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# Analysing child wellbeing in SEE/CIS countries with data data from HBS and LSMS

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# Background

- The Innocenti Social Monitor 2006 presents data and analysis on child poverty mainly based on data from Household Budget Surveys and LSMS carried out in the countries of SEE/CIS in the period 1998-2003.
- Direct access to (recent) survey microdata for only 5 countries out of 20. For other 12 countries microdata analysis has been drawn from World Bank (2005). Growing availability of household surveys and growing (mainly restricted) access to datasets across the region.
- We had access to questionnaires for several countries in the region.
- Using survey microdata, we carried out analysis on child poverty (expenditure), food consumption, education attendance, housing, family composition / parental upbringing, child allowances and public cash transfers impact coverage, distribution and impact on child poverty

# Household Budget Surveys

- The focus of this presentation is on Integrated Household Budget Surveys and on Living Standard Measurement-type surveys.
- Family Budget Surveys during Centrally Planned period, samples were determined using the so called branch approach: selection of families of employees in selected enterprises in each branch: overrepresentation of urban workers' households. Mainly single topic surveys (data on incomes).
- Serious sample biases in the early transition period, when the economic structures were radically changing.

# HBS and LSMS in SEE/CIS

- Several countries during the transition developed and implemented new routine HBS, in number of cases Integrated Surveys with rich information on household and individual living standards.
- Some countries without routine household surveys, and few countries which are reforming their routine surveys, fielded one or more LSM type surveys in the last 5-10 years.
- In some cases these surveys have a panel component (with doubt on the functioning of this component... and in general underused in the analysis)

## Overview on household surveys in SEE/CIS at the end of 2005 – World Bank ECA assessment - to be updated

	Frequency	Coverage	Consistency	Access (for WB)
<b>Albania</b> (in Social Monitor 2006)	LSMS *	LSMS	LSMS	LSMS
<b>Armenia</b>	IHS	IHS	IHS	HIS
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	HBS	HBS	HBS	HBS
<b>Belarus</b>	HBS	HBS	HBS	HBS
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b> (2004 LSMS not included in SM 2006 due to absence of information on age of hh members)	LSMS/HBS	LSMS/HBS	LSMS/HBS	LSMS/HBS
<b>Bulgaria</b> (2001 HIS in Social Monitor 2006)	IHS	IHS	IHS	IHS
<b>Croatia</b>	HBS	HBS	HBS	HBS
<b>FYR Macedonia</b>	HBS	HBS	HBS	HBS
<b>Georgia</b>	IHS	IHS	IHS	IHS
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	HBS	HBS	HBS	HBS

## Household surveys in SEE/CIS at the end of 2005 – World Bank ECA assessment - to be updated

	Frequency	Coverage	Consistency	Access (for WB)
<b>Moldova</b> (in SM 2006)	HBS	HBS	HBS	HBS
<b>Romania</b>	IHS	IHS	IHS	IHS
<b>Russian Federation</b> (the SM 2006 used data from the NOBUS survey 2003 – representative at the oblast level, open access, focusing mainly on public transfer programs and privileges)	HBS	HBS	HBS	HBS
<b>Serbia and Montenegro</b>	LSMS/HBS	LSMS/HBS	LSMS/HBS	LSMS/HBS
<b>Tajikistan</b> (in SM 2006)	LSMS	LSMS	LSMS	LSMS
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	LSMS/HBS	LSMS/HBS	LSMS/HBS	LSMS/HBS
<b>Ukraine</b>	HBS	HBS	HBS	HBS
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	HBS	HBS	HBS	HBS

# HBS and LSMS – core modules

- The core modules of these multi-topic surveys are those on household consumption/expenditure and on incomes:
  - Information on consumption/expenditure on goods and services is collected with different tools (the daily diary and the retrospective interview, including in-kind consumption/expenditure from self-consumed agricultural household production, public in-kind assistance/transfers/ ‘privileges’, private gifts etc.)
  - Income from different sources: labour incomes, public and private transfers, capital incomes (?), in-kind incomes, other incomes ...

# HBS and LSMS – other modules

- Integrated Budget Surveys and LSM surveys in SEE/CIS contain a wealthy set of modules which provide information on different aspects of households and individuals living standards, decision making, impact of public policies, etc. A part of the information is key to understand child wellbeing/poverty.
- All surveys' questionnaires present a roster, where all the members of the household (defined according particular criteria) are registered, along with key individual information (age, gender, relationships, sometimes level of education etc.). The roster has a pivotal role in the questionnaire.
- The range of the other modules varies (but not much) between surveys, in few cases also in routine surveys for the same countries, year by year.

## Some examples of other modules in HBS / LSMS in SEE/CIS

- Moldovan HBS – 2003 (routine surveys), panel component, 3 visits for each hh
  1. Land plots used by the HH
  2. **Housing and utilities** (\*\*housing deprivation, access to basic utilities)
  3. **Roster/composition of the HH** (family arrangements etc.)
  4. **Employment of hh members (aged 14 and +)**
  5. Durables
  6. Self-evaluation of living standards (by the head of the hh)
  7. **Access (distance) to ‘public places’**, including school, library, hospital ... cinema
  8. **Education** (not in the 2004 survey)
  9. **Health** (only few questions in health status self assessment... not clear who responds for children...)

## Some examples of other modules in HBS / LSMS in SEE/CIS

- Bulgaria – Multitopic Household Survey 2003
  - **1. Roster and economic status of hh members** (incl. ethnicity)
  - 2. (past) Migration (of current hh members)
  - **3. Dwelling, utilities, durables**
  - **4. Employment, unemployment, earning, social security entitlement (15 and +)**
  - 5. Agriculture (inputs, production, stocks)
  - **6. Education** (no data on preschool attendance)
  - **7. Health care and health status**
  - 8. Subjective indicators (head of hh)

## Some examples of other modules in HBS / LSMS in SEE/CIS

- Romania – Integrated Household surveys (routine)

The old questionnaires included also (very short) modules on **anthropometrics** of children under-5 (measurement at the dispensary, weight at birth, breastfeeding) and ‘fertility’ for all women aged 14 and +  
[check new questionnaires]

- **Russia – Nobus Survey 2003**

Including very detailed modules on **social programs**, no info on preschool

- **Russia – RLSM – Longitudinal survey**

With a special, very detailed, questionnaire for children, with a section on ‘**care for children**’, education, **physical activity, use of time, health, nutrition**.  
[relatively small sample]

## Some examples of other modules in HBS / LSMS in SEE/CIS

- Georgia HBS – 2005(?)
  1. **Housing, facilities, durables**
  2. Land
  3. **Roster/composition of the HH** (also w questions on anthropometrics of hh member)
  4. **Education**
  5. **Health** (including children anthropometrics)
  6. **Employment of hh members (aged 15 and +)**
  
- **Tajikistan LSS (LSMS) 2003**
  1. **Roster**
  2. Migration
  3. **Education**
  4. **Health**
  5. **Labour**
  6. **Dwelling,utilities,durables**
  7. **Subjective pov.**
  8. Agriculture
  9. **Fertility**
  10. **Reproductive and HIV knowledge**
  11. **Women use of time**

## Some examples of other modules in HBS / LSMS in SEE/CIS

- Uzbekistan – Regional Panel Survey – 2005 – 1st wave
  - **1. Roster**
  - **2. Dwelling, utilities, durables**
  - 3. Migration
  - **4. Education** (very detailed)
  - **5. Health**
  - **6. Labour and occupation(16+)**
  - 7. Agriculture (inputs, production, stocks)

## General characteristics

- Small / medium sample sizes [sampling errors]
- Long and complex questionnaires [non sampling errors]
- 1-3 visits per hh
- Specific questions (in some cases requiring special expertise by the interviewer)
- Quality and usability of data
  
- Non response rate to the survey (varying across the region and within countries)
- Non response to specific parts of the questionnaire

# Non response

- Non response by sampled hh:
  - Romania from 8% in 1995 to 13.4% in 2000
  - Russia (HBS) from 10.4% in 1992 to 16% in 2000
  - Uzbekistan 2005: national average 33.1%, urban: 46.1% rural: 23.4%  
Tashkent city: 47.8% (1,000 responses and 1,481 non responses!)  
Main reasons: respondent not found (24%), interview not completed (23%), respondent drunk (16%), no time (15%)

Non response to modules/questions:

- Higher levels of non response in income module, but also in 'secondary' modules (anthropometrics, fertility, etc.)

## Specific discussion on questionnaires / modules

- Focus on three sections/modules
- 1 – Roster (household composition, understanding household arrangements, hh membership, absence of parents and reasons, decision making etc.) – examples, implications
- 2 – Consumption (children in total household consumption, intra-household distribution, equivalent scales, child specific consumption items)
- 3 – Anthropometrics (but also fertility and infant mortality) in HBS: what is the added value? Quality of the information?