulation N° 1553/2005.
Collection window	National surveys also differ through the period during which the fieldwork is carried out. Regulation recommends that the one shot survey fieldwork is extending over less than 4 consecutive months and the lag between income reference period and fieldwork is limited to 8 months. When continuous surveys are used, the sample allocation over time should be controlled and weighting adapted to produce unbiased estimates of the annual average. The range of durations is described in the annual quality report published by Eurostat.
Planning process	
<i>Who is involved in the planning process?</i>	Eurostat and the EU Member States via the Working Group on 'Statistics on Living Conditions'. The questionnaires for the annual modules are prepared with the assistance of a specific task-force composed of experts for each topic.
<i>When are the questionnaires finalised?</i>	The primary target variables are fixed and susceptible of any change. The topic for the annual module and its secondary variables is currently discussed in year n-2 with an adoption towards the beginning of year n-1.
What modules are included?	<p>SILC collects harmonised information on <i>income distribution, living conditions and social exclusion</i>. However the survey design is flexible. In this way, the various variables can come from separate sources. Depending on the country, micro-data could come from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two or more national sources (surveys and/or registers). • One or more existing national sources combined or not with a new survey. • A new harmonized survey to meet all EU-SILC requirements. <p>Most of the countries have adopted a common sample design (4-year rotational design) as recommended by Eurostat. Rotational design refers to the sample selection based on a number of sub-samples or replications, each of them similar in size and design and representative of the whole population. From one year to the next, some replications are retained, while others are dropped and replaced by new replications.</p>
<i>Can countries add their own items?</i>	Yes. In most countries, the SILC variables are embedded into a larger national survey.
Links	

<i>Home page for the website</i>	http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=3134,70318806,3134_70394008&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL
To access the data online	The EU-SILC has been established to provide data to be used in the context of the Open Method of Coordination in the field of social inclusion and pensions. As for social inclusion, the most important output is the computation of the so called "Laeken indicators", including poverty rate, persistent poverty rate (crossed by age, gender, household type, activity status, work intensity and tenure status), S80/S20, Gini coefficient, in-work poverty. Most of the information on the "income and living conditions" domain under theme "Population and social conditions" is derived from the EU-SILC.
<i>To access the international report</i>	http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/eusilc/library?l=/&vm=detailed&sb=Title
<i>How to access the technical reports</i>	http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/eusilc/library?l=/quality_assessment&vm=detailed&sb=Title
<i>To access national reports</i>	NA.
To access a list of research that uses the data	Research based on SILC data available online at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1913,47567825,1913_58814988&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL#C
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