# Labour Force Survey (LFS) ad-hoc module 2017 on the self-employed persons

**ASSESSMENT REPORT**

2018 edition

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# Preface

This report evaluates the 2017 EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) ad-hoc module on self-employment. The main objective of this report is to assess the quality of the dataset, but also to provide recommendations on how to improve the module for future repetitions. This report presents some main results, but its main goal is only to describe the implementation of the survey and the resulting dataset. Readers are referred to the tables[1] on the Eurostat website for the published results.

The EU-LFS is a large-sample survey of private households, which provides detailed quarterly and annual data on employment, unemployment and economic inactivity. The EU-LFS was established by Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 of 9 March 1998[2] on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the European Union. This Regulation and its amendments set out provisions for the design, characteristics and decision-making process of the survey. The ad-hoc modules of the EU-LFS are, as the name implies, separate from the core survey, and they provide additional information on selected topics, varying from year to year. The topic of self-employment is covered for the first time.

A large number of labour market specialists from national statistical offices, Eurostat and other Commission Directorate-Generals played an important role in the planning of the 2017 module.

The first chapter of this document gives some general information on the 2017 module: the basic aim of the module, the main findings, the participating countries, the sample size per country, the non-response and imputation rates as well as the publication limits for ad-hoc estimates per country. The second chapter provides a detailed description of each variable together with information on data collection, descriptive statistics and some conclusions and recommendations.

This document is based on data sent to Eurostat and processed before 15 November 2018. The quality reports provided by participating countries were particularly useful in helping Eurostat to compile this implementation report. Eurostat would like to thank all contributors.

Links to all published information from Eurostat on the ad-hoc modules are available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey_-_ad_hoc_modules.

This report was prepared by Stylianos Zachariou of Eurostat's unit for labour market statistics (F3) with the support of Mélina Antuofermo, and Carlo Lucarelli (also Eurostat F3).

Luxembourg, November 2018

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database database by theme - population and social conditions – labour market – employment and unemployment – LFS ad-hoc modules

[2] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:31998R0577

# Executive summary for the researchers

This report assesses the data quality of the European Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) ad-hoc module 2017 on self-employment and provides some main findings of the survey.

The EU-LFS is the largest European household sample survey, providing quarterly and annual results on persons aged 15 and over, on persons inside and outside the labour market. The sample size is about 1.8 million persons per quarter. The survey is implemented on a continuous basis. Only private households are included in the published data. The data collection is done as individual interviews. In most countries proxy interviews (with another person in the household) are allowed. The variables which are collected on a quarterly or annual basis are called 'core variables'[3].

In addition to the core variables, the EU-LFS also has so-called ad-hoc modules (AHMs). These are a supplementary set of up to 11 variables, added to the core, on a clearly defined labour market relevant topic. Topics are chosen in cooperation between the National Statistical Institutes, various policy Directorate Generals of the European Commission and Eurostat, on the basis of policy and analysis needs. This document presents, assesses and analyses the EU-LFS AHM 2017 on self-employment[4].

The main aim of 2017 ad-hoc module was to provide important information on the self-employed and on persons in an ambivalent professional status (at the border between employment and self-employment) in order to complement information from the core LFS.

The legal basis for the ad-hoc module on self-employment is Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/8 of 5 January 2016[5].This means that all EU Member States and EFTA countries are obliged to carry out the survey and send micro data to Eurostat. In addition, Turkey has also implemented the survey[6].

The technical definitions and list of variables provided by the Regulation are complemented by an associated model questionnaire developed by a dedicated task force consisting of experts from a selection of National Statistics Institutes (the Czech Republic, Spain, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and Slovenia) as well as representatives from the European Commission Directorate General for Employment, social affairs and inclusion (DG EMPL), International Labour Organization (ILO) and Eurostat.

The first chapter of this document gives some general information on the 2017 module: the basic aim of the module, the main findings, the participating countries, the sample size per country, the non-response and imputation rates as well as the publication limits for ad-hoc estimates per country. The second chapter provides a detailed description of each variable together with information on data collection, descriptive statistics and some conclusions and recommendations.

According to survey results, most of the self-employed persons are able to determine freely their working hours, while a large percentage of them can influence both the content and the order of their tasks. A majority of self-employed persons would prefer not to change professional status and one in two is highly satisfied with his/her current job.

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[3] A more detailed description of methodology and the legal basis of the survey is available at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey_%E2%80%93_main_features_and_legal_basis

[4] The ad hoc modules are presented more in-depth at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey_-_ad_hoc_modules

[5] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016R0007

[6] Participation in the ad hoc survey was compulsory in eleven of the EU countries, and in two of the participating European Free Trade Association / candidate countries.

Self-employed persons reported a variety of difficulties, as well as a variety of reasons for choosing to work as self-employed, none of them being prominent at European level. Most of self-employed persons work without co-owner in their business and are not using any network of self-employed to facilitate their work. Only a small percentage of self-employed persons is planning to hire employees or subcontractors in the next 12 months.

The percentage of economically dependent self-employed is very low at European level.

With the exception of the table on sample size and imputation rate, all data presented in this report are weighted. Data coming from one variable are considered as unreliable in case of non-response rate higher than 15 %.

# Contents

# **1** | **General information on the module**

## Description of the module

### Aim of the module

The main aim of 2017 ad-hoc module is to provide important information on the self-employed persons and on the persons in an ambivalent professional status (at the border between employment and self-employment) in order to complement information from the core LFS.

The information, collected at European level, will allow quantifying the labour force structure with a more detailed breakdown of professional status and a more detailed view on the working conditions of the self-employed persons.

### Main findings

The majority of self-employed (81.8%) decide themselves on the start and the end of their working day.

The more frequently reported reason for becoming self-employed is taking advantage of a suitable opportunity (21.8%).

The reported main difficulty faced by self-employed differs significantly between countries but the most frequently reported difficulty at EU level is the "inappropriate levels of administrative burden" (12.3%).

The most frequent reason at EU level for not having employees is that "there is not enough work" (31.2%).

More than half of the respondents (59.3%) do not have a co-owner and do not use any network of self-employed to facilitate their work.

Only 20.8% of the self-employed persons plan to hire employees or subcontractors in the next 12 months.

Almost half of the respondents (45.6%) report that they can influence both the content and order of their tasks.

The majority of respondents at EU level report that are either satisfied to some extent (46.3%) or satisfied to a large extent (42.2%) with their current job.

In almost all countries, the vast majority of the employed persons report that they do not want to change professional status (84.7% at EU level).

Financial insecurity is the most frequent reported reason for not becoming self-employed at EU level (39.3%).

The percentage of dependent self-employed is very low in all countries.

# List of participating countries

| | |
|---|---|
| BE | Belgium |
| BG | Bulgaria |
| CZ | Czechia |
| DK | Denmark |
| DE | Germany |
| EE | Estonia |
| IE | Ireland |
| EL | Greece |
| ES | Spain |
| FR | France |
| HR | Croatia |
| IT | Italy |
| CY | Cyprus |
| LV | Latvia |
| LT | Lithuania |
| LU | Luxembourg |
| HU | Hungary |
| MT | Malta |
| NL | Netherlands |
| AT | Austria |
| PL | Poland |
| PT | Portugal |
| RO | Romania |
| SI | Slovenia |
| SK | Slovakia |
| FI | Finland |
| SE | Sweden |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| | |
| IS | Iceland |
| NO | Norway |
| CH | Switzerland |
| | |
| TR | Turkey |

# Description of the variables

The module includes 11 variables, split in 3 sub-modules.

## Sub-module 1: Economically dependent self-employed

The first sub-module aims to measure the degree of economic/organisational dependency of the self-employed, in terms of the number of clients and the percentage of income coming from a client as well as in terms of control over working hours.

This sub-module includes 2 variables:

MAINCLNT: Economic dependency

WORKORG: Organisational dependency

## Sub-module 2: Working conditions for self-employed

The aim of the second sub-module is to investigate the working conditions of the self-employed, like working with partners or using employees. It also collects factors that motivated or forced a person to become self-employed, as well as the main difficulty they face working as self-employed.

This sub-module includes 5 variables:

REASSE: Main reason for becoming self-employed

SEDIFFIC: Main difficulty as self-employed

REASNOEM: Main reason for not having employees

BPARTNER:  Working with business partners

PLANEMPL:  Planning hiring of employees or subcontracting

## Sub-module 3: Comparing employees and self-employed

The third sub-module targets the comparison between self-employed, employees and family workers in terms of job satisfaction and autonomy. It also gathers information on the preferred professional status.

This sub-module includes 4 variables:

JBSATISFQ:  Job satisfaction

AUTONOMY: Job autonomy

PREFSTAP: Preferred professional status in the main job

OBSTACSE: Main reason for not becoming self-employed

# Main characteristics of the national 2017 ad-hoc module

## Data collection

**Table 1.1:** Main characteristics of the national 2017 LFS AHM data collection, by country

| | Reference period | Interview mode | Participation | AHM position in LFS questionnaire | Proxy answering allowed | Test of questionnaire | Average interview duration in minutes (AHM) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belgium** | Q1-Q4 | CAPI, CATI | Compulsory | End | No | No | 5 to 10 |
| **Bulgaria** | Q1-Q4 | PAPI | Voluntary | End | Yes | Pilot survey/350 persons | 8.7 |
| **Czechia** | Q1-Q4 | CAPI, PAPI | Voluntary | End | Yes | Cognitive test/150 persons | 5 to 6 |
| **Denmark** | Q1-Q4 | CAWI, CATI | Voluntary | After employment | Yes | No | 2 |
| **Germany** | Q1-Q4 | CAPI, CATI, Selfadministered | Voluntary | After employment | Yes | Cognitive test (20 persons) and expert interviews (5 persons | 5 |
| **Estonia** | Q2-Q4 | CAPI, CATI | Voluntary | After employment | Yes | Pilot survey/200 persons | Not stated |
| **Ireland** | Q2 | CAPI | Voluntary | End | Yes | No | Not stated |
| **Greece** | Q2 | PAPI, CAPI | Compulsory | After employment (CAPI) End (PAPI) | Yes | Pilot survey /10 persons | 6 |
| **Spain** | Q1-Q4 | CATI, CAPI | Compulsory | End | Yes | No | 1.28 |
| **France** | Q1-Q4 | CAPI, CATI | Compulsory | End | Yes | PAPI test - 155 persons CAPI test - 273 persons Rehearsal simulation - 12 persons | 3 |
| **Croatia** | Q2 | CAPI, CATI | Voluntary | End | Yes | Internal check/25 persons | 2.5 |
| **Italy** | Q2 | CAPI, CATI | Compulsory | After employment | Yes | Pilot survey/1564 persons | 1 to 3 |
| **Cyprus** | Q2 | CAPI, CATI | Compulsory | End | Yes | Pilot survey/140 households | 3 to 7 |
| **Latvia** | Q2 | CAPI, CATI | Voluntary | End | Yes | Cognitive test/10 persons (an expert group afterwards) | 1 |
| **Lithuania** | Q2 | PAPI, CAPI, CAWI | Voluntary | End | Yes | Internal check/21 persons | 6 |
| **Luxembourg** | Q1-Q4 | CATI, CAWI | Compulsory | After employment | No | Interna check, pilot survey | 4 |
| **Hungary** | Q2 | CAPI, CATI | Voluntary | End | Yes | Internal check/10 persons | 2.65 |
| **Malta** | Q1-Q4 | PAPI (1st) CATI (last) | Compulsory | After employment | Yes | Internal check/3 persons | 10 |
| **Netherlands** | Q1-Q4 | CATI | Voluntary | After employment | Yes | Internal tests | 1 |
| **Austria** | Q1-Q4 | CAPI | Compulsory | End | Yes | Pilot survey/207 persons | 2.5 |
| **Poland** | Q2 | CAPI, PAPI, CATI | Voluntary | End | Yes | 3 Pilot surveys/104 persons | 7 |
| **Portugal** | Q2 | CAPI, CATI | Compulsory | End | Yes | Internal check/10 persons | 4 |
| **Romania** | Q2 | PAPI | Voluntary | End | Yes | Informal test/15 persons | 7 |
| **Slovenia** | Q2 | CAPI, CATI | Voluntary | End | Yes | Cognitive test /12 persons | 1 to 2 |
| **Slovakia** | Q2 | CAPI, PAPI, CATI | Compulsory | End | Yes | Cognitive test (84 persons) and field test (104 persons) | 8 |
| **Finland** | Q1-Q4 | CATI | Voluntary | End | Yes | Cognitive test /13 persons | 2 |
| **Sweden** | Q1-Q4 | CATI | Voluntary | End | No | Expert review and cognitive test/7 persons | 6 |
| **United Kingdom** | Q1-Q4 | CAPI | Voluntary | End | Yes | Internal checks and Pilot survey /1000 households | 1.13 |
| **Iceland** | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| **Norway** | Q1-Q4 | CATI | Compulsory | End | Yes | Internal tests | 1.9 |
| **Switzerland** | Q1-Q4 | CATI | Voluntary | End | Yes | Pilot survey/101 persons | 1.5 |
| **Turkey** | Q2 | CAPI | Compulsory | End | Yes | Internal tests on questionnaire (10 persons) and data entry (290 persons) | 10 |

There is large variability among counties concerning the reference period, the data collection modes, the legal framework, the positioning of the ad-hoc module questions as well as the reported duration of the interview. In particular:

- The majority of countries (16) used the wave approach for the data collection, and therefore the information for the ad-hoc module was collected from a sample covering all quarters of 2017 in these countries. On the other hand, 14 countries implemented the survey during the 2nd quarter 2017.

- 11 countries used only one interview mode (Ireland, Austria, the United Kingdom and Turkey used CAPI; the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland used CATI while Bulgaria and Romania used PAPI). 17 countries used a mixed mode (Belgium, Estonia, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Hungary, Portugal and Slovenia used CAPI and CATI; the Czech Republic and Greece used CAPI and PAPI; Malta used PAPI and CATI while Luxembourg and Denmark used CATI and CAWI). Finally, 4 countries used three different interview modes.

- The participation in the survey was voluntary in 18 countries and compulsory in 13 countries. Only three countries did not allow proxy answering (Belgium, Luxembourg and Sweden).

- The majority of countries (22) positioned the questions of the module at the end of the LFS questionnaire. 8 countries asked the ad-hoc questions after the questions on employment and one country after the questions on job search.

- The duration of the interview varies a lot between countries: the reported duration ranges from 1 to 10 minutes. This large variation may reflect different number of questions or different ways to estimate the duration of the interview.

- 11 countries tested the questionnaire with a pilot survey (with a sample size that ranges from 10 to about 1600 persons), 7 countries implemented cognitive tests and 11 countries used informal tests or internal checks.

## Sample size

Table 1.2 presents the sample size per country (unweighted number of respondents) and the sampling rate (% of respondents over the total number of the target population) for all employed and for self-employed.

The main population of interest of the 2017 ad-hoc module is the self-employed. The percentage of self-employed persons over the total employment as well as the estimated total number of self-employed by country varies a lot.

The share of self-employed in EU-28 is 14.5% (Figure 1.1). Among EU countries, this share ranges from 7.7% in Denmark to 29.9% in Greece. Norway recorded the smallest share of self-employed (6.6%).

The contribution of each country's self-employed workers over the total number of self-employed in EU-28 is presented in Figure 1.2[7]. We should note that 69.3% are residing in the following 6 countries: Italy, the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, France and Poland.

[7] This contribution follows closely, but not in all cases, the contribution of each country in the total employment

**Table 1.2:** Sample size and sampling rate, by country

| | Total Employed | Total self-employed | Number of employed respondents | Number of self-employed respondents | % of sample over all employed | % of sample over all self-employed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EU-28** | 227 947 666 | 33 120 401 | 500 700 | 80 455 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| **Belgium** | 4 637 701 | 637 342 | 19 925 | 2 810 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| **Bulgaria** | 3 150 251 | 352 879 | 13 298 | 1 606 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| **Czechia** | 5 221 608 | 862 426 | 18 602 | 3 034 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| **Denmark** | 2 831 941 | 218 519 | 13 236 | 1 054 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| **Germany** | 41 481 755 | 4 155 573 | 26 789 | 2 565 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| **Estonia** | 660 470 | 65 676 | 7 176 | 721 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| **Ireland** | 2 180 887 | 325 902 | 17 740 | 2 685 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| **Greece** | 3 791 408 | 1 134 101 | 20 303 | 7 119 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| **Spain** | 18 824 787 | 3 042 228 | 37 513 | 6 594 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| **France** | 26 852 560 | 3 017 522 | 9 384 | 3 536 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| **Croatia** | 1 632 807 | 185 574 | 2 903 | 354 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| **Italy** | 23 089 007 | 5 053 037 | 50 341 | 11 340 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| **Cyprus** | 380 709 | 45 117 | 4 533 | 568 | 1.2 | 1.3 |
| **Latvia** | 891 676 | 100 015 | 4 507 | 514 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| **Lithuania** | 1 362 781 | 157 752 | 7 413 | 890 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| **Luxembourg** | 271 846 | 24 556 | 4 407 | 423 | 1.6 | 1.7 |
| **Hungary** | 4 419 561 | 437 667 | 23 619 | 2 173 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| **Malta** | 213 274 | 31 849 | 5 436 | 784 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| **Netherlands** | 8 607 945 | 1 347 326 | 41 803 | 5 509 | 0.5 | 0.4 |
| **Austria** | 4 260 522 | 465 056 | 17 663 | 1 989 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| **Poland** | 16 495 840 | 2 881 507 | 26 058 | 4 471 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| **Portugal** | 4 760 407 | 806 204 | 17 372 | 3 274 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| **Romania** | 8 967 083 | 1 744 728 | 25 894 | 5 213 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| **Slovenia** | 955 183 | 113 585 | 7 100 | 857 | 0.7 | 0.8 |
| **Slovakia** | 2 526 788 | 382 650 | 9 396 | 1 463 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| **Finland** | 2 473 170 | 310 681 | 11 609 | 1 507 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| **Sweden** | 5 021 824 | 421 707 | 19 339 | 1 636 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| **United Kingdom** | 31 983 877 | 4 799 222 | 37 341 | 5 766 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| **Iceland** | 195 552 | 21 565 | 2 080 | 235 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| **Norway** | 2 651 370 | 174 395 | 13 879 | 905 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| **Switzerland** | 4 636 740 | 613 097 | 7 494 | 990 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| **Turkey** | 28 487 544 | 6 100 904 | 43 678 | 10 667 | 0.2 | 0.2 |

**Figure 1.1:** **Percentage of self-employed over the total number of employed, by country**
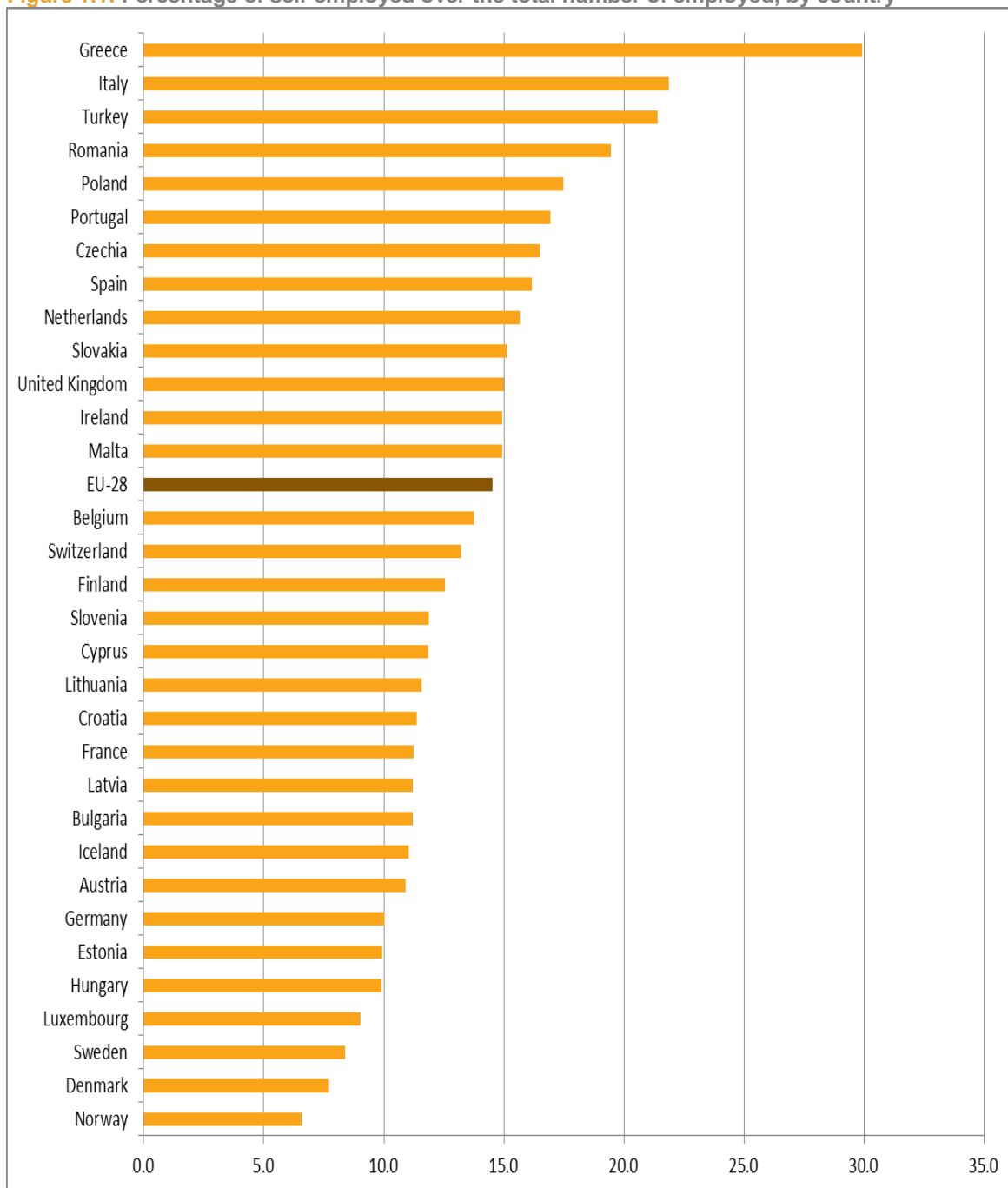
**Figure 1.2:** Distribution of self-employed in EU-28 by country of residence (%)
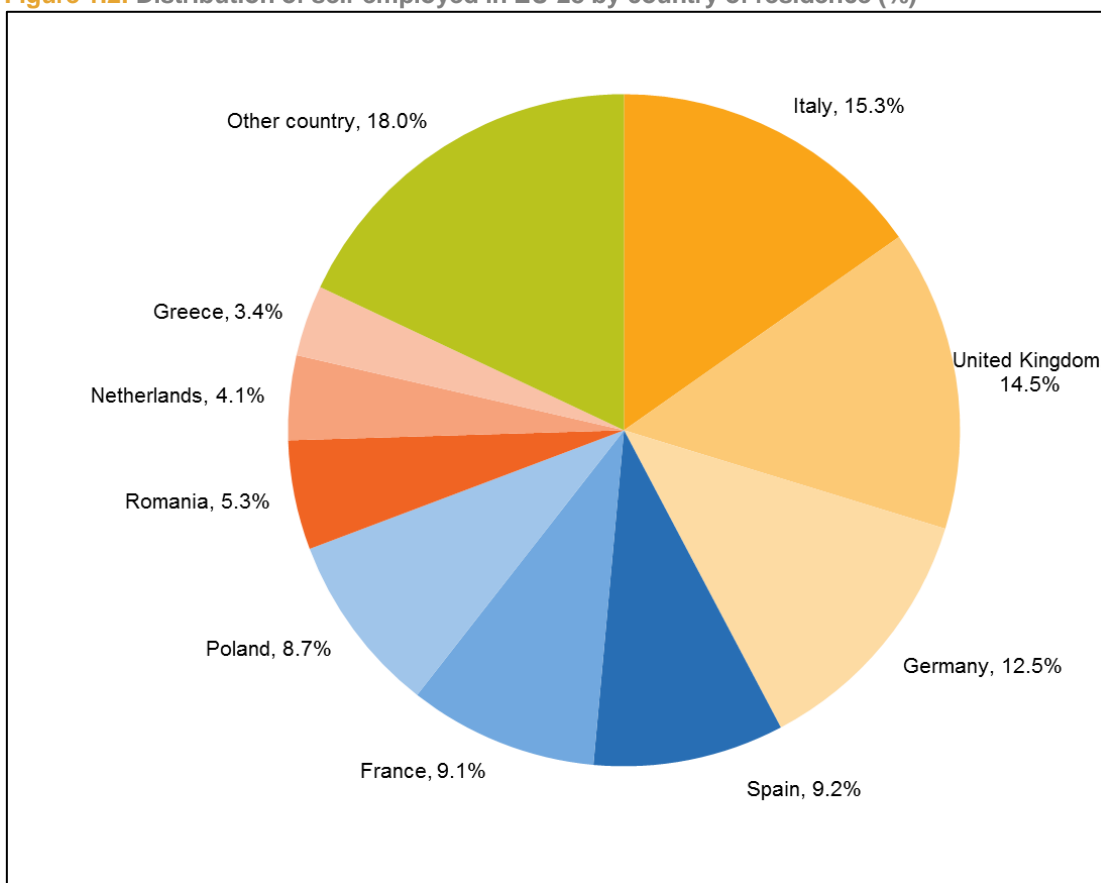


## Target population per country and variable

The target population of each variable of the ad-hoc module is determined by its filter. For the 11 variables, the target populations are as follows:

- Self-employed with and without employees for the variables MAINCLNT, REASSE, SEDIFFIC, BPARTNER, and PLANEMPL;

- All employed for the variables JOBSATISF, AUTONOMY and PREFSTAP;

- All self-employed that did not report only one client for the variable WORKORG;

- All persons that would prefer to change professional status for the variable OBSACSE.

Very few countries reported deviations from the filters defined in the Regulation:

- France used questions of the French questionnaire (and not the LFS variable STAPRO) to filter the ad-hoc module variables. As a result, they were 20 individuals not responding in MAINCLNT, WORKORG, REASSE, SEDIFFIC, REASNOEM, BPARTNER and PLANEMPL with a negligible effect on the produced statistics, and about 170 individuals non-responding to variables PREFSTAP and OBSTACSE which resulted in a relatively high non-response rate for variable PREFSTAP (4.1%).

- Austria used an extended filter for the variable WORKORG (that is, surveyed all self-employed persons). This change does not have any impact on the produced statistics at EU level.

- Portugal excluded from the ad-hoc module all subsistence farmers (though included them in the employed persons). As a result, the non-response rate for several variables is very high (more than 28% for all variables addressed to self-employed).
- The United Kingdom and Italy did not survey persons aged 15 years old. This may have an effect on the non-response but since the number of person working in this age is extremely low, the effect is not considered important.

**Table 1.3:** Target population by country and variable

|  | MAINCLNT | WORKORG | REASSE | SEDIFFIC | REASNOEM | BPARTNER | PLANEMPL | JBSATISF | AUTONOMY | PREFSTAP | OBSTACSE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Belgium | 637 342 | 624 917 | 637 342 | 637 342 | 441 497 | 637 342 | 637 342 | 4 637 701 | 4 637 701 | 4 637 701 | 299 083 |
| Bulgaria | 352 879 | 327 541 | 352 879 | 352 879 | 239 037 | 352 879 | 352 879 | 3 150 251 | 3 150 251 | 3 150 251 | 392 248 |
| Czechia | 862 426 | 846 506 | 862 426 | 862 426 | 702 244 | 862 426 | 862 426 | 5 221 608 | 5 221 608 | 5 221 608 | 148 927 |
| Denmark | 218 519 | 208 282 | 218 519 | 218 519 | 124 497 | 218 519 | 218 519 | 2 831 941 | 2 831 941 | 2 831 941 | 353 551 |
| Germany | 4 155 573 | 3 745 070 | 4 155 573 | 4 155 573 | 2 319 387 | 4 155 573 | 4 155 573 | 41 481 755 | 41 481 755 | 41 481 755 | 1 706 076 |
| Estonia | 65 676 | 62 289 | 65 676 | 65 676 | 34 948 | 65 676 | 65 676 | 660 470 | 660 470 | 660 470 | 82 198 |
| Ireland | 325 902 | 314 032 | 325 902 | 325 902 | 227 970 | 325 902 | 325 902 | 2 180 887 | 2 180 887 | 2 180 887 | 106 200 |
| Greece | 1 134 101 | 1 127 441 | 1 134 101 | 1 134 101 | 861 655 | 1 134 101 | 1 134 101 | 3 791 408 | 3 791 408 | 3 791 408 | 257 758 |
| Spain | 3 042 228 | 3 000 560 | 3 042 228 | 3 042 228 | 2 011 602 | 3 042 228 | 3 042 228 | 18 824 787 | 18 824 787 | 18 824 787 | 1 564 685 |
| France | 3 017 522 | 2 870 744 | 3 017 522 | 3 017 522 | 1 898 611 | 3 017 522 | 3 017 522 | 26 852 560 | 26 852 560 | 26 852 560 | 2 921 705 |
| Croatia | 185 574 | 175 524 | 185 574 | 185 574 | 95 501 | 185 574 | 185 574 | 1 632 807 | 1 632 807 | 1 632 807 | 162 847 |
| Italy | 5 053 037 | 5 038 956 | 5 053 037 | 5 053 037 | 3 651 775 | 5 053 037 | 5 053 037 | 23 089 007 | 23 089 007 | 23 089 007 | 1 920 589 |
| Cyprus | 45 117 | 44 896 | 45 117 | 45 117 | 37 208 | 45 117 | 45 117 | 380 709 | 380 709 | 380 709 | 21 081 |
| Latvia | 100 015 | 83 157 | 100 015 | 100 015 | 61 115 | 100 015 | 100 015 | 891 676 | 891 676 | 891 676 | 84 070 |
| Lithuania | 157 752 | 138 328 | 157 752 | 157 752 | 122 714 | 157 752 | 157 752 | 1 362 781 | 1 362 781 | 1 362 781 | 98 302 |
| Luxembourg | 24 556 | 23 391 | 24 556 | 24 556 | 14 912 | 24 556 | 24 556 | 271 846 | 271 846 | 271 846 | 133 177 |
| Hungary | 437 667 | 437 345 | 437 667 | 437 667 | 229 265 | 437 667 | 437 667 | 4 419 561 | 4 419 561 | 4 419 561 | 344 951 |
| Malta | 33 648 | 32 215 | 33 648 | 33 648 | 22 814 | 33 648 | 33 648 | 220 924 | 220 924 | 220 924 | 27 038 |
| Netherlands | 1 347 326 | 1 278 963 | 1 347 326 | 1 347 326 | 1 024 229 | 1 347 326 | 1 347 326 | 8 607 945 | 8 607 945 | 8 607 945 | 723 999 |
| Austria | 465 056 | 459 087 | 465 056 | 465 056 | 266 860 | 465 056 | 465 056 | 4 260 522 | 4 260 522 | 4 260 522 | 337 193 |
| Poland | 2 881 507 | 2 855 109 | 2 881 507 | 2 881 507 | 2 257 848 | 2 881 507 | 2 881 507 | 16 495 840 | 16 495 840 | 16 495 840 | 973 237 |
| Portugal | 806 204 | 796 553 | 806 204 | 806 204 | 584 655 | 806 204 | 806 204 | 4 760 407 | 4 760 407 | 4 760 407 | 819 021 |
| Romania | 1 744 728 | 1 439 283 | 1 744 728 | 1 744 728 | 1 652 771 | 1 744 728 | 1 744 728 | 8 967 083 | 8 967 083 | 8 967 083 | 495 885 |
| Slovenia | 113 585 | 104 579 | 113 585 | 113 585 | 76 246 | 113 585 | 113 585 | 955 183 | 955 183 | 955 183 | 53 682 |
| Slovakia | 382 650 | 367 063 | 382 650 | 382 650 | 301 135 | 382 650 | 382 650 | 2 526 788 | 2 526 788 | 2 526 788 | 147 667 |
| Finland | 310 681 | 307 012 | 310 681 | 310 681 | 217 336 | 310 681 | 310 681 | 2 473 170 | 2 473 170 | 2 473 170 | 147 995 |
| Sweden | 421 707 | 396 414 | 421 707 | 421 707 | 265 904 | 421 707 | 421 707 | 5 021 824 | 5 021 824 | 5 021 824 | 493 393 |
| United Kingdom | 4 799 222 | 4 639 670 | 4 799 222 | 4 799 222 | 4 040 062 | 4 799 222 | 4 799 222 | 31 983 877 | 31 983 877 | 31 983 877 | 2 997 833 |
| Iceland | 21 565 | 18 255 | 21 565 | 21 565 | 14 547 | 21 565 | 21 565 | 195 552 | 195 552 | 195 552 | 23 817 |
| Norway | 174 395 | 157 172 | 174 395 | 174 395 | 126 684 | 174 395 | 174 395 | 2 651 370 | 2 651 370 | 2 651 370 | 192 504 |
| Switzerland | 613 097 | 586 181 | 613 097 | 613 097 | 319 660 | 613 097 | 613 097 | 4 636 740 | 4 636 740 | 4 636 740 | 574 031 |
| Turkey | 6 100 904 | 5 975 956 | 6 100 904 | 6 100 904 | 4 780 571 | 6 100 904 | 6 100 904 | 28 487 544 | 28 487 544 | 28 487 544 | 3 997 548 |

# Imputation rates

A relatively small number of countries imputed missing values. The imputation rates are in general low and in some cases refer to a quite limited number of variables.

**Table 1.4:** Imputation rate by country and variable

| | MAINCLNT | WORKORG | REASSE | SEDIFFIC | REASNOEM | BPARTNER | PLANEMPL | JBSATISF | AUTONOMY | PREFSTAP | OBSTACSE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belgium** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Bulgaria** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Czechia** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Denmark** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Germany** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Estonia** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Ireland** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Greece** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Spain** | | | | | | | | | | | 5.40 |
| **France** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Croatia** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Italy** | | | 0.01 | | 0.01 | | 0.01 | | | | |
| **Cyprus** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Latvia** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Lithuania** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Luxembourg** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Hungary** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Malta** | 8.35 | 3.68 | 3.95 | 4.72 | 6.65 | 7.12 | 8.04 | 0.46 | 1.09 | 4.83 | 8.82 |
| **Netherlands** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Austria** | 1.95 | 0.20 | 0.55 | 0.60 | 1.15 | 0.28 | 0.97 | 0.11 | 0.17 | 0.66 | 2.40 |
| **Poland** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Portugal** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Romania** | 0.26 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0 | 0 | 0.28 | 0.01 |
| **Slovenia** | 4.00 | 0.60 | 0.60 | 1.90 | 0.90 | 0.50 | 3.30 | 1.10 | 2.20 | 4.50 | 1.50 |
| **Slovakia** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Finland** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Sweden** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **United Kingdom** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Iceland** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Norway** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Switzerland** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Turkey** | | | | | | | | | | | |

# Non-response rates

Table 1.5 presents the item non-response rate per country for each of the variable of the ad-hoc module. It should be noted that, in this table, the non-response is computed as a percentage of the (unweighted) number of persons who answered in the core LFS survey but not to the ad-hoc variable, though they should (or answered "I do not know"). Due to this definition, the reported non-response does not correspond to the actual non-respondents in the original sample of the LFS survey. In order to provide an indication[8] on the magnitude of actual non-response, the first column of the table presents the non-response in the core LFS[9].

Countries with high non-response rates (more than 15%) are highlighted with red, and any analysis of the country results should take in to account this issue. Special care is to be taken with the results from Luxembourg.

[8] It is only an indication because the number of employed (or self-employed) in the originally selected sample is not known.

[9] For countries that surveyed the ad-hoc module in the second quarter, it is the LFS non-response rate as reported in the quarterly quality report. For countries that surveyed the ad-hoc module using the "wave approach", it is the mean yearly non-response of LFS.

**Table 1.5:** Sample size and sampling rate, by country

| | LFS non response rate* | MAINCLNT | WORKORG | REASSE | SEDIFFIC | REASNOEM | BPARTNER | PLANEMPL | JBSATISF | AUTONOMY | PREFSTAP | OBSTACSE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belgium** | 16.9 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 8.3 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Bulgaria** | 19.7 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.8 | 1.1 | 4.7 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.0 |
| **Czechia** | 21.2 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 1.4 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| **Denmark** | 45.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 5.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 6.9 |
| **Germany** | 3.8 | 9.3 | 6.1 | 11.6 | 21.6 | 31.5 | 6.4 | 8.4 | 2.4 | 3.2 | 7.6 | 12.0 |
| **Estonia** | 29.3 | 1.8 | 0.4 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 0.8 | 2.6 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 2.1 | 1.1 |
| **Ireland** | 27.4 | 17.5 | 16.3 | 17.1 | 17.7 | 16.4 | 15.5 | 17.0 | 12.6 | 13.7 | 13.7 | 1.1 |
| **Greece** | 25.7 | 4.6 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 1.4 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 3.1 | 0.9 |
| **Spain** | 16.3 | 5.3 | 1.2 | 2.3 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 0.4 | 3.4 | 1.2 | 2.5 | 6.1 | 1.3 |
| **France** | 19.8 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 1.2 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 4.1 | 0.0 |
| **Croatia** | 46.1 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 4.8 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 2.8 | 0.4 |
| **Italy** | 14.9 | 1.3 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 2.2 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 2.5 | 1.1 | 1.9 | 0.4 |
| **Cyprus** | 3.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Latvia** | 35.4 | 4.7 | 0.5 | 2.7 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 3.1 | 5.1 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 2.9 | 1.5 |
| **Lithuania** | 24.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | 42.2 | 28.1 | 29.7 | 30.5 | 30.7 | 38.4 | 27.7 | 29.1 | 0.3 | 25.3 | 26.1 | 100.0 |
| **Hungary** | 21.0 | 4.1 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 10.2 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 6.3 | 1.0 |
| **Malta** | 24.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Netherlands** | 46.8 | 1.8 | 3.3 | 4.0 | 1.1 | 3.3 | 0.3 | 3.9 | 0.3 | 1.3 | 7.3 | 0.9 |
| **Austria** | 3.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Poland** | 39.3 | 5.9 | 0.8 | 2.8 | 6.9 | 2.3 | 0.1 | 2.9 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 7.0 | 5.6 |
| **Portugal** | 16.8 | 28.1 | 28.1 | 28.8 | 29.4 | 36.3 | 27.6 | 28.5 | 6.6 | 6.4 | 9.3 | 0.6 |
| **Romania** | 13.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 4.6 | 0.0 |
| **Slovenia** | 21.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 18.0 | 1.5 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.0 |
| **Finland** | 32.7 | 16.1 | 17.1 | 16.1 | 17.1 | 17.0 | 15.6 | 15.7 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 4.2 | 1.2 |
| **Sweden** | 43.4 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 2.7 | 3.0 |
| **United Kingdom** | 50.8 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 2.0 | 1.0 |
| **Iceland** | 31.1 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 3.0 | 0.4 | 8.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.6 | 4.8 | 4.2 |
| **Norway** | 15.9 | 7.4 | 9.2 | 4.3 | 6.1 | 6.6 | 3.4 | 7.7 | 2.9 | 3.8 | 6.2 | 2.7 |
| **Switzerland** | 19.7 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 5.1 | 0.7 | 2.0 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 2.7 | 2.5 |
| **Turkey** | 4.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

# Proxy interviews in the 2017 LFS AHM

Almost all countries (except Sweden, Belgium and Luxembourg) allow proxy interviews – that is, allow the collection of information about a person from another member of his/her household. Table 1.6 presents the rate of proxy interviews per country and by professional status.

The proxy rate varies considerably between countries (from 0% in Sweden, Belgium and Luxembourg to 58.3% in Slovakia). It should be noted that the rates of proxy interviews presented in the table are computed based on the corresponding variable of core LFS and may not accurately reflect the percentage of proxy answers in the ad-hoc survey.

**Table 1.6:** Proxy rate for all employees and for self-employed, by country

| | Self-employed | All employes |
|---|---|---|
| **Luxembourg** | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Sweden** | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Iceland** | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| **Belgium** | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Finland** | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| **Switzerland** | 2.4 | 2.5 |
| **Denmark** | 4.1 | 4.2 |
| **Turkey** | 9.0 | 10.8 |
| **Norway** | 9.4 | 10.8 |
| **Lithuania** | 16.8 | 19.9 |
| **France** | 18.9 | 20.5 |
| **Romania** | 19.0 | 22.2 |
| **Germany** | 20.1 | 21.8 |
| **Bulgaria** | 20.7 | 25.8 |
| **Austria** | 21.4 | 25.7 |
| **Total** | 25.7 | 27.4 |
| **Italy** | 26.5 | 27.7 |
| **Estonia** | 27.6 | 25.7 |
| **Poland** | 29.8 | 34.0 |
| **Cyprus** | 32.6 | 34.3 |
| **Czechia** | 33.0 | 37.7 |
| **Latvia** | 33.3 | 38.1 |
| **United Kingdom** | 35.6 | 37.0 |
| **Greece** | 37.4 | 39.3 |
| **Hungary** | 39.0 | 41.7 |
| **Netherlands** | 41.5 | 45.8 |
| **Portugal** | 41.7 | 44.9 |
| **Croatia** | 45.8 | 57.3 |
| **Spain** | 46.2 | 49.6 |
| **Malta** | 48.4 | 50.7 |
| **Ireland** | 48.6 | 51.6 |
| **Slovenia** | 53.0 | 50.5 |
| **Slovakia** | 57.4 | 58.3 |

## Publication limits for ad-hoc estimates

For each ad-hoc module, countries determine a certain publication threshold. Weighted estimations of characteristics that are below that threshold should be suppressed due to low reliability or confidentiality issues. Countries provide also a threshold for publication "with warning". Estimations of characteristics that are below that limit can be published, but with a warning.

Table 1.7 provides the publication thresholds by country. The third column of the table provides the percentage of the self-employed that is below the publication threshold: in Belgium for example, any characteristic estimated in the ad-hoc module as less than 0.47% of the self-employed should not be published. The fifth column provides the corresponding percentage for publication with warning.

**Table 1.7:** Publication thresholds by country

| | Limit below which figures cannot be published | %of self-employed corresponding to the limit | Limit below which figures must be published with warning | %of self-employed corresponding to the limit |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Belgium | 3,000 | 0.5 | 8,000 | 1.3 |
| Bulgaria | 5,500 | 1.6 | 12,300 | 3.5 |
| Czechia | 1,000 | 0.1 | 6,000 | 0.7 |
| Denmark | 4,000 | 1.8 | 7,000 | 3.2 |
| Germany | 50,000 | 1.2 | No limit | - |
| Estonia | 2,200 | 3.3 | 5,000 | 7.6 |
| Ireland | 1,821 | 0.6 | 3,034 | 0.9 |
| Greece | 1,300 | 0.1 | 3,500 | 0.3 |
| Spain | 2,000 | 0.1 | 8,000 | 0.3 |
| France | 50,000 | 1.7 | 100,000 | 3.3 |
| Croatia | 4,200 | 2.3 | 38,000 | 20.5 |
| Italy | 3,500 | 0.1 | 8,500 | 0.2 |
| Cyprus | 500 | 1.1 | 1,500 | 3.3 |
| Latvia | 3,200 | 3.2 | 5,000 | 5.0 |
| Lithuania | 4,500 | 2.9 | 8,000 | 5.1 |
| Luxembourg | 2,000 | 8.1 | 4,000 | 16.3 |
| Hungary | 2,600 | 0.6 | 5,000 | 1.1 |
| Malta | 651 | 2.0 | 1,680 | 5.3 |
| Netherlands | 1,500 | 0.1 | 6,500 | 0.5 |
| Austria | 5,000 | 1.1 | 10,000 | 2.2 |
| Poland | 5,000 | 0.2 | 20,000 | 0.7 |
| Portugal | 7,500 | 0.9 | No limit | 0.9 |
| Romania | 6,500 | 0.4 | 11,500 | 0.7 |
| Slovenia | 1,000 | 0.9 | 10,500 | 9.2 |
| Slovakia | No limit | - | 4,500 | 1.2 |
| Finland | 2,000 | 0.6 | 4,000 | 1.3 |
| Sweden | 6,000 | 1.4 | 10,000 | 2.4 |
| United Kingdom | 10,000 | 0.2 | 19,000 | 0.4 |
| Iceland | 1,000 | | 1,000 | |
| Norway | No limit | - | 5,000 | 2.9 |
| Switzerland | 1,000 | 0.2 | 5,000 | 0.8 |
| Turkey | 1,500 | 0.0 | 4,500 | 0.1 |

# 2 | Quality analysis by variable

This chapter analyses in detail the eleven variables included in the 2017 ad-hoc module. For each variable the target population, the definition and the purpose of the variable are presented. Other elements included in the variable analysis are:

- the data codes and their corresponding labels;

- the proposed model questions for each variable;

- the national implementation of the variable (number of questions used to collect information, deviations from the model questionnaire);

- the publication limits for each variable;

- the univariate distribution of the answer categories per country;

- the descriptive analysis of the main results for each variable;

- the country comments on implementation problems;

- the basic conclusions and recommendations for future repetition of the module's variables.

In a separate section, an analysis of the results of the derived variable 'Dependent Self-Employed' is presented.

# 1. MAINCLNT: Economic dependency

## TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### Definition of the variable

*Number and importance of clients in the last 12 months*

### Target population

All self-employed persons (core LFS variable STAPRO = 1, 2)

### Purpose of the variable

This variable has two goals:

1.  For the respondents who are self-employed without employees, it is a part of the operational definition of the economically dependent self-employed.

2.  For the respondents who are self-employed with employees, it gives information on the number of clients over the last 12 months, allowing for further analysis of the business structure of self-employed.

### Link to core LFS

The filter of the variable is based on the variable STAPRO from the core LFS.

### Data set codes

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | No client in the last 12 months |
| 2 | Only one client in the last 12 months |
| 3 | 2-9 clients in the last 12 months, but one was dominant |
| 4 | 2-9 clients in the last 12 months, and none was dominant |
| 5 | More than 9 clients in the last 12 months, but one was dominant |
| 6 | More than 9 clients in the last 12 months, and none was dominant |
| 9 | Not applicable (not included in the filter) |
| Blank | No answer/Don't know |

### Model questionnaire

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All self-employed / STAPRO = 1, 2

Q1_Clients

*In the last 12 months, how many clients did your company work for?*

| | |
|---|---|
| (1) None | GO TO Q1_ReasonSE |
| (2) One | GO TO Q1_Workinghours |
| (3) Two to nine | GO TO Q2_Clients |
| (4) Ten or more | GO TO Q2_Clients |
| (5) Cannot say | GO TO Q2_Clients |

More than one client / Q1_Clients ≠ 1, 2

Q2_Clients

*In the last 12 months did at least 75% of your self-employment income come from one client?*

| | |
|---|---|
| (1) Yes | GO TO Q1_Workinghours |
| (2) No | GO TO Q1_Workinghours |
| (3) Cannot say | GO TO Q1_Workinghours |

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## QUALITY ASSESSMENT

### National implementation of the questionnaire

Most countries used the same questions and the same answer categories as the ones included in the model questionnaire. There are some variations in the formulation of the questions – for example, Latvia asked about cooperation with clients, while Hungary asked about the ***majority*** of income coming from one client (and specified "75% at least" in parenthesis). Hungary also developed two variants of the question Q1_clients – one addressed to members of a partnership and one for own-account workers

Some countries (Bulgaria, Malta) specified in the question that it was asked about the number of clients that the self-employed or ***his/her employees*** worked for, while Austria included a clarification for the cases when a person has worked for less than 12 months. Portugal used 4 more questions with slightly different formulation for persons that have two jobs and for persons that did not work for the whole duration or the previous 12 months, while Spain include 2 more questions with different formulation for members of cooperatives. Hungary and Finland used an extra question specifying that the income from the enterprise is of interest too. And Finland also included an extra question about how easy it would be to replace an important client.

Two extra questions related to the main client were also added by France ("***In your opinion, would the loss of this client cause difficulties to continue your activity?"*** and "***Which type of customer accounts for the most important part of your turnover?"***). France also added more answer categories in the question about having more than 75% of income coming from one client (***75% or more, More than 50% and less than 75%, Less than 50%***).

Italy included one additional question related to the main client (***Do you use your own equipment or tools, or equipment or tools owned by the main client? (E.g. computers, machinery, premises, office space)?*** *) Italy also used a different formulation for identifying the existence of a main client* (***Which percentage of your income came from your most important client?***) and provided as answer categories (***Less than 50%, From 50% to 74%, From 75% to 90%, From 91% to 100%, Does not have a main client***).

### Number of questions per variable

| MAINCLNT | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(The model questionnaire proposed 2 questions)* | | | | | | | |
| Belgium | 2 | Spain | 4 | Hungary | 3 | Slovakia | 2 |
| Bulgaria | 2 | France | 2 | Malta | 2 | Finland | 3 |
| Czech Republic | 2 | Croatia | 2 | Netherlands | 2 | Sweden | 2 |
| Denmark | 2 | Italy | 2 | Austria | 2 | United Kingdom | 2 |
| Germany | 2 | Cyprus | 2 | Poland | 2 | Iceland | NA |
| Estonia | 2 | Latvia | 2 | Portugal | 6 | Norway | 2 |
| Ireland | 2 | Lithuania | 2 | Romania | 2 | Switzerland | 3 |
| Greece | 2 | Luxembourg | 2 | Slovenia | 2 | Turkey | 2 |

### Estimations above publication thresholds

If we analyse the answers to variable MAINCLNT by country, age group (15 – 24, 25 – 34, …, 65 – 74, 75+), occupation (coded at 1-digit level of ISCO), sector of economy (coded at 1-digit level of NACE) or sex, the estimates are in most cases for ISCO and NACE below the publication threshold. Table 2.1.1 presents the situation by country([10]).

([10]) The entries of the table have been calculated the following way: Variable MAINCLNT has 7 answer categories (not including "No answer") while variable AGE has also 7 categories. This gives us 49 possible estimations (combinations). The entry 42.9 in column AGE for AT (Austria) indicates that only 42.9% of these estimations were above the publication threshold determined by Austria.

**Table 2.1.1:** Percentage of estimations that can be published when analyzing variable MAINCLNT by COUNTRY and AGE, ISCO, NACE or SEX([11])

| | AGE | ISCO | NACE | SEX |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belgium** | 54.8 | 43.3 | 24.6 | 100 |
| **Bulgaria** | 42.9 | 28.3 | 13.5 | 91.7 |
| **Czechia** | 90.5 | 81.7 | 53.2 | 100 |
| **Denmark** | 26.2 | 16.7 | 10.3 | 75 |
| **Germany** | 42.9 | 28.3 | 15.9 | 83.3 |
| **Estonia** | 14.3 | 11.7 | 5.6 | 58.3 |
| **Ireland** | 59.5 | 40 | 23.8 | 91.7 |
| **Greece** | 69 | 56.7 | 35.7 | 100 |
| **Spain** | 73.8 | 81.7 | 51.6 | 100 |
| **France** | 23.8 | 25 | 12.7 | 83.3 |
| **Croatia** | 16.7 | 20 | 10.3 | 66.7 |
| **Italy** | 71.4 | 65 | 49.2 | 91.7 |
| **Cyprus** | 35.7 | 31.7 | 19 | 58.3 |
| **Latvia** | 26.2 | 11.7 | 6.3 | 75 |
| **Lithuania** | 23.8 | 16.7 | 8.7 | 66.7 |
| **Luxembourg** | 2.4 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 16.7 |
| **Hungary** | 50 | 46.7 | 26.2 | 83.3 |
| **Malta** | 23.8 | 16.7 | 6.3 | 58.3 |
| **Netherlands** | 90.5 | 93.3 | 65.9 | 100 |
| **Austria** | 42.9 | 26.7 | 17.5 | 83.3 |
| **Poland** | 73.8 | 61.7 | 35.7 | 100 |
| **Portugal** | 28.6 | 23.3 | 11.9 | 83.3 |
| **Romania** | 61.9 | 35 | 14.3 | 91.7 |
| **Slovenia** | 47.6 | 36.7 | 22.2 | 91.7 |
| **Slovakia** | 47.6 | 26.7 | 13.5 | 83.3 |
| **Finland** | 59.5 | 40 | 22.2 | 91.7 |
| **Sweden** | 50 | 28.3 | 18.3 | 100 |
| **United Kingdom** | 90.5 | 78.3 | 52.4 | 100 |
| **Iceland** | 7.1 | 8.3 | 2.4 | 66.7 |
| **Norway** | 16.7 | 16.7 | 6.3 | 66.7 |
| **Switzerland** | 81 | 71.7 | 47.6 | 100 |
| **Turkey** | 97.6 | 78.3 | 57.1 | 100 |

([11]) Cells marked with yellow are cases where the percentage of estimations above publication threshold is less than 50%.

**Non-response rate**

The (weighted) non-response rate is high[12] in four countries (Finland, Ireland, Portugal and Luxembourg).

## ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

### Univariate distribution by country

At EU-28 level, the majority of respondents (58.6%) had more than 9 clients in the last 12 months, none of which was dominant. For most countries (25) this answer category was reported by more than 50% of the respondents. The other answer categories are reported much less often, in all countries.

The average percentage of respondents with only one client in the last 12 months is 9% at EU-28 level, and ranges from 3% (Croatia) to 23% (Slovakia).

The cases of respondents that report no client in the last 12 months are relatively rare with an EU average of 4.2%, and a range from 0.1% (Hungary) to 17.5% (Romania). However, there are six countries where this percentage is almost 10% or more (Norway, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Iceland and Romania). This corresponds to self-employed that did not have any customer during the last 12 months (or since the time they started working, if this time period is less than 12 months). Germany and Norway report that the reason for this high percentage is probably the fact that the term client was not understood correctly by most of the self-employed in agriculture or fishery. Other explanation provided by countries for this phenomenon is the fact that an important part of these persons are subsistence farmers which by definition have no customers. Nevertheless, the largest percentage of these persons are not classified in NACE division 98 (which includes production of goods for own use).

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[12] The weighted non-response rate is more than 15%.

**Table 2.1.2:** **Percentage of respondents reporting each answer category in MAINCLNT by country**

| | No client in the last 12 months | Only one client in the last 12 months | 2-9 clients in the last 12 months, and none was dominant | 2-9 clients in the last 12 months, but one was dominant | More than 9 clients in the last 12 months, and none was dominant | More than 9 clients in the last 12 months, but one was dominant | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EU-28** | 4.2 | 9.0 | 15.6 | 5.1 | 58.6 | 3.3 | 4.3 |
| **Belgium** | 1.9 | 6.5 | 10.4 | 4.9 | 72.5 | 1.7 | 2.1 |
| **Bulgaria** | 7.2 | 13.8 | 12.9 | 6.7 | 53.4 | 4.8 | 1.2 |
| **Czechia** | 1.8 | 6.8 | 10.2 | 4.9 | 68.0 | 7.1 | 1.2 |
| **Denmark** | 4.7 | 3.2 | 11.3 | 8.2 | 66.4 | 6.2 | 0.0 |
| **Germany** | 9.9 | 6.9 | 15.2 | 3.4 | 51.2 | 3.2 | 10.2 |
| **Estonia** | 5.2 | 6.4 | 18.0 | 6.2 | 58.8 | 3.7 | 1.7 |
| **Ireland** | 3.6 | 9.9 | 14.3 | 6.6 | 44.9 | 2.3 | 18.3 |
| **Greece** | 0.6 | 6.8 | 15.5 | 6.2 | 64.8 | 1.7 | 4.5 |
| **Spain** | 1.4 | 6.2 | 9.4 | 4.2 | 72.2 | 1.7 | 4.9 |
| **France** | 4.9 | 5.3 | 14.3 | 5.9 | 60.9 | 6.4 | 2.4 |
| **Croatia** | 5.4 | 3.0 | 23.2 | 3.9 | 61.4 | * | 0.8 |
| **Italy** | 0.3 | 13.5 | 18.9 | 1.9 | 63.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| **Cyprus** | * | 11.4 | 18.6 | 2.8 | 66.0 | * | 0.0 |
| **Latvia** | 16.9 | 10.0 | 17.6 | 6.7 | 42.4 | * | 4.4 |
| **Lithuania** | 12.3 | 5.1 | 16.0 | 8.3 | 53.8 | 4.5 | 0.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | * | 9.2 | 13.7 | * | 37.4 | * | 28.1 |
| **Hungary** | * | 4.5 | 11.3 | 4.5 | 53.0 | 22.6 | 4.1 |
| **Malta** | 4.3 | 6.5 | 7.2 | 3.8 | 67.9 | 10.4 | 0.0 |
| **Netherlands** | 5.1 | 5.6 | 19.8 | 7.6 | 57.2 | 3.1 | 1.6 |
| **Austria** | 1.3 | 7.7 | 16.1 | 7.7 | 63.0 | 4.2 | 0.0 |
| **Poland** | 0.9 | 9.0 | 19.5 | 6.1 | 54.7 | 3.0 | 6.8 |
| **Portugal** | 1.2 | 5.4 | 10.7 | 3.6 | 53.0 | 1.7 | 24.4 |
| **Romania** | 17.5 | 9.6 | 18.3 | 2.2 | 51.7 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| **Slovenia** | 7.9 | 9.8 | 16.1 | 9.6 | 54.9 | 1.7 | 0.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 4.1 | 23.0 | 15.1 | 5.4 | 47.9 | 3.0 | 1.5 |
| **Finland** | 1.2 | 6.4 | 11.3 | 11.1 | 49.5 | 3.9 | 16.7 |
| **Sweden** | 6.0 | 7.2 | 13.5 | 14.2 | 51.2 | 7.7 | 0.2 |
| **United Kingdom** | 3.3 | 12.5 | 15.9 | 8.0 | 55.4 | 3.8 | 1.2 |
| **Iceland** | 15.4 | 12.2 | 15.5 | 11.5 | 39.6 | 4.5 | 1.4 |
| **Norway** | 9.9 | 10.2 | 11.2 | 11.3 | 41.2 | 8.8 | 7.4 |
| **Switzerland** | 4.4 | 3.3 | 12.8 | 6.6 | 68.9 | 2.5 | 1.5 |
| **Turkey** | 2.0 | 14.6 | 18.8 | 3.6 | 58.0 | 2.9 | 0.0 |

**Figure 2.1.1:** Interquartile range, first and fourth quartile for the answer categories of variable MAINCLNT
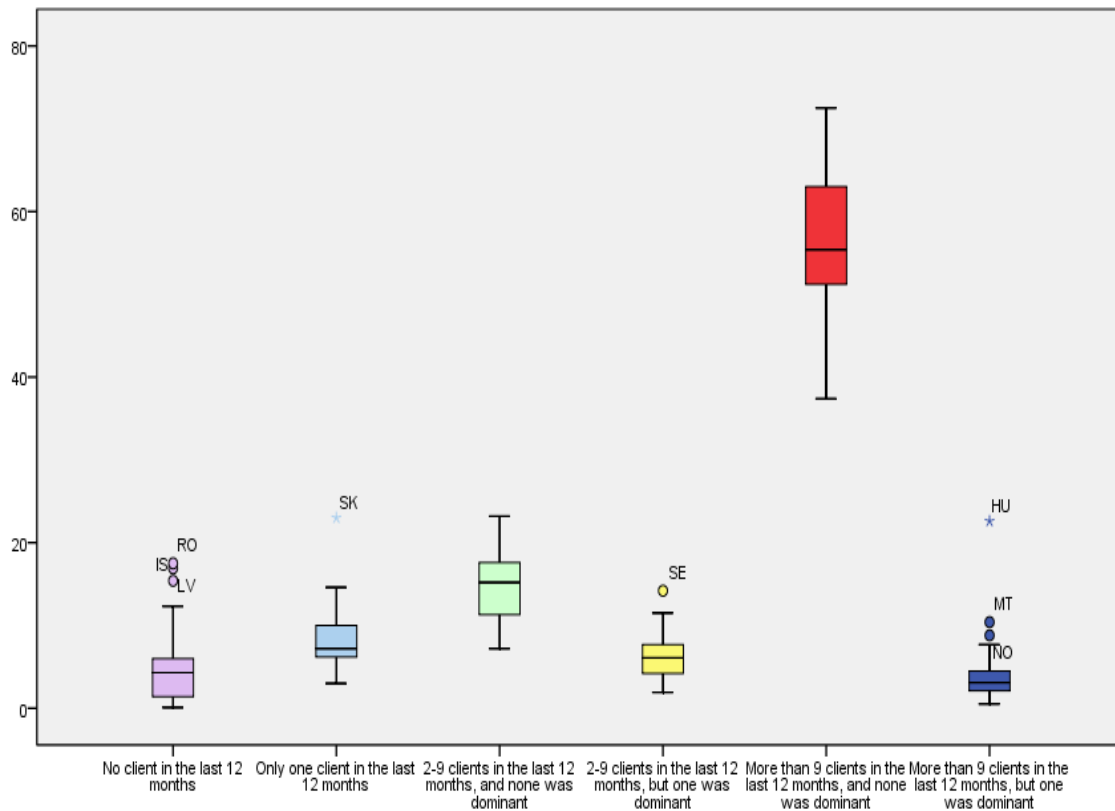


**Table 2.1.3** Minimum, maximum and quartiles for percentages of respondents reporting every answer category of MAINCLNT (all countries)

| | No client in the last 12 months | Only one client in the last 12 months | 2-9 clients in the last 12 months, and none was dominant | 2-9 clients in the last 12 months, but one was dominant | More than 9 clients in the last 12 months, and none was dominant | More than 9 clients in the last 12 months, but one was dominant | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MINIMUM** | 0.1 | 3.0 | 7.2 | 1.9 | 37.4 | 0.5 | 0.0 |
| **1st quartile** | 1.4 | 6.1 | 11.3 | 4.1 | 51.2 | 2.0 | 0.2 |
| **2nd quartile** | 4.4 | 7.1 | 15.2 | 6.2 | 55.2 | 3.1 | 1.5 |
| **3rd quartile** | 6.3 | 10.1 | 17.7 | 7.8 | 63.5 | 4.6 | 4.6 |
| **MAXIMUM** | 17.5 | 23.0 | 23.2 | 14.2 | 72.5 | 22.6 | 28.1 |

## Comments from countries on problems with implementation

BG: Assessment of self-employed income by clients is problematic.

DE: the term "client" is not easy to translate.

FR: "Clients" can be ambiguous. 5% of "no client" answers that might signal a problem of understanding the word "client".

HU: In Hungarian there are several expressions for the word "client". We used "client / customer" in the questions. "Client" sounds strange for persons who are member of a business. Therefore, we developed two variants of the question: one for members of partnership, one for own-account workers.

Interviewers reported that in some cases calculating 75% was difficult for respondents. To make the question clear, we added "the majority" to the question: "In the last 12 months, did the majority (at least 75%) of the income of your business come from one client/customer?".

IE: In future, it would be more suitable to change the use of the words client/customer in the survey instrument depending on the sector of employment the respondent has indicated they work in.

PL: Lack of precise definition of the term "income": Whether it should be treated as income, proceeds, the net or gross amount, etc.

RO: In Romania, large share of the self-employed are in fact working in agriculture. This can explain the quite large share of answer category 1 (no client in the past 12 months).

NO: Almost 40% of those who said that they had no customers were farmers or fishermen, even if they only constitute 15% of the self-employed. It therefore seems likely that many of them have not considered their deliveries of produce as interacting with customers, even if they in the meaning of the ad hoc module did so. Better question formulations should be considered before the inclusion of this variable in the core LFS.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The quality seems acceptable, but several countries report difficulties with the notion of "client/customer". It is also obvious from the results (for example, the relatively high percentage of persons reporting having no customers/clients during the last 12 months) that the term customer/client was not understood correctly by the respondents in several cases (for example, by persons working in agriculture). This is an issue that should be dealt when repeating the variable – especially because it is directly related to the definition of dependent self-employment and it is probably to be included in the future core LFS.

Non response – with the exception of four countries – is in general acceptable.

# 2. WORKORG: Organisational dependency

## TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### Definition of the variable

*Influence over deciding working hours.*

### Target population

All self-employed that had at least one client during the last 12 months (or did not report the number of their clients).

### Purpose of the variable

This variable is the second part of the operational definition of economically dependent self-employed. It is asked if the respondent is self-employed and had at least one client over the last 12 months. Its main purpose is to find out if the respondent controls his/her own working time, which is a main element in being self-employed. In the same way as the MAINCLNT variable, it can also be used to analyse the work organisation for all self-employed who had at least one client in the last 12 months, allowing further analysis of their business structure.

### Link to core LFS

The filter of the variable is based on variable STAPRO.

### Data set codes

1. The respondent decides
2. The client/s of the respondent decide(s)
3. Any other party decides
9. Not applicable (not included in the filter)

Blank No answer / Don't know

### Model questionnaire

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

All self-employed with at least one client/ STAPRO = 1,2 and MAINCLNT ≠ 1

Q1_Workinghours

*Do you personally decide the start and end of the working day?*

| | |
|---|---|
| (1) Yes | GO TO Q1_ReasonSE |
| (2) No | GO TO Q2_Workinghours |
| Cannot say | GO TO Q2_Workinghours |

Not deciding working hours / Q1_Workinghours = 2, Cannot say

Q2_Workinghours

*Who decides?*

<u>Read out the response options</u>

(1) Client/s

(2) Any other party

Cannot say

Any answer                                    GO TO Q1_ReasonSE

## QUALITY ASSESSMENT

### National implementation of the questionnaire

The majority of countries used the two questions proposed in the model questionnaires. Six countries (Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Malta, the Netherlands and Turkey) used only one question – a variation of the question "**Who decides the start and end of your working day**" providing 3 answer categories (I decide, the client(s) decide, some other decides). It is interesting to note that all these countries (with the exception of Malta) are among the countries with the highest percentage of persons reporting that the clients decide the start and end of working hours. Estonia added an extra question asking 'which is exactly the other party that decides the start and end of the working day'. Spain added an extra question with an extra answer category, which was addressed to members of cooperatives and Portugal added a question (addressed to those that could not tell who decides working hours) asking if it was customers or not. We should note that Austria used only one question (instead of the 2 that were proposed in the model questionnaire) and added an extra question asking 'which is exactly the other party that decides the start and end of the working day'.

There are also some variations in the formulation of the first question - a number of countries did not refer to "start and end of working day" and used instead (or additionally) the question "Do you decide your **working time**" or "**working hours**" or "**working schedule**".

Italy applied a different logic in the construction of the relevant questions: persons that do not decide themselves the start and end of working day were asked if the working hours were decided by:

- Any other party (regulations or institutions, e.g. law courts, pharmacies, weather)
- Agreed to by the respondent and client(s)/company(s)
- Must comply with the company timetable and/or timetable of client
- Other (specify)

and in the case that the working time was agreed by the respondent and the client, there was an additional question about the type of agreement.

The answer categories used, were in most cases identical to the answer categories proposed in the model questionnaire. Nevertheless, there were some variations: Bulgaria did not use an answer category for the case "any other party decides". Cyprus, Finland, Poland, Portugal, Luxembourg and Hungary added some explanation about the "other factor" (for example, weather and legal regulation). Denmark, instead of the answer category "the clients decide" used the answer category "my customers in part or in whole". Spain used an extra answer category for "decision by cooperative".

## Number of questions per variable

| **WORKORG** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(The model questionnaire proposed 2 questions)* | | | | | | | |
| **Belgium** | 2 | **Spain** | 3 | **Hungary** | 2 | **Slovakia** | 2 |
| **Bulgaria** | 2 | **France** | 2 | **Malta** | 1 | **Finland** | 2 |
| **Czech Republic** | 1 | **Croatia** | 2 | **Netherlands** | 1 | **Sweden** | 2 |
| **Denmark** | 1 | **Italy** | 3 | **Austria** | 2 | **United Kingdom** | 2 |
| **Germany** | 2 | **Cyprus** | 2 | **Poland** | 2 | **Iceland** | *NA* |
| **Estonia** | 3 | **Latvia** | 2 | **Portugal** | 3 | **Norway** | 2 |
| **Ireland** | 2 | **Lithuania** | 2 | **Romania** | 2 | **Switzerland** | 2 |
| **Greece** | 2 | **Luxembourg** | 2 | **Slovenia** | 2 | **Turkey** | 1 |

## Estimations above publication thresholds

If we analyze the answers to variable WORKORG by country and by age group (15 – 24, 25 – 34, …, 65 – 74, 75+), occupation (coded at 1-digit level of ISCO), sector of economy (coded at 1-digit level of NACE) or sex, the estimates in most cases are below the publication threshold. Table 2.2.1 presents the situation by country.

**Table 2.2.1:** Percentage of estimations that can be published when analyzing variable WORKORG by COUNTRY and AGE, ISCO, NACE or SEX

| | AGE | ISCO | NACE | SEX |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belgium** | 66.7 | 53.3 | 34.9 | 100.0 |
| **Bulgaria** | 33.3 | 26.7 | 15.9 | 83.3 |
| **Czechia** | 90.5 | 83.3 | 74.6 | 100.0 |
| **Denmark** | 47.6 | 40.0 | 25.4 | 66.7 |
| **Germany** | 42.9 | 33.3 | 22.2 | 66.7 |
| **Estonia** | 23.8 | 20.0 | 14.3 | 50.0 |
| **Ireland** | 57.1 | 53.3 | 31.7 | 100.0 |
| **Greece** | 85.7 | 90.0 | 63.5 | 100.0 |
| **Spain** | 81.0 | 90.0 | 66.7 | 100.0 |
| **France** | 38.1 | 26.7 | 22.2 | 83.3 |
| **Croatia** | 33.3 | 33.3 | 14.3 | 66.7 |
| **Italy** | 85.7 | 80.0 | 61.9 | 100.0 |
| **Cyprus** | 71.4 | 50.0 | 34.9 | 100.0 |
| **Latvia** | 19.0 | 20.0 | 12.7 | 50.0 |
| **Lithuania** | 33.3 | 23.3 | 9.5 | 66.7 |
| **Luxembourg** | 19.0 | 3.3 | 1.6 | 33.3 |
| **Hungary** | 57.1 | 46.7 | 33.3 | 100.0 |
| **Malta** | 42.9 | 26.7 | 14.3 | 66.7 |
| **Netherlands** | 90.5 | 93.3 | 68.3 | 100.0 |
| **Austria** | 47.6 | 43.3 | 38.1 | 100.0 |
| **Poland** | 81.0 | 70.0 | 44.4 | 100.0 |
| **Portugal** | 61.9 | 40.0 | 27.0 | 100.0 |
| **Romania** | 52.4 | 43.3 | 23.8 | 83.3 |
| **Slovenia** | 52.4 | 46.7 | 33.3 | 100.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 71.4 | 56.7 | 31.7 | 100.0 |
| **Finland** | 47.6 | 43.3 | 27.0 | 83.3 |
| **Sweden** | 47.6 | 40.0 | 25.4 | 66.7 |
| **United Kingdom** | 85.7 | 80.0 | 54.0 | 100.0 |
| **Iceland** | 23.8 | 16.7 | 6.3 | 50.0 |
| **Norway** | 23.8 | 23.3 | 14.3 | 50.0 |
| **Switzerland** | 81.0 | 80.0 | 60.3 | 100.0 |
| **Turkey** | 100.0 | 90.0 | 74.6 | 100.0 |

## Non-response rate

The (weighted) non-response rates are low. Exceptions are Luxembourg, Portugal, Finland and Ireland with more than 15% non-response rate.

## ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

### Univariate distribution by country

The majority of the respondents decide on the start and end of the working day. The average EU percentage is 81.8% and ranges from 55.5% to 91.1%[13].

The percentages of respondents who report that the client decides is relatively high (more than 20%) only in four countries (the Netherlands, Denmark, Cyprus and Austria).

The percentage of cases where any other party decides in generaly low (4.1% at EU level) and only in four countries is larger than 10% (Slovakia, Lithuania, Greece and Spain).

**Table 2.2.2:** Percentage of respondents reporting each answer category in WORKORG by country

| | The respondent decides | The client/s of the respondent decide(s) | Any other party decides | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EU-28** | 81.8 | 11.2 | 4.1 | 2.9 |
| **Belgium** | 88.8 | 8.1 | 3.1 | 0.0 |
| **Bulgaria** | 88.2 | 6.2 | 4.4 | 1.3 |
| **Czechia** | 73.1 | 18.9 | 6.6 | 1.4 |
| **Denmark** | 70.0 | 27.7 | 2.3 | 0.0 |
| **Germany** | 81.7 | 8.3 | 1.9 | 8.1 |
| **Estonia** | 90.0 | 6.4 | * | 0.9 |
| **Ireland** | 73.0 | 8.1 | 2.1 | 16.8 |
| **Greece** | 76.2 | 7.9 | 12.6 | 3.4 |
| **Spain** | 78.2 | 10.6 | 10.0 | 1.2 |
| **France** | 84.9 | 8.9 | 3.7 | 2.6 |
| **Croatia** | 85.8 | 7.8 | 5.5 | 0.9 |
| **Italy** | 88.2 | 8.7 | 2.4 | 0.7 |
| **Cyprus** | 71.3 | 23.4 | 5.3 | 0.0 |
| **Latvia** | 91.1 | 5.7 | * | 0.3 |
| **Lithuania** | 82.5 | 3.6 | 14.0 | 0.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | 55.5 | 11.7 | * | 29.2 |
| **Hungary** | 87.8 | 6.6 | 1.9 | 3.8 |
| **Malta** | 84.8 | 10.6 | 4.6 | 0.0 |
| **Netherlands** | 62.5 | 30.4 | 4.0 | 3.1 |
| **Austria** | 74.5 | 22.3 | 3.1 | 0.0 |
| **Poland** | 90.4 | 6.9 | 2.1 | 0.7 |
| **Portugal** | 63.7 | 6.2 | 5.8 | 24.3 |
| **Romania** | 87.1 | 11.6 | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| **Slovenia** | 80.1 | 17.1 | 2.9 | 0.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 65.6 | 18.4 | 15.1 | 0.9 |
| **Finland** | 74.7 | 6.4 | 1.4 | 17.6 |
| **Sweden** | 86.4 | 11.7 | 1.9 | 0.1 |
| **United Kingdom** | 80.9 | 15.0 | 3.7 | 0.5 |
| **Iceland** | 83.2 | 11.6 | 3.6 | 1.6 |
| **Norway** | 78.1 | 10.4 | * | 9.1 |
| **Switzerland** | 89.0 | 5.2 | 4.4 | 1.4 |
| **Turkey** | 75.3 | 19.3 | 5.4 | 0.0 |

(13) For all countries participating in the survey

**Figure 2.2.1:** Interquartile range, first and fourth quartile for the answer categories of variable WORKORG
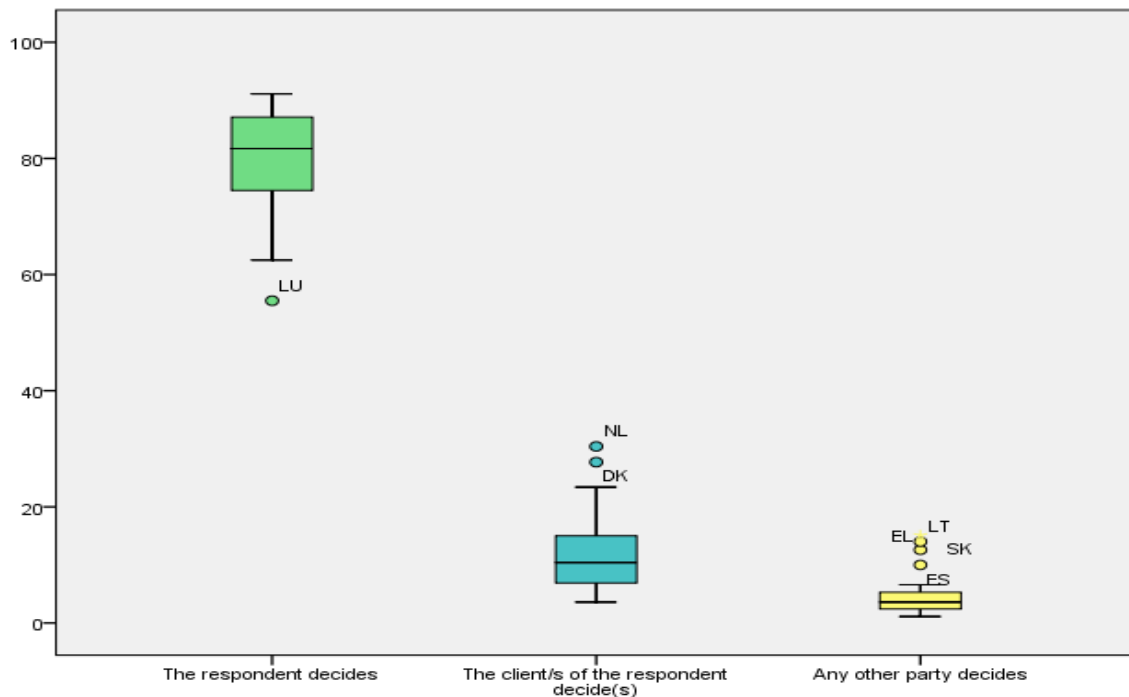


**Table 2.2.3:** Minimum, maximum and quartiles for percentages of respondents reporting every answer category of WORKORG (all countries)

|  | The respondent decides | The client/s of the respondent decide(s) | Any other party decides | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MINIMUM** | 55.5 | 3.6 | 1.1 | 0.0 |
| **1st quartile** | 74.2 | 6.8 | 2.4 | 0.1 |
| **2nd quartile** | 81.3 | 9.7 | 3.6 | 0.9 |
| **3rd quartile** | 87.3 | 15.5 | 5.3 | 3.2 |
| **MAXIMUM** | 91.1 | 30.4 | 15.1 | 29.2 |

## Comments from countries on problems with implementation

FR: "Clients decide" was apparently understood in a very general sense (for opening hours of a shop for instance).

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The quality and non-response rate for the variable is in general acceptable. Countries did not report important implementation problems. There is maybe an issue of comparability due to different formulation of the relevant questions (countries that used only one question, reported high percentage of cases where the clients decide about working time).

In case of a repetition of this variable, the focus should be on input harmonization and on clarifying certain "grey zones" (for example, when there is a common decision between the self-employed and customers).

# 3. REASSE: Main reason for becoming self-employed

## TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### Definition of the variable

*Main reason for becoming self-employed when starting to work as self-employed in the current job.*

### Target population

All self-employed persons (core LFS variable STAPRO = 1. 2).

### Purpose of the variable

The variable collects what the main reason for becoming self-employed was. It refers to when the respondent started working as self-employed in the current job.

### Link to core LFS

The filter of the variable is based on variable STAPRO.

### Data set codes

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Could not find a job as an employee |
| 2 | The respondent's former employer requested the respondent to become self-employed |
| 3 | It is the usual practice in the respondent's field |
| 4 | A suitable opportunity presented itself |
| 5 | Continued the family business |
| 6 | Did not want to or plan to become self-employed, but started working as self-employed for another reason than listed previously |
| 7 | Wanted to be self-employed because of flexible working hours |
| 8 | Wanted to be self-employed for other reason |
| 9 | Not applicable (not included in the filter) |
| Blank | No answer / Don't know |

### Model questionnaire

All self-employed / STAPRO = 1,2

Q1_ReasonSE

*Thinking back to when you started working as self-employed in your current job: Which of the following reasons describe why you first became self-employed?*

<u>Read out the response options</u>

(1) You could not find a job as an employee

(2) Your former employer asked you to become self-employed

(3) It is the usual practice in your field

(4) A suitable opportunity presented itself

(5) You continued the family business

(6) HAD to become self-employed for other reasons than these

(7) You WANTED to be self-employed because of flexible working hours

(8) You WANTED to be self-employed, for other reasons

Cannot say

Any answer                                    GO TO Q1_Difficulties

## QUALITY ASSESSMENT

### National implementation of the questionnaire

The model questionnaire proposed for this variable to either tell the respondent all answer options in one go and ask to choose the main reason, or to ask a yes/no question for each of the reasons and a follow-up question on which of the yes answers corresponds to the main one. Several countries (France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, the United Kingdom and Norway) used the second approach. We note that this different implementation does not appear to affect the results for the variable (in general, the same variation is found as for countries that opted for the "one question" implementation). The only answer category where these countries are almost always above the "EU average" (and, in some cases, among the highest percentages) is the category "**other reason**".

Norway used a different implementation with three "**hierarchical**" questions, the first asking about **wanting** (or not) to become self-employed, and the next two asking about the main reason for becoming self-employed but providing different answer categories for those who wanted to become self-employed and for those who did not want to be. We should note that this can be the reason why Norway is an outlier in the answer category "wanted to be self-employed because of flexible working hours".

Estonia used 4 questions which were variations of the question proposed in the model questionnaire, using different formulations according to the situation of the respondent (being entrepreneur, farmer, freelancer or member of commercial association). Ireland used 2 more extra open questions to identify the reason for persons to become self-employed (when they answer in the first question "other reason"). Latvia used 2 questions: variations of the one question proposed by the model questionnaire depending on the professional status of the respondent (if was an employer or not). Austria, added an extra open question to identify the reason that persons became self-employed (when they answer in the first question "other reason"). Portugal added 1 more question for persons with 2 jobs. Italy change the question on other reasons asking all people who choose other reason to indicate if they were forced or not to be self-employed.

There were also some variations in the formulation of answer categories. Several countries used the formulation of the regulation ("**did not want or plan to become self-employed**") and not the formulation of the model questionnaire. Latvia added the answer category ("**did not want to work as an employee**") and Poland added the answer category "**I wanted to be self-employed because of possibility to obtain higher income**".

## Number of questions per variable

| REASSE | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(The model questionnaire proposed 1 or 2 questions)* | | | | | | | |
| **Belgium** | 1 | **Spain** | 1 | **Hungary** | 1 | **Slovakia** | 1 |
| **Bulgaria** | 1 | **France*** | 2 | **Malta** | 1 | **Finland*** | 2 |
| **Czech Republic** | 1 | **Croatia** | 1 | **Netherlands*** | 2 | **Sweden** | 1 |
| **Denmark** | 1 | **Italy*** | 2 | **Austria*** | 3 | **United Kingdom*** | 2 |
| **Germany** | 1 | **Cyprus** | 1 | **Poland** | 1 | **Iceland** | *NA* |
| **Estonia** | 4 | **Latvia** | 2 | **Portugal** | 2 | **Norway*** | 3 |
| **Ireland** | 3 | **Lithuania** | 1 | **Romania** | 1 | **Switzerland** | 4 |
| **Greece** | 1 | **Luxembourg*** | 2 | **Slovenia** | 1 | **Turkey** | 1 |

*Country asked a yes/no question for all reasons

## Estimations above publication thresholds

If we analyze the answers to variable REASSE by country and by age group (15 – 24, 25 – 34, …, 65 – 74, 75+), occupation (coded at 1-digit level of ISCO), sector of economy (coded at 1-digit level of NACE) or sex, the estimates in most cases are below the publication threshold. Table 2.3.1 presents the situation by country.

**Table 2.3.1:** Percentage of estimations that can be published when analyzing variable REASSE by COUNTRY and AGE, ISCO, NACE or SEX

| | AGE | ISCO | NACE | SEX |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belgium** | 60.7 | 48.8 | 32.7 | 100 |
| **Bulgaria** | 28.6 | 22.5 | 11.3 | 68.8 |
| **Czechia** | 85.7 | 73.8 | 59.5 | 100 |
| **Denmark** | 30.4 | 18.8 | 9.5 | 68.8 |
| **Germany** | 44.6 | 28.8 | 13.7 | 87.5 |
| **Estonia** | 16.1 | 6.3 | 2.4 | 62.5 |
| **Ireland** | 55.4 | 41.3 | 22 | 87.5 |
| **Greece** | 75 | 75 | 50.6 | 100 |
| **Spain** | 80.4 | 83.8 | 64.3 | 100 |
| **France** | 39.3 | 25 | 10.1 | 87.5 |
| **Croatia** | 28.6 | 12.5 | 7.1 | 56.3 |
| **Italy** | 87.5 | 78.8 | 60.7 | 100 |
| **Cyprus** | 50 | 32.5 | 17.9 | 87.5 |
| **Latvia** | 25 | 8.8 | 1.8 | 75 |
| **Lithuania** | 26.8 | 21.3 | 4.8 | 62.5 |
| **Luxembourg** | 0 | 1.3 | 0 | 18.8 |
| **Hungary** | 48.2 | 41.3 | 23.2 | 93.8 |
| **Malta** | 28.6 | 20 | 8.3 | 68.8 |
| **Netherlands** | 85.7 | 81.3 | 58.3 | 100 |
| **Austria** | 35.7 | 23.8 | 16.7 | 75 |
| **Poland** | 78.6 | 66.3 | 47 | 100 |
| **Portugal** | 42.9 | 30 | 16.1 | 87.5 |
| **Romania** | 67.9 | 43.8 | 14.3 | 87.5 |
| **Slovenia** | 46.4 | 38.8 | 18.5 | 93.8 |
| **Slovakia** | 41.1 | 21.3 | 12.5 | 81.3 |
| **Finland** | 62.5 | 46.3 | 26.8 | 100 |
| **Sweden** | 42.9 | 23.8 | 11.3 | 81.3 |
| **United Kingdom** | 87.5 | 78.8 | 51.8 | 100 |
| **Iceland** | 12.5 | 7.5 | 1.2 | 43.8 |
| **Norway** | 21.4 | 13.8 | 3 | 68.8 |
| **Switzerland** | 82.1 | 67.5 | 47 | 93.8 |
| **Turkey** | 92.9 | 81.3 | 62.5 | 100 |

## Non-response rate

The (weighted) non-response rates are in general low. Exceptions are Luxembourg, Portugal, Finland and Ireland with more than 15% non-response rate.

## ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

### Univariate distribution by country

At EU level, 21.8% of respondents report that became self-employed because "a suitable opportunity presented itself". The next more frequent answer is "other reason" (17.0%).

We should note that the results vary a lot at country level. For example, the answer "could not find a job as employee" is selected by 10.3% of respondents at EU level, but in Romania, Cyprus, Croatia and Bulgaria is reported by more than 20% of the respondents. In general, in almost half of the countries the prevailing main reason is different.

**Table 2.3.2** Percentage of respondents reporting each answer category in REASSE by country

| | Could not find a job as an employee | The respondent's former employer requested the respondent to become self-employed | It is the usual practice in the respondent's field | A suitable opportunity presented itself | Continued the family business | Did not want to or plan to become self-employed, but started working as self-employed for another reason than listed previously | Wanted to be self-employed because of flexible working hours | Wanted to be self-employed for other reason | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EU-28** | 10.3 | 1.8 | 14.2 | 21.8 | 15.1 | 5.0 | 10.8 | 17.0 | 4.0 |
| **Belgium** | 5.5 | 2.0 | 27.6 | 20.9 | 14.0 | 2.5 | 14.6 | 13.0 | 0.0 |
| **Bulgaria** | 20.4 | * | 18.9 | 42.0 | 4.3 | 2.1 | 4.9 | 6.1 | 1.2 |
| **Czechia** | 5.4 | 2.6 | 28.0 | 31.0 | 4.4 | 6.4 | 11.1 | 10.4 | 0.8 |
| **Denmark** | 2.7 | 2.5 | 12.5 | 26.0 | 3.9 | 3.6 | 11.2 | 33.4 | 4.2 |
| **Germany** | 7.4 | 1.4 | 18.2 | 13.5 | 8.7 | 4.2 | 15.2 | 17.5 | 13.9 |
| **Estonia** | 8.6 | * | 17.6 | 26.8 | * | 6.3 | 22.7 | 11.7 | 1.5 |
| **Ireland** | 3.9 | 1.4 | 12.5 | 26.9 | 20.0 | 1.8 | 9.2 | 6.6 | 17.7 |
| **Greece** | 13.0 | 2.9 | 20.2 | 16.4 | 24.5 | 4.3 | 1.4 | 14.1 | 3.2 |
| **Spain** | 12.4 | 1.4 | 13.6 | 22.5 | 23.2 | 5.9 | 5.4 | 12.8 | 2.8 |
| **France** | 6.8 | * | 11.9 | 18.0 | 12.7 | 7.4 | 14.4 | 25.2 | 2.4 |
| **Croatia** | 22.7 | * | 3.6 | 25.1 | 22.9 | 5.9 | 3.5 | 12.8 | 1.4 |
| **Italy** | 10.3 | 2.3 | 7.2 | 38.7 | 24.0 | 1.0 | 7.5 | 8.2 | 0.7 |
| **Cyprus** | 25.2 | 2.5 | 20.5 | 23.0 | 8.7 | 3.7 | 8.1 | 8.3 | 0.0 |
| **Latvia** | 19.2 | * | 19.7 | 14.2 | 4.5 | 8.4 | 13.6 | 15.6 | 3.5 |
| **Lithuania** | 13.9 | * | 18.6 | 30.7 | 4.2 | * | 11.8 | 15.3 | 0.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | * | * | 15.6 | 15.6 | * | * | * | 18.2 | 30.0 |
| **Hungary** | 8.0 | 1.8 | 20.2 | 34.7 | 8.6 | 1.3 | 19.6 | 2.5 | 3.4 |
| **Malta** | 6.7 | * | 19.7 | 33.3 | 19.5 | 3.9 | 8.0 | 7.3 | 0.0 |
| **Netherlands** | 6.0 | 0.4 | 9.0 | 30.4 | 8.4 | 11.5 | 19.4 | 11.1 | 3.8 |
| **Austria** | 3.8 | * | 5.6 | 18.4 | 25.3 | 1.9 | 4.6 | 39.6 | 0.0 |
| **Poland** | 9.8 | 3.0 | 12.9 | 7.4 | 26.0 | 4.8 | 8.8 | 24.8 | 2.5 |
| **Portugal** | 11.5 | * | 9.7 | 20.7 | 12.9 | 4.6 | 2.4 | 12.8 | 25.1 |
| **Romania** | 38.3 | * | 13.4 | 7.1 | 11.3 | 10.3 | 7.9 | 11.4 | 0.1 |
| **Slovenia** | 13.3 | 2.9 | 7.5 | 30.7 | 25.5 | 3.5 | 5.8 | 10.7 | 0.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 17.8 | 9.3 | 25.8 | 31.0 | 2.6 | 7.2 | 4.1 | 1.3 | 1.1 |
| **Finland** | 5.7 | 2.9 | 9.1 | 21.4 | 14.1 | 5.1 | 10.5 | 14.8 | 16.4 |
| **Sweden** | 4.6 | 3.3 | 7.6 | 28.7 | 10.1 | 2.5 | 16.6 | 25.9 | 0.8 |
| **United Kingdom** | 5.9 | 1.7 | 17.9 | 19.9 | 7.0 | 5.5 | 14.8 | 26.4 | 0.8 |
| **Iceland** | 4.4 | 0.8 | 13.8 | 24.1 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 22.4 | 22.6 | 3.2 |
| **Norway** | * | * | 12.1 | 10.6 | 13.6 | 6.9 | 31.0 | 17.3 | 4.0 |
| **Switzerland** | 4.7 | 1.3 | 7.2 | 30.9 | 13.4 | 2.7 | 12.0 | 25.1 | 2.6 |
| **Turkey** | 16.2 | 1.7 | 13.7 | 24.9 | 35.0 | 4.3 | 3.8 | 0.4 | 0.0 |

**Figure 2.3.1** Interquartile range, first and fourth quartile for answer categories of variable REASSE
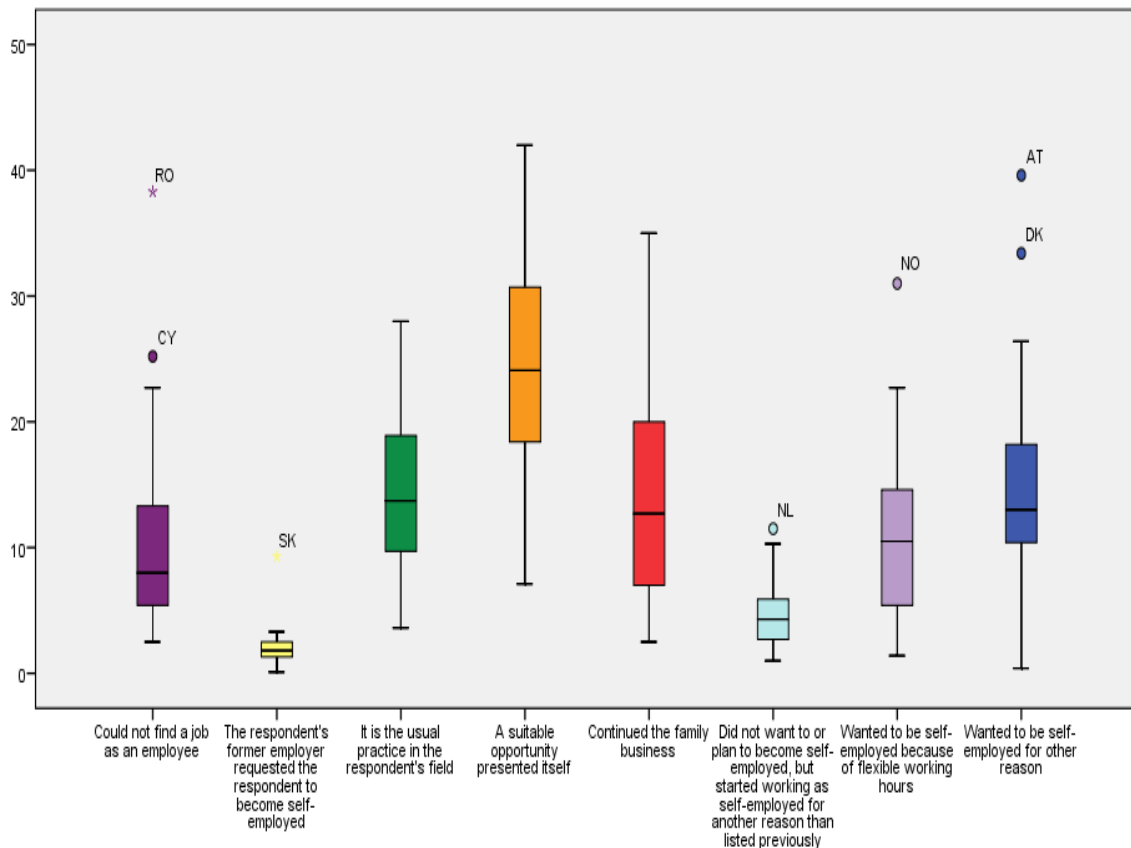


**Table 2.3.3:** Minimum, maximum and quartiles for percentages of respondents reporting every answer category of REASSE (all countries)

| | Could not find a job as an employee | The respondent's former employer requested the respondent to become self-employed | It is the usual practice in the respondent's field | A suitable opportunity presented itself | Continued the family business | Did not want to or plan to become self-employed, but started working as self-employed for another reason than listed previously | Wanted to be self-employed because of flexible working hours | Wanted to be self-employed for other reason | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MINIMUM** | 2.5 | 0.1 | 3.6 | 7.1 | 2.5 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| **1st quartile** | 5.2 | 1.3 | 9.6 | 18.3 | 6.4 | 2.7 | 5.3 | 9.9 | 0.6 |
| **2nd quartile** | 7.7 | 1.8 | 13.7 | 24.5 | 12.0 | 4.3 | 9.9 | 12.9 | 2.0 |
| **3rd quartile** | 13.5 | 2.5 | 19.1 | 30.7 | 20.7 | 6.0 | 14.7 | 19.3 | 3.6 |
| **MAXIMUM** | 38.3 | 9.3 | 28.0 | 42.0 | 35.0 | 11.5 | 31.0 | 39.6 | 30.0 |

## Comments from countries on problems with implementation

HU: Because of too many answer categories, low occurrences caused problem during analysis.

PL: 1. Problem with the category "my former employer demanded to by self-employed".

2. In Q1_ReasonSE – there was a need of more precise definition, whether the question should refer to the current respondent's job, or to the job the respondent performed at the moment of the beginning of self-employment (the first part of the question refers to the current job, while the second part refers to the situation when the respondent started his/her own business).

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the variable indicate a large variation between the main reasons reported in each country: this may reflect the fact that, in different countries, different reasons direct workers in self-employment. The implementation of two different approaches in the construction of the questionnaire did not probably affect the results.

The variable included a large number of answer categories, but nevertheless the percentage of answers in the category "other" is relatively high. In case of a repetition of the variable, a reconstruction of the answer categories should be tested. The focus should be to have an adequate number of answer categories (in order to avoid a large percentage of the category "other") which would be possible to "intergrade" in categories that are more general.

# 4. SEDIFFIC: Main difficulty as self-employed

## TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### Definition of the variable

*Self-perceived main difficulty working as self-employed.*

### Target population

All self-employed persons (core LFS variable STAPRO = 1, 2).

### Purpose of the variable

The variable checks if there are difficulties for the self-employed, and if so, what the main difficulty is.

### Link to core LFS

The filter of the variable is based on variable STAPRO.

### Data set codes

| | |
|---|---|
| 0 | Lack of influence on setting the price of own work |
| 1 | Lack of access to financing for the business |
| 2 | Delayed payments or non-payments |
| 3 | Inappropriate levels of administrative burden |
| 4 | Lack of income in case of sickness |
| 5 | Periods of financial hardship |
| 6 | Periods of having no customer, no assignments or project to work on |
| 7 | Other difficulty |
| 8 | Had no difficulties |
| 9 | Not applicable (not included in the filter) |
| Blank | No answer / Don't know |

**Model questionnaire**

........................................................................................

All self-employed / STAPRO = 1,2

Q1_Difficulties

*Now I will list some possible difficulties in your work as self-employed. Please tell me which of these, if any, is the main one you have experienced in the last 12 months*

<u>Read out the response options</u>

(0) Lack of influence on setting the price of your work

(1) Cannot get finance for your business

(2) Customers/clients paying late or not at all

(3) Inappropriate levels of administrative burden

(4) No income when ill

(5) Times with little money to live on

(6) Times when there is no work to do

(7) Other main difficulty than those mentioned

(8) Had no difficulties

Cannot say

(Any answer) AND (STAPRO = 2)     GO TO Q1_NoEmployees

(Any answer) AND (STAPRO = 1)     GO TO Q1_Partners

........................................................................................

## QUALITY ASSESSMENT

### National implementation of the questionnaire

The model questionnaire proposed for this variable to either tell the respondent all answer options in one go and ask to choose the main difficulty, or to ask a yes/no question for each of the difficulties and a follow-up question on which of the yes answers corresponds to the main one. Several countries (Denmark, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Slovenia, Finland and the United Kingdom) used the second approach. We note that this different implementation does not appear to affect the results for the variable (in general, we find the same variation as in the case of countries that opted for the "one-question" implementation – that is, asked about the main reason with one question only). Spain asked first about **having experience any difficulty**, and then used a single question to identify the main difficulty experienced by the self-employed. Portugal introduced an adjusted formulation in the case of persons that were working for less than 12 months.

There were also some variations in the formulation of answer categories. Several countries used the **formulation of the regulation** and not the formulation of the model questionnaire. Hungary added

one more answer category ("you had too much work to do/too many contracts").

### Number of questions per variable

| SEDIFFIC | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(The model questionnaire proposed 1 or 2 questions)* | | | | | | | |
| **Belgium** | 1 | **Spain** | 1 | **Hungary** | 1 | **Slovakia** | 1 |
| **Bulgaria** | 1 | **France** | 1 | **Malta** | 1 | **Finland*** | 2 |
| **Czech Republic** | 1 | **Croatia** | 1 | **Netherlands*** | 2 | **Sweden** | 1 |
| **Denmark*** | 2 | **Italy** | 1 | **Austria*** | 2 | **United Kingdom*** | 2 |
| **Germany** | 1 | **Cyprus** | 1 | **Poland** | 1 | **Iceland** | *NA* |
| **Estonia** | 3 | **Latvia** | 1 | **Portugal** | 2 | **Norway** | 1 |
| **Ireland** | 1 | **Lithuania** | 1 | **Romania** | 1 | **Switzerland** | 3 |
| **Greece*** | 2 | **Luxembourg*** | 2 | **Slovenia*** | 2 | **Turkey** | 1 |

*Country asked a yes/no question for all difficulties

### Estimations above publication thresholds

If we analyse the answers to variable SEDIFFIC by country and by age group (15 – 24, 25 – 34, …, 65 – 74, 75+), occupation (coded at 1-digit level of ISCO), sector of economy (coded at 1-digit level of NACE) or sex, the estimates in most cases are below the publication threshold. Table 2.4.1 presents the situation by country.

**Table 2.4.1:** Percentage of estimations that can be published when analyzing variable SEDIFFIC by COUNTRY and AGE, ISCO, NACE or SEX

| | AGE | ISCO | NACE | SEX |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belgium** | 60.3 | 46.7 | 28.6 | 94.4 |
| **Bulgaria** | 30.2 | 22.2 | 9.5 | 72.2 |
| **Czechia** | 76.2 | 70.0 | 50.8 | 100.0 |
| **Denmark** | 30.2 | 20.0 | 5.3 | 83.3 |
| **Germany** | 33.3 | 18.9 | 9.5 | 88.9 |
| **Estonia** | 14.3 | 10.0 | 2.1 | 44.4 |
| **Ireland** | 60.3 | 44.4 | 22.2 | 100.0 |
| **Greece** | 79.4 | 82.2 | 52.9 | 100.0 |
| **Spain** | 77.8 | 85.6 | 65.6 | 100.0 |
| **France** | 39.7 | 25.6 | 7.9 | 94.4 |
| **Croatia** | 27.0 | 11.1 | 6.3 | 77.8 |
| **Italy** | 87.3 | 86.7 | 66.1 | 100.0 |
| **Cyprus** | 42.9 | 30.0 | 16.4 | 72.2 |
| **Latvia** | 19.0 | 7.8 | 2.6 | 61.1 |
| **Lithuania** | 19.0 | 12.2 | 4.8 | 50.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 5.6 |
| **Hungary** | 57.1 | 44.4 | 24.9 | 100.0 |
| **Malta** | 31.7 | 16.7 | 6.3 | 61.1 |
| **Netherlands** | 79.4 | 84.4 | 67.7 | 100.0 |
| **Austria** | 38.1 | 30.0 | 12.7 | 83.3 |
| **Poland** | 74.6 | 71.1 | 40.2 | 100.0 |
| **Portugal** | 42.9 | 26.7 | 12.2 | 94.4 |
| **Romania** | 74.6 | 43.3 | 17.5 | 100.0 |
| **Slovenia** | 39.7 | 37.8 | 20.1 | 88.9 |
| **Slovakia** | 39.7 | 25.6 | 12.7 | 66.7 |
| **Finland** | 52.4 | 46.7 | 24.3 | 100.0 |
| **Sweden** | 34.9 | 24.4 | 9.5 | 83.3 |
| **United Kingdom** | 81.0 | 74.4 | 52.9 | 100.0 |
| **Iceland** | 6.3 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 50.0 |
| **Norway** | 14.3 | 8.9 | 1.1 | 66.7 |
| **Switzerland** | 85.7 | 66.7 | 54.5 | 100.0 |
| **Turkey** | 96.8 | 84.4 | 63.0 | 100.0 |

## Non-response rate

The (weighted) non-response rates are in general low. Exceptions are Luxembourg, Portugal, Germany, Ireland and Finland with more than 15% non-response rate.

## ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

### Univariate distribution by country

The most frequent answer at EU level is that the respondent did not experience any difficulties as self-employed (26.6%). Among those that experienced difficulties, the most frequent answer at EU level is "inappropriate levels of administrative burden" (12.3%). The rest of the main difficulties are reported (at EU level) with more or less similar frequency – with the exception of the "lack of access to financing for the business" which is reported by 3.1% of the respondents. We should note that we observe large variation in the reported difficulties at country level: "lack of influence on setting the price of own work" is reported by 21.2% of respondents in Poland, by 20.7% respondents in Bulgaria and by 19.7% of respondents in Austria – and only by 7.8% at EU level. "Lack of access to financing for the

business" is reported by 13.8% of respondents in Turkey (and by 3.1% at EU level) and "lack of income in case of sickness" by 19.4% of respondents in Slovenia (7.2% at EU level).

**Table 2.4.2:** Percentage of respondents reporting each answer category in SEDIFFIC by country

| | Lack of influence on setting the price of own work | Lack of access to financing for the business | Delayed payments or non-payments | Inappropriate levels of administrative burden | Lack of income in case of sickness | Periods of financial hardship | Periods of having no customer, no assignments or project to work on | Other difficulty | Had no difficulties | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EU-28** | 7.8 | 3.1 | 11.0 | 12.3 | 7.2 | 8.3 | 11.5 | 6.2 | 26.6 | 6.1 |
| **Belgium** | 4.2 | 1.5 | 8.2 | 27.6 | 6.4 | 5.0 | 5.2 | 9.9 | 32.0 | 0.1 |
| **Bulgaria** | 20.7 | 3.8 | 11.8 | 9.3 | * | 4.6 | 21.1 | * | 25.4 | 1.2 |
| **Czechia** | 2.2 | 0.5 | 13.2 | 21.6 | 5.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 5.5 | 43.6 | 1.6 |
| **Denmark** | 4.9 | 3.5 | 9.0 | 15.6 | 5.4 | 12.4 | 8.2 | 14.6 | 26.4 | 0.0 |
| **Germany** | 8.5 | 1.6 | 6.1 | 5.3 | 10.7 | 3.8 | 6.1 | 3.7 | 29.8 | 24.4 |
| **Estonia** | 5.0 | 3.4 | 11.4 | * | 4.5 | 30.5 | 10.3 | 5.1 | 24.9 | 1.6 |
| **Ireland** | 4.9 | 2.9 | 10.5 | 5.7 | 11.8 | 9.0 | 6.2 | 3.7 | 26.9 | 18.4 |
| **Greece** | 11.4 | 4.4 | 14.5 | 7.9 | 8.5 | 22.8 | 14.5 | 7.1 | 7.6 | 1.2 |
| **Spain** | 3.9 | 6.3 | 11.7 | 3.2 | 7.2 | 7.6 | 13.5 | 14.4 | 27.6 | 4.5 |
| **France** | 7.9 | 3.4 | 9.7 | 17.7 | 3.9 | 9.1 | 11.6 | 9.1 | 25.1 | 2.4 |
| **Croatia** | 14.3 | 5.1 | 13.0 | 15.6 | 4.4 | 8.7 | 11.9 | 2.4 | 23.7 | 1.0 |
| **Italy** | 3.9 | 2.8 | 19.8 | 25.2 | 5.1 | 6.0 | 21.1 | 3.9 | 9.9 | 2.2 |
| **Cyprus** | 1.7 | 1.1 | 7.8 | 1.7 | 3.5 | 23.7 | 22.6 | 15.3 | 22.7 | 0.0 |
| **Latvia** | 6.3 | 4.1 | 5.3 | 17.7 | * | 13.2 | 20.9 | 5.3 | 20.1 | 5.6 |
| **Lithuania** | * | 4.1 | * | 5.2 | 10.9 | 16.9 | 22.8 | 3.1 | 31.7 | 0.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | * | * | 10.1 | * | * | 8.6 | * | 8.5 | 19.4 | 30.4 |
| **Hungary** | 5.3 | 6.1 | 4.9 | 19.7 | 4.0 | 7.7 | 4.4 | 8.4 | 36.4 | 3.1 |
| **Malta** | 4.4 | 3.5 | 16.4 | 6.0 | 11.9 | 10.3 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 28.9 | 0.0 |
| **Netherlands** | 7.0 | 3.5 | 14.4 | 7.8 | 2.2 | 6.9 | 9.1 | 6.4 | 41.5 | 1.3 |
| **Austria** | 19.7 | 3.1 | 6.6 | 18.0 | 2.4 | 7.8 | 7.3 | 4.3 | 30.9 | 0.0 |
| **Poland** | 21.2 | 3.3 | 7.0 | 13.3 | 5.8 | 10.1 | 7.7 | 3.7 | 21.4 | 6.6 |
| **Portugal** | 4.3 | 3.0 | 13.8 | 6.2 | 2.0 | 4.5 | 15.7 | 5.9 | 19.1 | 25.5 |
| **Romania** | 9.7 | 5.6 | 4.3 | 5.4 | 9.7 | 16.5 | 14.1 | 6.0 | 28.4 | 0.1 |
| **Slovenia** | 14.9 | 2.5 | 13.8 | 5.4 | 19.4 | 1.9 | 10.0 | 4.0 | 28.1 | 0.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 5.3 | 1.4 | 11.4 | 22.9 | 10.4 | 16.5 | 5.6 | * | 24.0 | 1.4 |
| **Finland** | 14.3 | 1.8 | 7.9 | 11.6 | 3.7 | 11.0 | 8.2 | 6.9 | 16.9 | 17.5 |
| **Sweden** | 6.1 | 2.2 | 4.4 | 14.4 | 5.1 | 11.9 | 5.2 | 9.7 | 39.9 | 1.2 |
| **United Kingdom** | 4.7 | 1.5 | 11.2 | 7.5 | 11.8 | 7.3 | 9.5 | 5.0 | 40.2 | 1.4 |
| **Iceland** | 8.5 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 16.8 | 4.1 | 17.1 | 5.5 | 8.9 | 26.1 | 0.4 |
| **Norway** | 8.7 | 3.3 | 4.9 | 11.3 | 8.3 | 10.0 | 8.6 | 13.9 | 25.6 | 5.4 |
| **Switzerland** | 10.7 | 3.1 | 10.0 | 15.8 | 4.1 | 6.0 | 6.2 | 11.4 | 30.4 | 2.3 |
| **Turkey** | 11.8 | 13.8 | 12.0 | 2.6 | 4.4 | 22.3 | 20.5 | 1.6 | 11.0 | 0.0 |

**Figure 2. 4.1:** Interquartile range, first and fourth quartile for the answer categories of variable SEDIFFIC
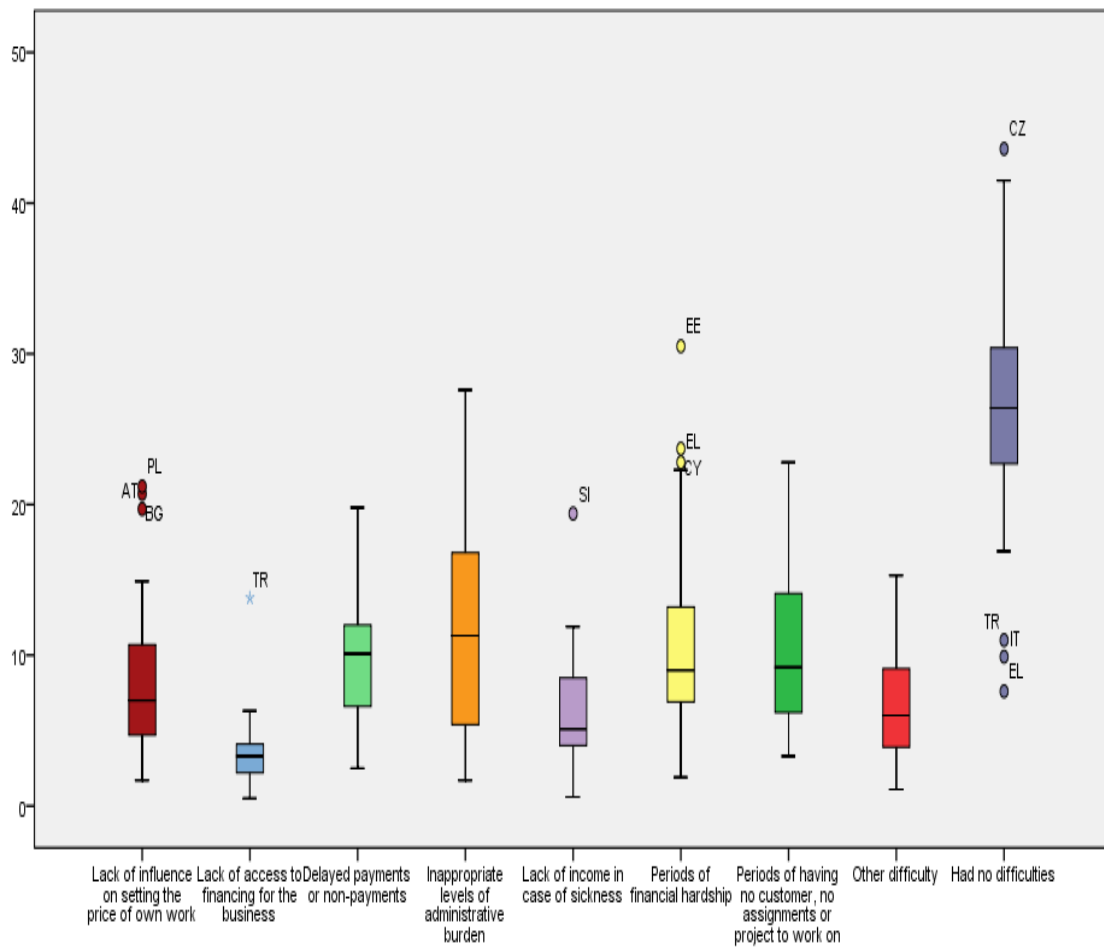


**Table 2.4.3:** Minimum, maximum and quartiles for percentages of respondents reporting every answer category of SEDIFFIC (all countries)

|  | Lack of influence on setting the price of own work | Lack of access to financing for the business | Delayed payments or non-payments | Inappropriate levels of administrative burden | Lack of income in case of sickness | Periods of financial hardship | Periods of having no customer, no assignments or project to work on | Other difficulty | Had no difficulties | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MINIMUM** | 1.7 | 0.5 | 2.5 | 1.7 | 0.6 | 1.9 | 3.3 | 1.1 | 7.6 | 0.0 |
| **1st quartile** | 4.6 | 2.1 | 6.5 | 5.4 | 4.0 | 6.7 | 6.2 | 3.9 | 22.4 | 0.1 |
| **2nd quartile** | 6.7 | 3.3 | 10.1 | 10.3 | 5.1 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 6.0 | 26.3 | 1.4 |
| **3rd quartile** | 10.9 | 4.1 | 12.3 | 17.0 | 8.8 | 14.0 | 14.2 | 9.2 | 30.5 | 4.7 |
| **MAXIMUM** | 21.2 | 13.8 | 19.8 | 27.6 | 19.4 | 30.5 | 22.8 | 15.3 | 43.6 | 30.4 |

**Comments from countries on problems with implementation**

BG: 1. The understanding of meaning and translation into Bulgarian language of 'lack of influence on setting the price of work' was difficult.

2. There is no equivalent term for 'financial hardship' in Bulgarian.

HU: There were too many answer categories. Respondents became impatient.

IT: Some respondent found difficult to understand the meaning of "influence on setting the price of your work".

PL: 1. Answer "lack of influence on setting the price of your work" – it was unclear what does it mean "lack of influence" and the "price of your work". There was a need of some examples in the explanatory notes.

2. How to understand answer "cannot get the finance for your business"? If respondent is self-employed then he/she somehow had to found the money for business, so as we understand the question is rather about difficulties to get the finance. There was a need of some clarifications in the explanatory notes.

PT: Too many response options.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Results for this variable indicate large variation among countries concerning the difficulties faced (or not) by self-employed. There is no single difficulty reported as the main one, in a majority of countries: this may reflect the difference in the structure and performance of labour market in different countries, but we cannot exclude that this variability is due to very small sample sizes. The implementation of two different approaches in the construction of the questionnaire did not probably affect the results.

The variable included a large number of answer categories. According to country comments, some of them were not easily translated in the national questionnaires or they were not easily understood by respondents. In case of a repetition of this variable, a reconstruction of the answer categories should be tested.

# 5. REASNOEM: Main reason for not having employees

## TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### Definition of the variable

*Self-perceived main reason for not having any employees.*

### Target population

All self-employed without employees (core LFS variable STAPRO = 2).

### Purpose of the variable

The variables checks what is the main reason why a self-employed without employees works without employees.

### Link to core LFS

The filter of the variable is based on variable STAPRO.

### Data set codes

| | |
|---|---|
| 0 | Respondent primarily wants to employ him/herself |
| 1 | There is not enough work |
| 2 | Difficult to find suitable staff |
| 3 | Legal framework is too complicated |
| 4 | High social contributions |
| 5 | Not possible in the respondent's occupation |
| 6 | Respondent prefers to work with sub-contractors or associates |
| 7 | The respondent's client/s want(s) the respondent to do the work |
| 8 | Other reason |
| 9 | Not applicable (not included in the filter) |
| Blank | No answer / Don't know |

**Model questionnaire**

Self-employed without employees / STAPRO = 2

Q1_NoEmployees

*Please tell me the main reason for why you do not have any employees*

<u>Read out the response options</u>

(0) You want to work on your own

(1) There is not enough work

(2) It is difficult to find suitable staff

(3) The legal requirements are too complicated

(4) The social contributions are too high

(5) It is not possible to have employees in the type of job you do

(6) You prefer to work with sub-contractors or associates

(7) Your clients want you personally to do the work

(8) Other main reason than those mentioned

Cannot say

Any answer                           GO TO Q1_Partner

## QUALITY ASSESSMENT

### National implementation of the questionnaire

The model questionnaire proposed for this variable to either tell the respondent all answer options in one go and ask to choose the main reason, or to ask a yes/no question for each of the reasons and a follow-up question on which of the yes answers corresponds to the main one. Several countries (Denmark, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland and the United Kingdom) used the second approach. There is no strong indication that this different implementation affected the results for the variable, though for some answer categories ("**legal framework is too complicated**", "**respondent prefers to work with subcontractors or associates**", "**clients want the respondent to do the work**", "**other reason**") all these countries have percentages higher than the "EU average".

Estonia, Austria and Ireland used an extra open question to clarify the reason for not having employees (in the case of persons that reported "other" in the relevant question). Germany used an introductory question about having or not employees.

There are some variations in the formulation of the answer categories and especially, in the formulation of the category "**it is not possible to have employees in the type of job you do**". The "**type of job**" has been formulated as **sector**, **field of work**, **profession**, **occupation**, **business area**, and **activity**.

### Number of questions per variable

| REASNOEM | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(The model questionnaire proposed 1 or 2 questions)* | | | | | | | |
| **Belgium** | 1 | **Spain** | 1 | **Hungary** | 1 | **Slovakia** | 1 |
| **Bulgaria** | 1 | **France*** | 2 | **Malta** | 1 | **Finland*** | 2 |
| **Czech Republic** | 1 | **Croatia** | 1 | **Netherlands*** | 2 | **Sweden** | 1 |
| **Denmark*** | 2 | **Italy** | 1 | **Austria*** | 3 | **United Kingdom*** | 2 |
| **Germany** | 2 | **Cyprus** | 1 | **Poland** | 1 | **Iceland** | *NA* |
| **Estonia** | 2 | **Latvia** | 1 | **Portugal** | 1 | **Norway** | 1 |
| **Ireland** | 2 | **Lithuania** | 1 | **Romania** | 1 | **Switzerland** | 1 |
| **Greece** | 1 | **Luxembourg*** | 2 | **Slovenia** | 1 | **Turkey** | 1 |

*\*Country asked a yes/no question for all reasons*

### Estimations above publication thresholds

If we analyse the answers to the variable REASNOEM by country and by age group (15 – 24, 25 – 34, …, 65 – 74, 75+), occupation (coded at 1-digit level of ISCO), sector of economy (coded at 1-digit level of NACE) or sex, the estimates are in most cases below the publication threshold. Table 2.5.1 presents the situation by country.

**Table 2.5.1:** Percentage of estimations that can be published when analyzing variable REASNOEM by COUNTRY and AGE, ISCO, NACE or SEX

| | AGE | ISCO | NACE | SEX |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belgium** | 54.0 | 38.9 | 21.2 | 94.4 |
| **Bulgaria** | 12.7 | 13.3 | 5.8 | 33.3 |
| **Czechia** | 73.0 | 56.7 | 46.6 | 94.4 |
| **Denmark** | 14.3 | 7.8 | 3.2 | 33.3 |
| **Germany** | 15.9 | 8.9 | 4.8 | 38.9 |
| **Estonia** | 4.8 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 33.3 |
| **Ireland** | 31.7 | 23.3 | 14.8 | 77.8 |
| **Greece** | 50.8 | 47.8 | 30.2 | 94.4 |
| **Spain** | 66.7 | 66.7 | 44.4 | 100.0 |
| **France** | 23.8 | 15.6 | 3.7 | 55.6 |
| **Croatia** | 7.9 | 6.7 | 3.2 | 22.2 |
| **Italy** | 82.5 | 68.9 | 48.7 | 100.0 |
| **Cyprus** | 22.2 | 18.9 | 12.7 | 50.0 |
| **Latvia** | 11.1 | 7.8 | 1.6 | 22.2 |
| **Lithuania** | 12.7 | 8.9 | 4.8 | 38.9 |
| **Luxembourg** | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Hungary** | 31.7 | 21.1 | 12.7 | 66.7 |
| **Malta** | 12.7 | 8.9 | 4.2 | 33.3 |
| **Netherlands** | 82.5 | 80.0 | 52.9 | 100.0 |
| **Austria** | 28.6 | 20.0 | 6.3 | 72.2 |
| **Poland** | 61.9 | 51.1 | 31.7 | 100.0 |
| **Portugal** | 17.5 | 14.4 | 4.8 | 55.6 |
| **Romania** | 57.1 | 31.1 | 14.8 | 88.9 |
| **Slovenia** | 25.4 | 20.0 | 9.5 | 66.7 |
| **Slovakia** | 30.2 | 16.7 | 7.9 | 72.2 |
| **Finland** | 42.9 | 28.9 | 12.7 | 88.9 |
| **Sweden** | 30.2 | 11.1 | 4.8 | 77.8 |
| **United Kingdom** | 73.0 | 63.3 | 41.8 | 100.0 |
| **Iceland** | 1.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 27.8 |
| **Norway** | 12.7 | 6.7 | 1.1 | 44.4 |
| **Switzerland** | 71.4 | 53.3 | 37.6 | 94.4 |
| **Turkey** | 68.3 | 57.8 | 38.6 | 88.9 |

## Non-response rate

Five countries have a (weighted) non-response rate larger than 15% (Luxembourg, Germany, Portugal, Finland and Ireland). In the first three, the non-response is higher than 30% and the analysis of the results should be done with caution.

## ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

### Univariate distribution by country

There is no clearly prevailing answer category for this variable. The most frequent reason for not having employees reported at EU level is that "there is not enough work" (31.2%) followed by the answer "respondent primarily wants to employ him/herself" (25.6%). The situation is different at country level, with "respondent primarily wants to employ him/herself" as the most frequent answer in several countries. The other answer categories are reported less often and the only answer that was chosen by more than 10% of the respondents at EU level is "not possible in the respondent's occupation". Three countries (Romania, the Netherlands and Slovakia) have a significant percentage of respondents in this category (32.9%, 23.6% and 18%, respectively).

The other main reasons reported more often are "high social contributions" and "other". High contributions is reported by more than 10% of the respondents in France, Italy, Hungary and Finland, while "other reason" is reported by more than 10% of the respondents in a group of 11 countries (Greece, Norway, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Iceland, Switzerland, Romania, Sweden, France, the United Kingdom and Denmark).

**Table 2.5.2:** Percentage of respondents reporting each answer category in REASNOEM by country

| | Respondent primarily wants to employ him/herself | There is not enough work | Difficult to find suitable staff | Legal framework is too complicated | High social contributions | Not possible in the respondent's occupation | Respondent prefers to work with sub-contractors or associates | The respondent's client/s want(s) the respondent to do the work | Other reason | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU-28 | 25.6 | 31.2 | 2.7 | 1.9 | 7.2 | 10.4 | 3.0 | 4.4 | 7.4 | 6.1 |
| Belgium | 40.1 | 16.4 | 3.2 | 2.1 | 13.7 | 5.6 | 6.7 | 4.2 | 8.0 | 0.0 |
| Bulgaria | 49.6 | 33.1 | * | * | * | 6.8 | * | 2.8 | * | 1.8 |
| Czechia | 50.9 | 19.9 | 4.6 | 0.7 | 1.4 | 5.9 | 3.7 | 5.7 | 6.5 | 0.7 |
| Denmark | 39.0 | 19.8 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 5.8 | * | 4.2 | 4.4 | 11.2 | 6.3 |
| Germany | 31.3 | 13.2 | 3.4 | * | 2.9 | 9.6 | 2.8 | * | * | 33.3 |
| Estonia | 34.3 | 23.7 | 9.5 | * | 6.4 | * | 8.6 | 8.1 | * | 1.9 |
| Ireland | 16.7 | 42.5 | 1.9 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 7.8 | 2.4 | 4.0 | 4.7 | 17.1 |
| Greece | 16.1 | 47.7 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 4.4 | 3.3 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 22.3 | 3.5 |
| Spain | 15.1 | 57.8 | 2.6 | 0.8 | 7.2 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.0 | 7.1 | 5.1 |
| France | 17.1 | 31.9 | * | 3.1 | 17.6 | 9.3 | 3.0 | * | 12.3 | 2.2 |
| Croatia | 13.0 | 68.5 | 5.6 | * | 5.4 | * | * | * | * | 0.0 |
| Italy | 19.4 | 44.1 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 15.4 | 9.5 | 1.8 | 4.4 | 1.0 | 1.5 |
| Cyprus | 23.7 | 53.4 | * | * | 1.6 | 10.5 | * | 5.0 | 3.5 | 0.0 |
| Latvia | 40.0 | 34.7 | 5.4 | * | * | * | * | * | * | 4.6 |
| Lithuania | 31.4 | 36.9 | 7.8 | * | * | 6.4 | * | * | 8.7 | 0.0 |
| Luxembourg | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | 17.8 | 38.4 |
| Hungary | 49.6 | 13.4 | 5.1 | 1.4 | 14.3 | 6.0 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.8 |
| Malta | 39.6 | 43.0 | 4.4 | * | * | 6.8 | * | * | * | 2.4 |
| Netherlands | 20.8 | 10.7 | 0.9 | 2.4 | 4.7 | 23.6 | 5.3 | 10.1 | 18.3 | 3.2 |
| Austria | 21.8 | 23.0 | 4.4 | 3.0 | 17.0 | 7.2 | 6.7 | 15.5 | * | 0.0 |
| Poland | 27.3 | 43.9 | 5.3 | 0.8 | 7.4 | 4.5 | 2.8 | 2.3 | 3.5 | 2.3 |
| Portugal | 7.8 | 41.6 | 1.5 | * | 6.6 | 4.2 | * | * | 3.8 | 31.9 |
| Romania | 24.1 | 19.9 | 3.4 | 0.6 | 2.2 | 32.9 | 0.6 | 2.5 | 13.8 | 0.1 |
| Slovenia | 21.4 | 50.9 | 4.5 | 2.1 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 6.4 | 0.0 |
| Slovakia | 46.0 | 8.5 | 5.3 | 3.3 | 7.9 | 18.0 | 3.0 | 6.4 | * | 1.0 |
| Finland | 31.5 | 11.4 | 4.9 | 2.1 | 13.6 | 1.8 | 4.0 | 8.1 | 5.2 | 17.3 |
| Sweden | 26.1 | 17.5 | 6.8 | 4.0 | 8.6 | 2.8 | 9.4 | 10.3 | 13.4 | 1.2 |
| United Kingdom | 32.3 | 20.7 | 1.8 | 4.2 | 0.7 | 13.1 | 5.2 | 9.3 | 11.3 | 1.4 |
| Iceland | 5.1 | 29.1 | 22.3 | 3.2 | 0.6 | 7.0 | 2.1 | 7.0 | 14.8 | 8.7 |
| Norway | 30.5 | 17.9 | * | * | 7.1 | 8.2 | * | 5.1 | 18.7 | 6.1 |
| Switzerland | 23.3 | 26.6 | 4.7 | 1.5 | 2.7 | 6.6 | 4.1 | 9.7 | 14.6 | 6.2 |
| Turkey | 27.8 | 58.0 | 3.5 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 8.6 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.0 |

**Figure 2.5.1** Interquartile range, first and fourth quartile for the answer categories of variable REASNOEM
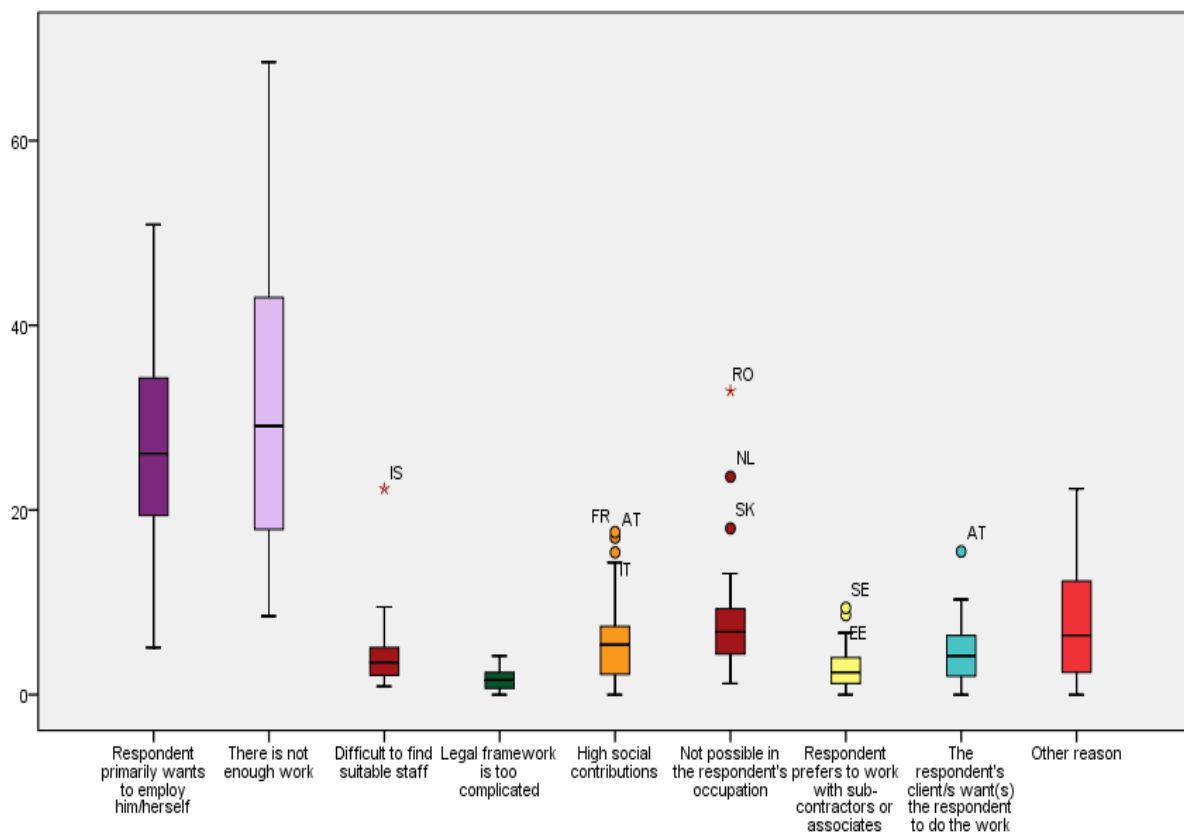


**Table 2.5.3:** Minimum, maximum and quartiles for percentages of respondents reporting every answer category of REASNOEM (all countries)

| | Respondent primarily wants to employ him/herself | There is not enough work | Difficult to find suitable staff | Legal framework is too complicated | High social contributions | Not possible in the respondent's occupation | Respondent prefers to work with sub-contractors or associates | The respondent's client/s want(s) the respondent to do the work | Other reason | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MINIMUM** | 5.1 | 8.5 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **1st quartile** | 18.8 | 17.8 | 2.1 | 0.7 | 2.1 | 4.4 | 1.1 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 0.6 |
| **2nd quartile** | 26.7 | 27.9 | 3.9 | 1.6 | 5.1 | 6.7 | 2.3 | 4.1 | 5.8 | 2.3 |
| **3rd quartile** | 35.5 | 43.2 | 5.2 | 2.4 | 7.5 | 9.1 | 4.0 | 6.6 | 12.6 | 6.1 |
| **MAXIMUM** | 50.9 | 68.5 | 22.3 | 4.2 | 17.6 | 32.9 | 9.4 | 15.5 | 22.3 | 38.4 |

## Comments from countries on problems with implementation

DE: 1. Some respondents had difficulties in choosing one single main reason.

2. Few answer categories should be slightly reworded.

HU: There were too many answer categories. Respondents became impatient.  Because of too many answer categories low occurrences caused problem during analysis.

MT:  Due to the details being requested in the options and the small sample size at national level, this will result in under-represented information.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Two main reasons for working without employees are identified more often by the respondents: one clearly economical (not enough work) and the other voluntary (the respondent wants to work alone). The results of the variable indicate a large variation between countries: this may reflect the differences in the structure and performance of labour market, but we cannot exclude variability due to the many answer categories and the resulting small sample sizes. The implementation of two different approaches in the construction of the questionnaire does not seem to affect the results.

The variable included a large number of answer categories but, as in the case of variable SEDIFFIC, the percentage of answers in the category "other" is relatively high. In case of a repetition of the variable, a reconstruction of the answer categories should be tested. With the exception of Luxembourg, there are no other significant problems reported by countries in the implementation of the survey.

# 6. BPARTNER: Working with business partners

## TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### Definition of the variable

Working with a co-owner and/or in a network of other self-employed.

### Target population

All self-employed persons (core LFS variable STAPRO = 1. 2).

### Purpose of the variable

The variable aims to capture if self-employed work together with formal or informal business partners, where there is no relationship of subordination among them as opposed to having employees. It therefore gives a more detailed picture of the business structure than just STAPRO.

### Link to core LFS

The filter of the variable is based on variable STAPRO.

### Data set codes

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Works together with a co-owner |
| 2 | Works together with other self-employed in a network |
| 3 | Both |
| 4 | Neither |
| 9 | Not applicable (not included in the filter) |
| Blank | No answer / Don't know |

**Model questionnaire**

All self-employed / STAPRO = 1,2

Q1_Partners

*Do you work together with a co-owner?*

(1) Yes                          GO TO Q2a_Partners

(2) No                           GO TO Q2b_Partners

Cannot say                       GO TO Q2b_Partners


Q2a_Partners

*Except from your co-owner, do you work in a network together with other self-employed to share work?*

(1) Yes

(2) No

Cannot say


Any answer                       GO TO Q1_PlanEmploy


Q2b_Partners

*Do you work in a network together with other self-employed to share work?*

(1) Yes

(2) No

Cannot say


Any answer                       GO TO Q1_PlanEmploy

## QUALITY ASSESSMENT

### National implementation of the questionnaire

Most countries implemented the questions as in the proposed model questionnaire. However, several countries did not use a different formulation of the second question (about working in a network) for those who had answer in the first question that they have a co-owner (i.e. Q2a_partners was not asked and instead Q2b_partners was asked to everyone).

Several countries did not include the work "**network**" in the formulation of the relevant question and preferred mentioning "**working with other self-employed to share work**". Other countries included in the formulation of the question about working in a network, a definition of what a network is (Ireland, Portugal) or included a description of what is "**sharing work with other self-employed**". Nevertheless, it seems that no relation exists between the formulation of the question about "**working in a network**" and the percentage of persons reporting that they share work with other self-employed.

Slovenia used extra questions to identify first the existence of a "business partner" (and a separate question about "partner in agricultural business") and then to identify if the respondent is **working** together with that partner.

The answer categories are the same for all countries, except Italy which included several additional answer categories to identify various forms of sharing work.

### Number of questions per variable

| BPARTNER | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(The model questionnaire proposed 3 questions)* | | | | | | | |
| **Belgium** | 2 | **Spain** | 2 | **Hungary** | 2 | **Slovakia** | 2 |
| **Bulgaria** | 3 | **France** | 3 | **Malta** | 2 | **Finland** | 2 |
| **Czech Republic** | 3 | **Croatia** | 3 | **Netherlands** | 2 | **Sweden** | 3 |
| **Denmark** | 3 | **Italy** | 2 | **Austria** | 2 | **United Kingdom** | 3 |
| **Germany** | 2 | **Cyprus** | 3 | **Poland** | 3 | **Iceland** | *NA* |
| **Estonia** | 3 | **Latvia** | 3 | **Portugal** | 2 | **Norway** | 2 |
| **Ireland** | 3 | **Lithuania** | 3 | **Romania** | 3 | **Switzerland** | 2 |
| **Greece** | 2 | **Luxembourg** | 3 | **Slovenia** | 5 | **Turkey** | 3 |

### Estimations above publication thresholds

If we analyse the answers to variable BPARTNER by country and by age group (15 – 24, 25 – 34, …, 65 – 74, 75+), occupation (coded at 1-digit level of ISCO), sector of economy (coded at 1-digit level of NACE) or sex, the estimates are in most cases below the publication threshold. Table 2.6.1 presents the situation by country.

**Table 2.6.1:** Percentage of estimations that can be published when analyzing variable BPARTNER by COUNTRY and AGE, ISCO, NACE or SEX

| | AGE | ISCO | NACE | SEX |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belgium** | 71.4 | 72.5 | 48.8 | 100.0 |
| **Bulgaria** | 35.7 | 35.0 | 15.5 | 75.0 |
| **Czechia** | 89.3 | 85.0 | 69.0 | 100.0 |
| **Denmark** | 53.6 | 42.5 | 22.6 | 87.5 |
| **Germany** | 46.4 | 35.0 | 21.4 | 87.5 |
| **Estonia** | 42.9 | 20.0 | 11.9 | 100.0 |
| **Ireland** | 71.4 | 52.5 | 35.7 | 100.0 |
| **Greece** | 75.0 | 77.5 | 50.0 | 100.0 |
| **Spain** | 82.1 | 80.0 | 66.7 | 100.0 |
| **France** | 57.1 | 47.5 | 25.0 | 100.0 |
| **Croatia** | 42.9 | 30.0 | 17.9 | 100.0 |
| **Italy** | 100.0 | 87.5 | 75.0 | 100.0 |
| **Cyprus** | 46.4 | 40.0 | 22.6 | 75.0 |
| **Latvia** | 32.1 | 22.5 | 9.5 | 75.0 |
| **Lithuania** | 32.1 | 32.5 | 13.1 | 87.5 |
| **Luxembourg** | 3.6 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 50.0 |
| **Hungary** | 64.3 | 67.5 | 39.3 | 100.0 |
| **Malta** | 32.1 | 27.5 | 13.1 | 62.5 |
| **Netherlands** | 96.4 | 97.5 | 76.2 | 100.0 |
| **Austria** | 60.7 | 50.0 | 29.8 | 100.0 |
| **Poland** | 85.7 | 70.0 | 52.4 | 100.0 |
| **Portugal** | 60.7 | 42.5 | 20.2 | 100.0 |
| **Romania** | 60.7 | 40.0 | 21.4 | 100.0 |
| **Slovenia** | 50.0 | 47.5 | 28.6 | 87.5 |
| **Slovakia** | 53.6 | 42.5 | 21.4 | 87.5 |
| **Finland** | 75.0 | 65.0 | 40.5 | 100.0 |
| **Sweden** | 67.9 | 50.0 | 25.0 | 100.0 |
| **United Kingdom** | 89.3 | 80.0 | 65.5 | 100.0 |
| **Iceland** | 25.0 | 17.5 | 4.8 | 100.0 |
| **Norway** | 50.0 | 40.0 | 13.1 | 87.5 |
| **Switzerland** | 92.9 | 82.5 | 72.6 | 100.0 |
| **Turkey** | 96.4 | 90.0 | 70.2 | 100.0 |

## Non-response rate

(Weighted) non-response is lower than 15% except in Luxembourg, Portugal, Ireland and Finland.

## ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

### Univariate distribution by country

In most countries the majority of the self-employed is neither working in a network nor has a co-owner. The answers in the relevant questions define two distinct groups of countries: one group of 26 countries where more than 50% of the respondents reported that they do not share work, and one smaller group of 7 countries (Estonia, Croatia, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, Iceland and Norway) where most respondents reports some type of work-sharing. In three countries of the first group (Romania, Turkey and Greece), the percentage of those who do not share work is more than 80%.

**Table 2.6.2:** Percentage of respondents reporting each answer category in BPARTNER by country

| | Works together with a co-owner | Works together with other self-employed in a network | Both | Neither | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EU-28** | 14.2 | 16.9 | 6.9 | 59.3 | 2.7 |
| **Belgium** | 12.4 | 21.2 | 12.7 | 53.8 | 0.0 |
| **Bulgaria** | 4.6 | 22.4 | 3.6 | 68.2 | 1.2 |
| **Czechia** | 8.6 | 27.4 | 6.8 | 56.6 | 0.6 |
| **Denmark** | 17.4 | 20.4 | 9.4 | 52.8 | 0.0 |
| **Germany** | 8.7 | 12.4 | 3.8 | 65.9 | 9.2 |
| **Estonia** | 11.9 | 22.2 | 26.5 | 38.2 | 1.2 |
| **Ireland** | 12.9 | 12.4 | 3.9 | 54.8 | 16.0 |
| **Greece** | 5.9 | 7.8 | 2.2 | 81.9 | 2.2 |
| **Spain** | 17.1 | 5.0 | 11.5 | 65.9 | 0.5 |
| **France** | 16.3 | 18.1 | 8.3 | 54.9 | 2.4 |
| **Croatia** | 7.9 | 35.2 | 8.8 | 47.3 | 0.8 |
| **Italy** | 16.3 | 20.5 | 9.3 | 53.2 | 0.7 |
| **Cyprus** | 3.2 | 15.3 | 4.0 | 77.5 | 0.0 |
| **Latvia** | 4.8 | 26.7 | 9.8 | 55.8 | 3.0 |
| **Lithuania** | 7.3 | 30.7 | 6.6 | 55.4 | 0.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | 14.1 | 15.9 | 11.9 | 30.5 | 27.5 |
| **Hungary** | 15.2 | 11.8 | 7.1 | 62.6 | 3.3 |
| **Malta** | 10.5 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 75.5 | 0.0 |
| **Netherlands** | 17.9 | 27.4 | 11.4 | 43.0 | 0.4 |
| **Austria** | 9.9 | 24.7 | 9.0 | 56.4 | 0.0 |
| **Poland** | 25.5 | 13.2 | 5.7 | 55.4 | 0.1 |
| **Portugal** | 14.5 | 11.7 | 4.4 | 45.7 | 23.8 |
| **Romania** | 2.4 | 5.3 | 2.1 | 90.2 | 0.1 |
| **Slovenia** | 10.8 | 17.2 | 2.2 | 69.8 | 0.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 3.8 | 25.7 | 5.6 | 64.1 | 0.8 |
| **Finland** | 8.8 | 38.5 | 20.8 | 16.0 | 15.8 |
| **Sweden** | 25.6 | 19.6 | 8.9 | 45.7 | 0.1 |
| **United Kingdom** | 15.3 | 23.6 | 4.4 | 56.5 | 0.2 |
| **Iceland** | 17.0 | 35.5 | 15.2 | 31.1 | 1.4 |
| **Norway** | 7.6 | 42.4 | 17.3 | 29.5 | 3.2 |
| **Switzerland** | 23.0 | 15.8 | 9.8 | 50.6 | 0.8 |
| **Turkey** | 5.6 | 7.4 | 4.7 | 82.3 | 0.0 |

**Figure 2.6.1:** Interquartile range, first and fourth quartile for the answer categories of variable **BPARTNER**
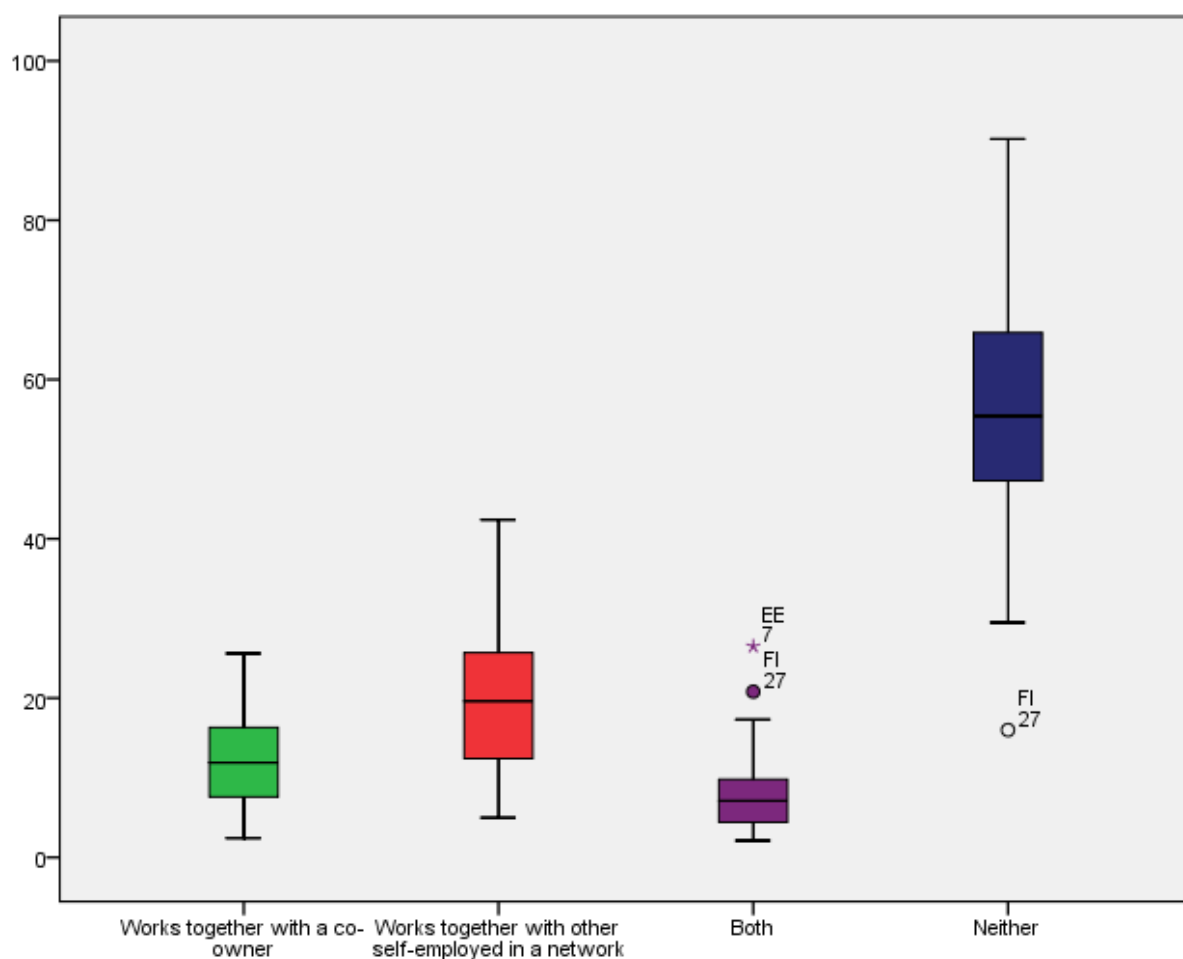


**Table 2.6.3:** Minimum, maximum and quartiles for percentages of respondents reporting every answer category of BPARTNER (all countries)

|  | Works together with a co-owner | Works together with other self-employed in a network | Both | Neither | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MINIMUM** | 2.4 | 5.0 | 2.1 | 16.0 | 0.0 |
| **1st quartile** | 7.5 | 12.4 | 4.4 | 46.9 | 0.1 |
| **2nd quartile** | 11.4 | 20.0 | 7.7 | 55.4 | 0.8 |
| **3rd quartile** | 16.3 | 26.0 | 10.2 | 65.9 | 2.6 |
| **MAXIMUM** | 25.6 | 42.4 | 26.5 | 90.2 | 27.5 |

**Comments from countries on problems with implementation**

PL: 1. In Q2a_Partners - more precise definition whether the question refers to a co-owner actually engaged in performing particular tasks within the scope of conducted activity, or whether it may also concern a co-owner whose role is only limited to co-financing the business without actually performing work.

2. In Q2a_Partners explanation concerning correct understanding of "working together in the network", whether only formalized organizations should be considered here, or whether it may also concern performing mutual work in a non-formalized way. There is a need for some examples. We had a problem on how to ask this question to respondents in a precise and understandable way.

SE: For Q2_Partner the understanding of the term "network" seemed to indicate different things to several of the test persons. Since the purpose is the sharing of work perhaps co-operation is a term easier to understand.

SI: Q2_Partners - the wording of the question was not clear to the respondents nor to the interviewers so we added additional examples for the interviewers (for easier explanation). It showed that this variable is the hardest to understand, as well as to analyse since it doesn't quite fit into the Slovenian context.

SK: Question on network was too difficult to translate into the national language.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Non-response rate with the exception of a few countries is low. Countries report problems with the use, translation and comprehension by the respondents of the term "network".

The results look plausible and indicate that the majority of self-employed in EU are not working with a co-owner or in a network.

In case of a repetition of the module, the use of term "network" should be reconsidered.

# 7. PLANEMPL: Planning hiring of employees or subcontracting

## TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### Definition of the variable

Plans to employ or sub-contract in the next 12 months.

### Target population

All self-employed persons (core LFS variable STAPRO = 1, 2).

### Purpose of the variable

This variable check if the respondent plans to hire employees or to subcontract work.

### Link to core LFS

The filter of the variable is based on variable STAPRO.

### Data set codes

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Plans to employ only permanent employees |
| 2 | Plans to employ only temporary employees |
| 3 | Plans to employ both permanent and temporary employees |
| 4 | Plans to only make use of subcontractors |
| 5 | Plans to make use of subcontractors and employ employees |
| 6 | Does not plan to hire or subcontract |
| 9 | Not applicable (not included in the filter) |
| Blank | No answer / Don't know |

**Model questionnaire**

...................................................................................................................

All self-employed / STAPRO = 1,2

Q1_PlanEmploy

*Do you plan to employ someone in the next 12 months?*

Read out the response options

(1) Yes, permanent employees

(2) Yes, temporary employees

(3) Yes, both

(4) No

Cannot say

Any answer                                                         GO TO Q2_PlanEmploy

Q2_PlanEmploy

*Do you plan to sub-contract out work in the next 12 months?*

(1) Yes

(2) No

Cannot say

Any answer                                                         GO TO Q1_JobSatisfaction

...................................................................................................................

## QUALITY ASSESSMENT

### National implementation of the questionnaire

Most countries implemented the questions as in the proposed model questionnaire. Austria, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia, the United Kingdom and Norway used a two-step approach (asking first if the respondent plans to hire employees, and then asking about hiring temporary or permanent employees). The United Kingdom, Norway and Austria asked the self-employed with employees about hiring **more** (or **new**) employees. Finland included an extra question on using **currently** subcontractors, while Spain and Italy used different formulation for people working in cooperatives.

The answer categories are the same for almost all countries. They differ, as can be expected, only in the case of countries using the two-step approach, in the formulation of the first question (about planning to hire employees).

### Number of questions per variable

| PLANEMPL | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(The model questionnaire proposed 2 questions)* | | | | | | | |
| **Belgium** | 2 | **Spain** | 4 | **Hungary** | 2 | **Slovakia** | 2 |
| **Bulgaria** | 2 | **France** | 2 | **Malta** | 2 | **Finland** | 3 |
| **Czech Republic** | 2 | **Croatia** | 2 | **Netherlands** | 3 | **Sweden** | 2 |
| **Denmark** | 2 | **Italy** | 3 | **Austria** | 4 | **United Kingdom** | 3 |
| **Germany** | 2 | **Cyprus** | 2 | **Poland** | 2 | **Iceland** | *NA* |
| **Estonia** | 2 | **Latvia** | 2 | **Portugal** | 2 | **Norway** | 4 |
| **Ireland** | 3 | **Lithuania** | 2 | **Romania** | 2 | **Switzerland** | 3 |
| **Greece** | 3 | **Luxembourg** | 2 | **Slovenia** | 3 | **Turkey** | 2 |

### Estimations above publication thresholds

If we analyze the answers to variable PLANEMPL by country and by age group (15 – 24, 25 – 34, …, 65 – 74, 75+), occupation (coded at 1-digit level of ISCO), sector of economy (coded at 1-digit level of NACE) or sex, the estimates are in most cases below the publication threshold. Table 2.7.1 presents the situation by country.

**Table 2.7.1:** Percentage of estimations that can be published when analyzing variable PLANEMPL By COUNTRY and AGE, ISCO, NACE or SEX

| | AGE | ISCO | NACE | SEX |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belgium** | 52.4 | 36.7 | 22.2 | 83.3 |
| **Bulgaria** | 16.7 | 16.7 | 8.7 | 33.3 |
| **Czechia** | 57.1 | 55.0 | 34.9 | 83.3 |
| **Denmark** | 33.3 | 30.0 | 16.7 | 50.0 |
| **Germany** | 21.4 | 18.3 | 11.9 | 58.3 |
| **Estonia** | 19.0 | 15.0 | 7.9 | 50.0 |
| **Ireland** | 52.4 | 30.0 | 15.9 | 91.7 |
| **Greece** | 40.5 | 28.3 | 18.3 | 83.3 |
| **Spain** | 73.8 | 71.7 | 58.7 | 100.0 |
| **France** | 16.7 | 13.3 | 10.3 | 50.0 |
| **Croatia** | 23.8 | 16.7 | 7.9 | 50.0 |
| **Italy** | 66.7 | 56.7 | 39.7 | 91.7 |
| **Cyprus** | 19.0 | 15.0 | 11.1 | 33.3 |
| **Latvia** | 11.9 | 13.3 | 5.6 | 33.3 |
| **Lithuania** | 14.3 | 10.0 | 5.6 | 25.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | 9.5 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 16.7 |
| **Hungary** | 35.7 | 21.7 | 16.7 | 66.7 |
| **Malta** | 16.7 | 18.3 | 8.7 | 58.3 |
| **Netherlands** | 59.5 | 61.7 | 42.1 | 100.0 |
| **Austria** | 35.7 | 23.3 | 14.3 | 75.0 |
| **Poland** | 59.5 | 50.0 | 27.8 | 100.0 |
| **Portugal** | 35.7 | 21.7 | 12.7 | 75.0 |
| **Romania** | 42.9 | 25.0 | 12.7 | 75.0 |
| **Slovenia** | 38.1 | 26.7 | 17.5 | 66.7 |
| **Slovakia** | 16.7 | 15.0 | 11.1 | 50.0 |
| **Finland** | 42.9 | 36.7 | 25.4 | 83.3 |
| **Sweden** | 45.2 | 25.0 | 14.3 | 75.0 |
| **United Kingdom** | 66.7 | 48.3 | 32.5 | 100.0 |
| **Iceland** | 11.9 | 10.0 | 4.8 | 41.7 |
| **Norway** | 11.9 | 13.3 | 7.1 | 33.3 |
| **Switzerland** | 73.8 | 61.7 | 46.8 | 100.0 |
| **Turkey** | 83.3 | 73.3 | 46.8 | 91.7 |

## Non-response rate

The (weighted) non-response is relatively high in several countries. Four countries (Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal and Finland), report a weighted non-response rate higher than 15%.

## ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

### Univariate distribution by country

The majority of the self-employed do not plan to hire employees or subcontractors (70.2% in EU level). That percentage is higher than 50% in all countries but Finland and Luxembourg. All the other

answer categories are reported rarely (at EU level, by 6% or less of the respondents). There is a group of mainly Nordic countries (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Sweden and Iceland) where the percentage of persons who plan to hire both subcontractors and employees is higher than 10%. In addition, high percentages of person planning to hire only subcontractors can be found in Denmark and Finland (19.6% and 21.8% respectively).

**Table 2.7.2:** Percentage of respondents reporting each answer category in PLANEMPL by country

| | Plans to employ only permanent employees | Plans to employ only temporary employees | Plans to employ both permanent and temporary employees | Plans to only hire subcontractors | Plans to hire subcontractors and employ employees | Does not plan to hire employees or subcontractors | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EU-28** | 3.1 | 3.4 | 1.3 | 6.0 | 2.9 | 79.2 | 4.2 |
| **Belgium** | 5.6 | 2.2 | 0.9 | 8.6 | 3.4 | 70.9 | 8.4 |
| **Bulgaria** | 2.7 | 4.9 | 1.9 | * | * | 84.3 | 5.1 |
| **Czechia** | 1.1 | 2.6 | 0.4 | 9.3 | 1.8 | 83.9 | 0.9 |
| **Denmark** | 8.9 | 3.5 | 2.1 | 19.6 | 13.5 | 52.5 | 0.0 |
| **Germany** | 6.5 | 2.8 | * | 4.0 | 2.4 | 71.8 | 11.5 |
| **Estonia** | 6.9 | 5.6 | * | 11.2 | 13.6 | 56.7 | 2.9 |
| **Ireland** | 3.4 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 8.1 | 3.2 | 62.9 | 17.6 |
| **Greece** | 0.3 | 4.0 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 92.5 | 2.1 |
| **Spain** | 2.0 | 6.4 | 2.0 | 5.9 | 4.1 | 76.1 | 3.5 |
| **France** | 5.5 | 4.6 | * | 6.5 | 2.9 | 76.8 | 2.7 |
| **Croatia** | 2.3 | 12.1 | * | 8.6 | 3.5 | 66.0 | 5.5 |
| **Italy** | 1.1 | 2.7 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 0.5 | 90.9 | 1.1 |
| **Cyprus** | 1.6 | 3.1 | * | * | * | 94.0 | 0.0 |
| **Latvia** | 3.9 | 3.4 | * | 7.1 | 6.5 | 72.1 | 5.4 |
| **Lithuania** | 3.4 | 3.8 | * | * | * | 89.5 | 0.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | * | * | * | * | * | 48.9 | 28.9 |
| **Hungary** | 1.6 | 5.5 | 1.2 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 76.7 | 10.4 |
| **Malta** | 8.3 | 6.0 | * | 2.3 | 5.0 | 77.2 | 0.0 |
| **Netherlands** | 2.8 | 1.6 | 2.8 | 1.1 | 4.2 | 83.5 | 3.9 |
| **Austria** | 7.2 | 3.2 | 1.9 | 8.0 | 4.1 | 75.5 | 0.0 |
| **Poland** | 1.7 | 3.9 | 1.0 | 5.4 | 1.6 | 82.9 | 3.6 |
| **Portugal** | 2.8 | 5.2 | 1.8 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 57.5 | 24.8 |
| **Romania** | 0.7 | 2.6 | * | 4.1 | 2.3 | 89.8 | 0.1 |
| **Slovenia** | 2.9 | 4.6 | 1.2 | 8.2 | 5.4 | 77.8 | 0.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 1.8 | 5.0 | * | 2.7 | 1.9 | 86.6 | 1.0 |
| **Finland** | 1.4 | 2.9 | 1.1 | 21.8 | 16.5 | 40.4 | 15.9 |
| **Sweden** | 7.4 | 5.8 | 3.5 | 15.4 | 12.4 | 53.4 | 2.1 |
| **United Kingdom** | 2.9 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 12.3 | 3.9 | 77.5 | 0.7 |
| **Iceland** | 6.3 | 6.7 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 13.9 | 70.1 | 1.4 |
| **Norway** | 4.9 | * | * | 8.6 | * | 71.5 | 7.9 |
| **Switzerland** | 11.9 | 2.9 | 1.2 | 9.5 | 4.5 | 68.2 | 1.8 |
| **Turkey** | 5.7 | 5.8 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 85.7 | 0.0 |

**Figure 2.7.1:** Interquartile range, first and fourth quartile for the answer categories of variable PLANEMPL
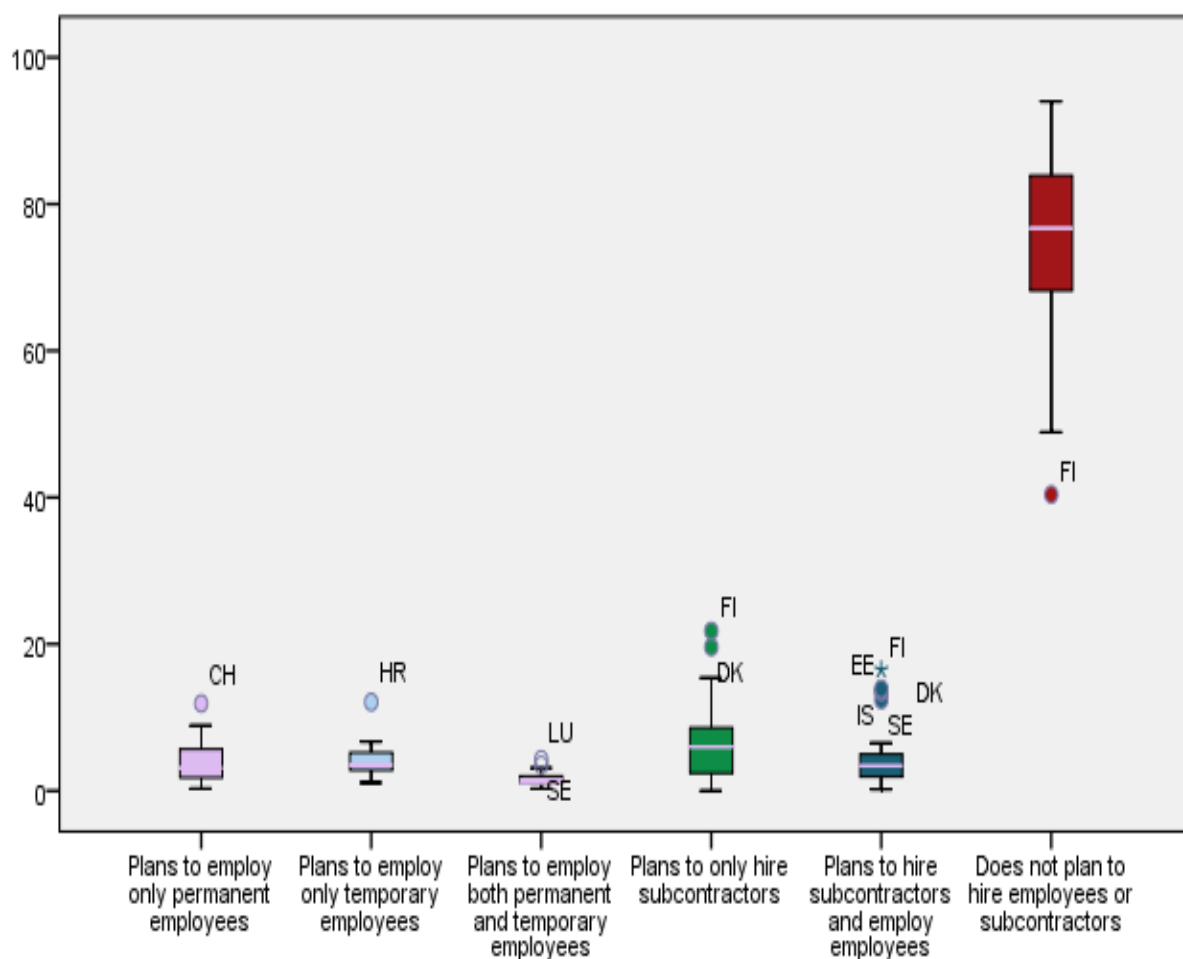


**Table 2.7.3:** Minimum, maximum and quartiles for percentages of respondents reporting every answer category of PLANEMPL (all countries)

|  | Plans to employ only permanent employees | Plans to employ only temporary employees | Plans to employ both permanent and temporary employees | Plans to only hire subcontractors | Plans to hire subcontractors and employ employees | Does not plan to hire employees or subcontractors | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MINIMUM** | 0.3 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 40.4 | 0.0 |
| **1st quartile** | 1.8 | 2.8 | 1.1 | 2.4 | 1.9 | 67.7 | 0.6 |
| **2nd quartile** | 3.2 | 3.7 | 1.4 | 6.0 | 3.5 | 76.4 | 2.4 |
| **3rd quartile** | 5.9 | 5.3 | 2.0 | 8.6 | 5.1 | 84.0 | 6.1 |
| **MAXIMUM** | 11.9 | 12.1 | 4.3 | 21.8 | 16.5 | 94.0 | 28.9 |

**Comments from countries on problems with implementation**

BG: Many respondents are not aware of the future plans about employment.

HU: Many respondents thought that it was hard to plan for 12 months.

IE:  Clarify the definition of "sub-contract out" and "sub-contract in".

MT: Due to the details being requested in the options and the small sample size at national level this will result in under-represented information.

SK: Question on subcontracting was too difficult to translate into the national language.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results are plausible and indicate that the large percentage of respondents does not plan to hire employees or subcontractors – both at EU and country levels. Countries report difficulty to translate or explain to respondents the term "sub-contracting". There were some differences in the implementation of the relevant questions but it seems that they did not yield to significant differences in the results.

It should be noted that this variable concerns plans about future and therefore includes an important subjective component.

# 8. JBSATISF: Job satisfaction

## TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### Definition of the variable

*The level of job satisfaction in the main job.*

### Target population

All persons working (Core variable WSTATOR = 1, 2).

### Purpose of the variable

This variable provides information on how satisfied employees, self-employed, and family workers are with their working situation, in order to compare them to each other. It asks about the general level of satisfaction, not individually about working conditions, pay, and so on.

### Link to core LFS

The filter of the variable is based on variable WSTATOR.

### Data set codes

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Satisfied to a large extent |
| 2 | Satisfied to some extent |
| 3 | Satisfied to a small extent |
| 4 | Not satisfied at all |
| 9 | Not applicable (not included in the filter) |
| Blank | No answer / Don't know |

### Model questionnaire

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All persons in employment / WSTATOR in (1,2)

Q1_JobSatisfaction

*To what extent are you satisfied with your current job?*

<u>Read out the response options</u>

(1) Satisfied to a large extent

(2) Satisfied to some extent

(3) Satisfied to a small extent

(4) Not satisfied at all

Cannot say

Any answer                                                    GO TO Q1_Autonomy

······································································································

## QUALITY ASSESSMENT

### National implementation of the questionnaire

Almost all countries used one question for this variable, as proposed in the model questionnaire. A considerable percentage of countries used a slightly different formulation: instead of asking about the "**extent of satisfaction**", asked simply "**how satisfied are you with your current job**". There is no indication of a systematic effect of this difference. Cyprus, Latvia and Portugal included the clarification "**main**" job in their implementation of the question: Portugal used different formulations for persons having 2 jobs.

The formulation of answer categories was similar in all countries. The main differences are found in Italy([14]) and the Netherlands which used different 'scales' for measuring satisfaction that include a **middle point**. When transmitting results to Eurostat, this middle point (not satisfied – not dissatisfied) was included in the code "satisfied to some extent" – and this can be a reason why the Netherlands has the highest percentage in the answer category "Satisfied to some extent".

### Number of questions per variable

| JBSATISF | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(The model questionnaire proposed 1 question)* | | | | | | | |
| **Belgium** | 1 | **Spain** | 1 | **Hungary** | 1 | **Slovakia** | 1 |
| **Bulgaria** | 1 | **France** | 1 | **Malta** | 1 | **Finland** | 1 |
| **Czech Republic** | 1 | **Croatia** | 1 | **Netherlands** | 1 | **Sweden** | 1 |
| **Denmark** | 1 | **Italy** | 1 | **Austria** | 1 | **United Kingdom** | 1 |
| **Germany** | 1 | **Cyprus** | 1 | **Poland** | 1 | **Iceland** | *NA* |
| **Estonia** | 1 | **Latvia** | 1 | **Portugal** | 2 | **Norway** | 1 |
| **Ireland** | 1 | **Lithuania** | 1 | **Romania** | 1 | **Switzerland** | 1 |
| **Greece** | 1 | **Luxembourg** | 1 | **Slovenia** | 1 | **Turkey** | 1 |

### Estimations above publication thresholds

If we analyse the answers to variable JBSATISF by country and by age group (15 – 24, 25 – 34, …, 65 – 74, 75+), occupation (coded at 1-digit level of ISCO), sector of economy (coded at 1-digit level of NACE) or sex, the estimates are in most cases above the publication threshold. Table 2.8.1 presents the situation by country.

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([14]) In fact, Italy used a question on satisfaction that is already incorporated in the core LFS questionnaire and uses a scale 0 - 11

**Table 2.8.1:** Percentage of estimations that can be published when analyzing variable JBSATISF by COUNTRY and AGE, ISCO, NACE or SEX

| | AGE | ISCO | NACE | SEX |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belgium** | 82.1 | 92.5 | 69.0 | 100.0 |
| **Bulgaria** | 82.1 | 82.5 | 64.3 | 100.0 |
| **Czechia** | 89.3 | 90.0 | 85.7 | 100.0 |
| **Denmark** | 75.0 | 82.5 | 58.3 | 100.0 |
| **Germany** | 78.6 | 87.5 | 72.6 | 100.0 |
| **Estonia** | 60.7 | 60.0 | 45.2 | 100.0 |
| **Ireland** | 82.1 | 97.5 | 73.8 | 100.0 |
| **Greece** | 89.3 | 92.5 | 83.3 | 100.0 |
| **Spain** | 89.3 | 97.5 | 95.2 | 100.0 |
| **France** | 75.0 | 87.5 | 69.0 | 100.0 |
| **Croatia** | 78.6 | 77.5 | 54.8 | 100.0 |
| **Italy** | 92.9 | 95.0 | 88.1 | 100.0 |
| **Cyprus** | 89.3 | 87.5 | 75.0 | 100.0 |
| **Latvia** | 67.9 | 55.0 | 45.2 | 100.0 |
| **Lithuania** | 60.7 | 60.0 | 50.0 | 100.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | 60.7 | 67.5 | 44.0 | 100.0 |
| **Hungary** | 78.6 | 92.5 | 71.4 | 100.0 |
| **Malta** | 64.3 | 62.5 | 44.0 | 100.0 |
| **Netherlands** | 89.3 | 100.0 | 83.3 | 100.0 |
| **Austria** | 82.1 | 87.5 | 65.5 | 100.0 |
| **Poland** | 89.3 | 100.0 | 84.5 | 100.0 |
| **Portugal** | 85.7 | 87.5 | 71.4 | 100.0 |
| **Romania** | 82.1 | 80.0 | 63.1 | 100.0 |
| **Slovenia** | 82.1 | 95.0 | 71.4 | 100.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 78.6 | 80.0 | 61.9 | 100.0 |
| **Finland** | 75.0 | 85.0 | 70.2 | 100.0 |
| **Sweden** | 75.0 | 72.5 | 58.3 | 100.0 |
| **United Kingdom** | 92.9 | 100.0 | 94.0 | 100.0 |
| **Iceland** | 60.7 | 52.5 | 36.9 | 75.0 |
| **Norway** | 67.9 | 65.0 | 53.6 | 100.0 |
| **Switzerland** | 89.3 | 95.0 | 89.3 | 100.0 |
| **Turkey** | 100.0 | 90.0 | 98.8 | 100.0 |

## Non-response rate

The (weighted) non-response is in general low.

## ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

### Univariate distribution by country

The majority of the respondents report to be either satisfied to some extent (46.3% at EU level) or satisfied to a large extent (42.2%). In 11 countries, the percentage of persons satisfied to a large extent is higher than 50%. The percentage of persons that report no satisfaction or small satisfaction

is generally very low and the combination of these two percentages is in most countries (21) less than 10%. Among EU countries, the highest rate of low satisfaction can be found in Luxembourg and Bulgaria.

**Table 2.8.2:** Percentage of respondents reporting each answer category in JBSATISF by country

| | Satisfied to a large extent | Satisfied to some extent | Satisfied to a small extent | Not satisfied at all | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EU-28** | 42.2 | 46.3 | 7.4 | 2.5 | 1.6 |
| **Belgium** | 49.9 | 43.7 | 5.2 | 1.2 | 0.0 |
| **Bulgaria** | 27.4 | 55.8 | 13.0 | 3.2 | 0.6 |
| **Czechia** | 49.2 | 44.7 | 4.7 | 1.0 | 0.4 |
| **Denmark** | 64.8 | 29.6 | 4.6 | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| **Germany** | 32.1 | 53.9 | 7.9 | 2.7 | 3.4 |
| **Estonia** | 58.3 | 34.4 | 5.2 | 1.2 | 0.9 |
| **Ireland** | 49.1 | 30.3 | 6.0 | 1.7 | 12.9 |
| **Greece** | 42.2 | 41.9 | 12.9 | 1.5 | 1.4 |
| **Spain** | 47.4 | 42.0 | 6.9 | 2.3 | 1.3 |
| **France** | 37.6 | 49.4 | 9.9 | 2.8 | 0.3 |
| **Croatia** | 41.9 | 49.0 | 6.6 | 2.2 | 0.3 |
| **Italy** | 53.0 | 40.0 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.4 |
| **Cyprus** | 43.1 | 44.1 | 9.3 | 3.5 | 0.0 |
| **Latvia** | 58.2 | 34.6 | 3.3 | 1.6 | 2.3 |
| **Lithuania** | 57.9 | 35.0 | 6.4 | 0.8 | 0.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | 30.4 | 52.3 | 13.4 | 3.7 | 0.2 |
| **Hungary** | 45.6 | 43.3 | 7.0 | 2.2 | 1.9 |
| **Malta** | 75.0 | 19.1 | 4.3 | 1.6 | 0.0 |
| **Netherlands** | 31.8 | 64.4 | 3.0 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| **Austria** | 55.0 | 37.9 | 5.5 | 1.6 | 0.0 |
| **Poland** | 42.1 | 46.5 | 7.3 | 2.7 | 1.4 |
| **Portugal** | 31.1 | 52.1 | 8.5 | 3.0 | 5.3 |
| **Romania** | 28.3 | 58.3 | 11.7 | 1.6 | 0.1 |
| **Slovenia** | 51.4 | 41.9 | 4.5 | 2.1 | 0.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 35.1 | 49.3 | 10.9 | 4.0 | 0.6 |
| **Finland** | 33.3 | 56.8 | 6.0 | 0.9 | 3.0 |
| **Sweden** | 69.5 | 26.1 | 3.2 | 1.2 | 0.1 |
| **United Kingdom** | 46.1 | 39.3 | 9.5 | 4.3 | 0.8 |
| **Iceland** | 46.1 | 47.8 | 4.3 | 0.6 | 1.3 |
| **Norway** | 52.2 | 41.2 | 3.1 | 0.7 | 2.8 |
| **Switzerland** | 66.0 | 27.4 | 4.5 | 1.6 | 0.5 |
| **Turkey** | 17.1 | 54.4 | 18.2 | 10.3 | 0.0 |

**Figure 2.8.1:** Interquartile range, first and fourth quartile for the answer categories of variable JBSATISF
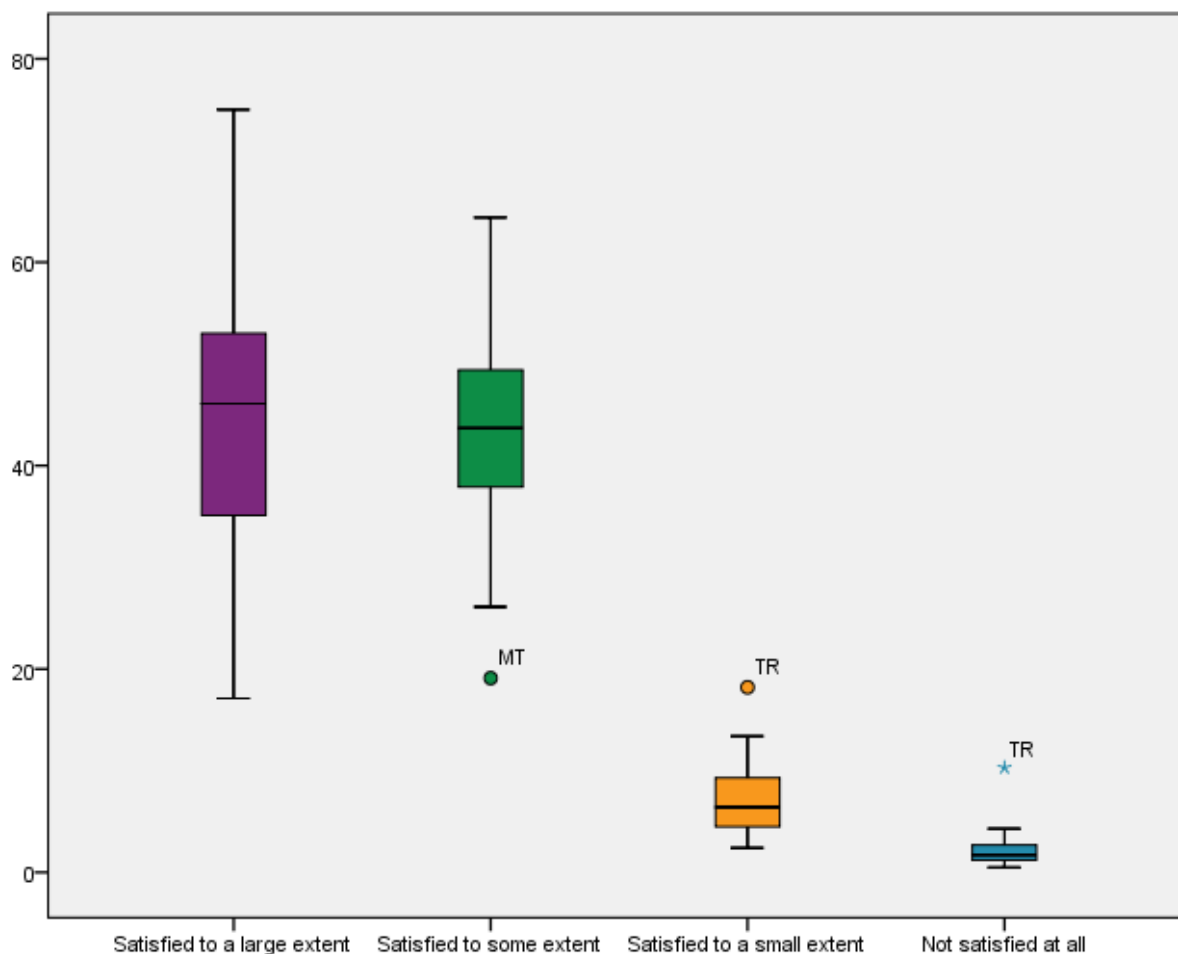


**Table 2.8.3:** Minimum, maximum and quartiles for percentages of respondents reporting every answer category of JBSATISF (all countries)

|  | Satisfied to a large extent | Satisfied to some extent | Satisfied to a small extent | Not satisfied at all | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MINIMUM** | 17.1 | 19.1 | 2.4 | 0.5 | 0.0 |
| **1st quartile** | 34.7 | 37.2 | 4.5 | 1.2 | 0.1 |
| **2nd quartile** | 46.1 | 43.5 | 6.2 | 1.7 | 0.6 |
| **3rd quartile** | 53.5 | 50.1 | 9.4 | 2.7 | 1.5 |
| **MAXIMUM** | 75.0 | 64.4 | 18.2 | 10.3 | 12.9 |

**Comments from countries on problems with implementation**

EE: Interviewers mentioned problems with proxy interviews.

HU: 1. In many cases, respondents had a different satisfaction level in terms of salary and of other features of the job, and therefore they didn't know how to answer the question.

2. The 4 point Likert scale was used, but according to some respondents a 11 point (0-10) Likert scales should have been more useful.

IE:  This question is possibly more suitable for direct interviews only.

MT: Subjective variable thus in cases when proxy interviewing is used, the collected data may not always reflect the respondent's opinion.

PT: In this type of variable (self-opinion), the response is difficult, namely in proxy interviews

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A variable with large target population, which facilitates the detailed descriptive analysis of the results. A problem with the implementation of the relevant question is the use of different scales by a number of countries, which compromises the comparability of the results (increases the share of persons who are "satisfied to some extent"). Several countries point to the fact that the question is not suitable for proxy interviews. We should indicate that the very large percentage of persons reporting that are satisfied to large or some extent, can be an indication of social desirability bias in the responses.

# 9. AUTONOMY: Job autonomy

## TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### Definition of the variable

*The level of influence over content and order of tasks in the main job.*

### Target population

All persons working (Core variable WSTATOR = 1, 2)

### Purpose of the variable

The variable aims to measure the respondents' influence over own daily work, on the level of content and order of tasks.

### Link to core LFS

The filter of the variable is based on variable WSTATOR.

### Data set codes

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Able to influence both contents and order of tasks |
| 2 | Able to influence contents but not order of tasks |
| 3 | Able to influence order but not contents of tasks |
| 4 | Not able to influence contents, nor order of tasks |
| 9 | Not applicable (not included in the filter) |
| Blank | No answer / Don't know |

### Model questionnaire

....................................................................................................................

All persons in employment / WSTATOR = 1,2

Q1_Autonomy

*Do you have influence over the content of your tasks?*

(1) Yes

(2) No

Cannot say

Any answer                                     GO TO Q2_Autonomy

Q2_Autonomy

*Do you have influence over the order of your tasks?*

(1) Yes

(2) No

Cannot say

(Any answer) AND (STAPRO = 1,2)        GO TO Q1_Preference

(Any answer) AND (STAPRO = 3)          GO TO Q2_Preference

(Any answer) AND (STAPRO = 4)          GO TO Q3_Preference

## QUALITY ASSESSMENT

### National implementation of the questionnaire

All countries used two questions for this variable, as proposed in the model questionnaire. Several countries changed slightly the formulation of the questions (asking, for example, if the respondent has the possibility to influence content or order of tasks) or/and providing examples to explain what **"influence"** means (Greece, Cyprus and Italy). The United Kingdom made reference not to the content but to the **type** of work, while Denmark and Hungary used different answer categories (**to a great extent, to some extent, to a lesser extent, not at all**) and (**yes, always; yes, most of the time; yes, but only rarely; never**).

### Number of questions per variable

| AUTONOMY | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(The model questionnaire proposed 2 questions)* | | | | | | | |
| **Belgium** | 2 | **Spain** | 2 | **Hungary** | 2 | **Slovakia** | 2 |
| **Bulgaria** | 2 | **France** | 2 | **Malta** | 2 | **Finland** | 2 |
| **Czech Republic** | 2 | **Croatia** | 2 | **Netherlands** | 2 | **Sweden** | 2 |
| **Denmark** | 2 | **Italy** | 2 | **Austria** | 2 | **United Kingdom** | 2 |
| **Germany** | 2 | **Cyprus** | 2 | **Poland** | 2 | **Iceland** | *NA* |
| **Estonia** | 2 | **Latvia** | 2 | **Portugal** | 2 | **Norway** | 2 |
| **Ireland** | 2 | **Lithuania** | 2 | **Romania** | 2 | **Switzerland** | 2 |
| **Greece** | 2 | **Luxembourg** | 2 | **Slovenia** | 2 | **Turkey** | 2 |

## Estimations above publication thresholds

If we analyse the answers to variable AUTONOMY by country and by age group (15 – 24, 25 – 34, …, 65 – 74, 75+), occupation (coded at 1-digit level of ISCO), sector of economy (coded at 1-digit level of NACE) or sex, the estimates are in most cases above the publication threshold. Table 2.9.1 presents the situation by country.

**Table 2.9.1:** Percentage of estimations that can be published when analyzing variable AUTONOMY by COUNTRY and AGE, ISCO, NACE or SEX

| | AGE | ISCO | NACE | SEX |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belgium** | 82.1 | 95.0 | 84.5 | 100.0 |
| **Bulgaria** | 64.3 | 72.5 | 59.5 | 100.0 |
| **Czechia** | 92.9 | 97.5 | 94.0 | 100.0 |
| **Denmark** | 82.1 | 82.5 | 71.4 | 100.0 |
| **Germany** | 82.1 | 90.0 | 73.8 | 100.0 |
| **Estonia** | 78.6 | 75.0 | 58.3 | 100.0 |
| **Ireland** | 85.7 | 97.5 | 76.2 | 100.0 |
| **Greece** | 85.7 | 100.0 | 85.7 | 100.0 |
| **Spain** | 89.3 | 100.0 | 95.2 | 100.0 |
| **France** | 75.0 | 92.5 | 79.8 | 100.0 |
| **Croatia** | 75.0 | 72.5 | 58.3 | 100.0 |
| **Italy** | 96.4 | 100.0 | 95.2 | 100.0 |
| **Cyprus** | 82.1 | 85.0 | 71.4 | 100.0 |
| **Latvia** | 78.6 | 75.0 | 63.1 | 100.0 |
| **Lithuania** | 67.9 | 70.0 | 59.5 | 100.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | 64.3 | 62.5 | 38.1 | 100.0 |
| **Hungary** | 82.1 | 92.5 | 77.4 | 100.0 |
| **Malta** | 78.6 | 80.0 | 59.5 | 100.0 |
| **Netherlands** | 96.4 | 100.0 | 91.7 | 100.0 |
| **Austria** | 85.7 | 90.0 | 76.2 | 100.0 |
| **Poland** | 89.3 | 100.0 | 95.2 | 100.0 |
| **Portugal** | 82.1 | 82.5 | 70.2 | 100.0 |
| **Romania** | 82.1 | 90.0 | 73.8 | 100.0 |
| **Slovenia** | 78.6 | 95.0 | 73.8 | 100.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 75.0 | 77.5 | 64.3 | 100.0 |
| **Finland** | 85.7 | 90.0 | 82.1 | 100.0 |
| **Sweden** | 85.7 | 87.5 | 76.2 | 100.0 |
| **United Kingdom** | 96.4 | 100.0 | 95.2 | 100.0 |
| **Iceland** | 82.1 | 72.5 | 54.8 | 100.0 |
| **Norway** | 82.1 | 90.0 | 67.9 | 100.0 |
| **Switzerland** | 100.0 | 95.0 | 97.6 | 100.0 |
| **Turkey** | 96.4 | 90.0 | 96.4 | 100.0 |

### Non-response rate

With the exception of Luxembourg (and to a smaller degree of Ireland), the (weighted) non-response rate is small.

## ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

### Univariate distribution by country

The most common answers are that respondents can influence both content and order of their tasks (45.6% at EU level) or that they are not able to influence neither the content or order of tasks (33.1%). There is a large group of countries (Austria, Spain, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Hungary, Iceland, Portugal, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland and Denmark) where more than 50% of the workers report a large degree of autonomy while in a smaller group (Bulgaria, Turkey, Croatia, Romania, Cyprus and Slovakia) the majority reports inability to influence either content or order of tasks.

**Table 2.9.2:** Percentage of respondents reporting each answer category in AUTONOMY by country

| | Able to influence both contents and order of tasks | Able to influence contents but not order of tasks | Able to influence order but not contents of tasks | Not able to influence contents, nor order of tasks | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EU-28** | 45.6 | 4.8 | 14.6 | 33.1 | 2.0 |
| **Belgium** | 54.1 | 4.5 | 11.8 | 29.7 | 0.0 |
| **Bulgaria** | 20.0 | 0.6 | 11.3 | 67.6 | 0.6 |
| **Czechia** | 41.2 | 5.0 | 13.0 | 40.5 | 0.3 |
| **Denmark** | 74.1 | 7.0 | 7.3 | 11.6 | 0.0 |
| **Germany** | 37.1 | 3.7 | 20.2 | 33.8 | 5.3 |
| **Estonia** | 44.7 | 2.7 | 22.6 | 29.2 | 0.8 |
| **Ireland** | 45.4 | 2.7 | 11.9 | 26.0 | 14.0 |
| **Greece** | 34.1 | 2.4 | 18.0 | 44.1 | 1.5 |
| **Spain** | 50.7 | 4.8 | 10.4 | 31.6 | 2.5 |
| **France** | 55.8 | 8.9 | 13.8 | 21.3 | 0.2 |
| **Croatia** | 18.0 | 1.4 | 17.8 | 62.5 | 0.3 |
| **Italy** | 45.9 | 5.1 | 9.5 | 38.4 | 1.1 |
| **Cyprus** | 15.0 | 1.6 | 26.6 | 56.7 | 0.0 |
| **Latvia** | 35.1 | 2.4 | 21.8 | 39.3 | 1.5 |
| **Lithuania** | 25.4 | 1.2 | 24.8 | 48.6 | 0.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | 40.8 | 5.2 | 13.2 | 16.4 | 24.3 |
| **Hungary** | 57.5 | 1.8 | 13.8 | 24.8 | 2.0 |
| **Malta** | 39.6 | 4.9 | 10.7 | 44.8 | 0.0 |
| **Netherlands** | 56.6 | 7.7 | 12.7 | 21.5 | 1.4 |
| **Austria** | 50.4 | 3.9 | 19.2 | 26.5 | 0.0 |
| **Poland** | 42.1 | 2.7 | 16.5 | 37.2 | 1.4 |
| **Portugal** | 59.4 | 5.2 | 10.0 | 20.2 | 5.2 |
| **Romania** | 32.9 | 1.6 | 6.0 | 59.4 | 0.1 |
| **Slovenia** | 43.9 | 4.0 | 11.3 | 40.9 | 0.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 23.7 | 1.1 | 20.6 | 53.9 | 0.8 |
| **Finland** | 64.5 | 6.8 | 15.5 | 10.3 | 2.9 |
| **Sweden** | 64.5 | 7.0 | 16.1 | 11.7 | 0.7 |
| **United Kingdom** | 44.1 | 4.9 | 16.0 | 34.1 | 0.9 |
| **Iceland** | 59.1 | 7.5 | 16.1 | 16.6 | 0.7 |
| **Norway** | 61.4 | 8.4 | 10.0 | 16.5 | 3.7 |
| **Switzerland** | 61.7 | 5.5 | 17.5 | 14.2 | 1.1 |
| **Turkey** | 26.9 | 1.7 | 7.0 | 63.4 | 1.0 |

**Figure 2.9.1:** Interquartile range, first and fourth quartile for the answer categories of variable AUTONOMY
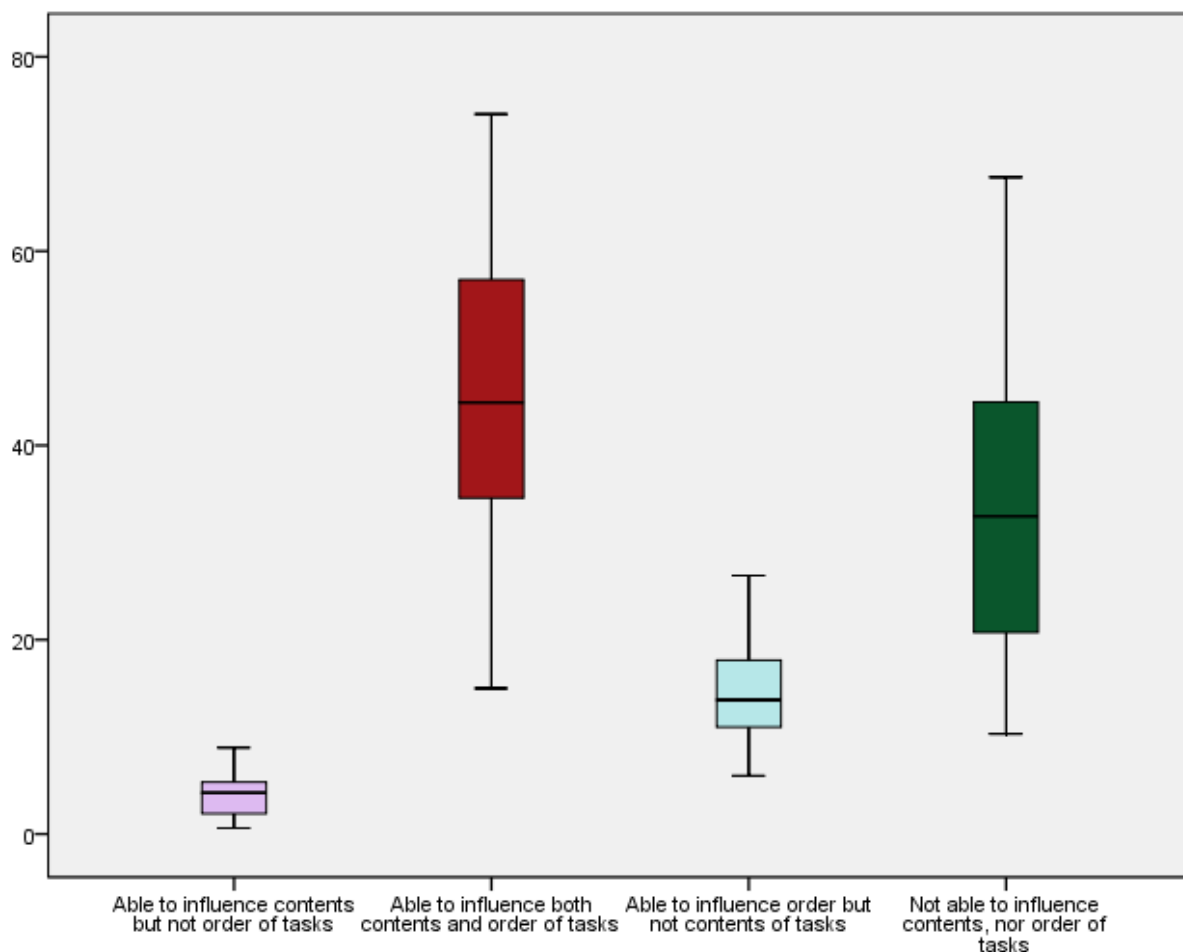


**Table 2.9.3:** Minimum, maximum and quartiles for percentages of respondents reporting every answer category of AUTONOMY (all countries)

|  | Able to influence both contents and order of tasks | Able to influence contents but not order of tasks | Able to influence order but not contents of tasks | Not able to influence contents, nor order of tasks | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MINIMUM** | 15.0 | 0.6 | 6.0 | 10.3 | 0.0 |
| **1st quartile** | 34.9 | 2.3 | 11.2 | 21.0 | 0.2 |
| **2nd quartile** | 44.4 | 4.3 | 13.8 | 32.7 | 0.9 |
| **3rd quartile** | 56.8 | 5.3 | 17.9 | 44.3 | 1.6 |
| **MAXIMUM** | 74.1 | 8.9 | 26.6 | 67.6 | 24.3 |

**Comments from countries on problems with implementation**

EE: Interviewers mentioned problems with proxy interviews.

IT: Requested for specific examples to help the respondents to better understand the meaning of the question, especially referring to content. Intermediate category (as in AHM 2019) should be preferred. Interviewers reported that they repeated the question several times to be understood.

MT:  Subjective variable thus in cases when proxy interviewing is used, the collected data may not always reflect the respondent's opinion.

PT: In this type of variable (self-opinion) the response is difficult, namely in proxy interviews.

SK: In the short sentence the meaning of content and order of tasks was fading, excessively general formulation.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A variable with interesting results, low non-response and similar implementation by all countries. The main reported problem refers to the fact that the question is not suitable for proxy interviews. The use of the same variant as in AHM 2019 is recommended in a repetition of the module. Its use in the definition of Dependent Self-employed can be also considered.

# 10. PREFSTAP: Preferred professional status in the main job

## TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### Definition of the variable

*Preference to work as an employee if currently self-employed, or preference to work as self-employed if currently working as an employee.*

### Target population

All persons working (Core variable WSTATOR = 1, 2).

### Purpose of the variable

To see if respondents would rather work in another STAPRO category.

### Link to core LFS

The filter of the variable is based on variable WSTATOR.

### Data set codes

1               Does not want to change professional status

2               Is self-employed but wishes to work as an employee

3               Is working as an employee or family worker but wishes to be self-employed

9 Not applicable (not included in the filter)

Blank           No answer / Don't know

## Model questionnaire

Self-employed / STAPRO = 1,2

Q1_Preference

*Would you rather work as an employee or as self-employed?*

(1) As an employee

(2) As self-employed

Cannot say

| | |
|---|---|
| Any answer | END |

Employee / STAPRO = 3

Q2_Preference

*Would you rather work as an employee or as self-employed?*

| | |
|---|---|
| (1) As self-employed | GO TO Q1_Obstacle |
| (2) As an employee | END |
| Cannot say | END |

Family worker / STAPRO = 4

Q3_Preference

*Would you rather work as a family worker or as self-employed?*

| | |
|---|---|
| (1) As self-employed | GO TO Q1_Obstacle |
| (2) As a family worker | END |
| Cannot say | END |

## QUALITY ASSESSMENT

### National implementation of the questionnaire

In general, countries followed 2 main approaches in implementing the questions for this variable. The majority used the proposed model questionnaire while the rest of the countries asked if the respondent would prefer to change their current professional status (asking, for example, an employee if would prefer to work as a self-employed).

Portugal used different formulations for people having two jobs. The Netherlands used only one question **("Generally do you prefer to work as an employee or as a self-employed person?"** and added an extra answer category **("other/neither"**). Malta also used only one question ("**Would you prefer to work as self-employed"**). Denmark used two different formulations for family workers

and Spain used two different formulations for cooperative members. Norway, Luxembourg and Latvia added the precision **"if you could choose"**. The same precision was added by Portugal and Romania, in the case of family workers.

## Number of questions per variable

| PREFSTAP | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(Model questionnaire proposed 3 questions)* | | | | | | | |
| **Belgium** | 3 | **Spain** | 4 | **Hungary** | 3 | **Slovakia** | 2 |
| **Bulgaria** | 3 | **France** | 2 | **Malta** | 1 | **Finland** | 3 |
| **Czech Republic** | 3 | **Croatia** | 3 | **Netherlands** | 1 | **Sweden** | 3 |
| **Denmark** | 4 | **Italy** | 3 | **Austria** | 3 | **United Kingdom** | 3 |
| **Germany** | 2 | **Cyprus** | 3 | **Poland** | 3 | **Iceland** | *NA* |
| **Estonia** | 3 | **Latvia** | 3 | **Portugal** | 6 | **Norway** | 3 |
| **Ireland** | 3 | **Lithuania** | 3 | **Romania** | 3 | **Switzerland** | 2 |
| **Greece** | 2 | **Luxembourg** | 3 | **Slovenia** | 3 | **Turkey** | 2 |

## Estimations above publication thresholds

If we analyze the answers to variable PREFSTAP by country and by age group (15 – 24, 25 – 34, …, 65 – 74, 75+), occupation (coded at 1-digit level of ISCO), sector of economy (coded at 1-digit level of NACE) or sex, the estimates are in most cases above the publication threshold. Table 2.10.1 presents the situation by country.

**Table 2.10.1:** Percentage of estimations that can be published when analyzing variable PREFSTAP by COUNTRY and AGE, ISCO, NACE or SEX

| | AGE | ISCO | NACE | SEX |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belgium** | 76.2 | 83.3 | 68.3 | 100.0 |
| **Bulgaria** | 71.4 | 70.0 | 58.7 | 100.0 |
| **Czechia** | 90.5 | 86.7 | 88.9 | 100.0 |
| **Denmark** | 66.7 | 73.3 | 54.0 | 100.0 |
| **Germany** | 71.4 | 70.0 | 50.8 | 100.0 |
| **Estonia** | 52.4 | 63.3 | 49.2 | 100.0 |
| **Ireland** | 76.2 | 83.3 | 66.7 | 100.0 |
| **Greece** | 90.5 | 93.3 | 82.5 | 100.0 |
| **Spain** | 85.7 | 96.7 | 87.3 | 100.0 |
| **France** | 71.4 | 80.0 | 58.7 | 100.0 |
| **Croatia** | 66.7 | 60.0 | 55.6 | 100.0 |
| **Italy** | 90.5 | 96.7 | 88.9 | 100.0 |
| **Cyprus** | 81.0 | 83.3 | 68.3 | 100.0 |
| **Latvia** | 66.7 | 66.7 | 46.0 | 100.0 |
| **Lithuania** | 61.9 | 60.0 | 42.9 | 100.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | 47.6 | 56.7 | 41.3 | 83.3 |
| **Hungary** | 66.7 | 73.3 | 58.7 | 100.0 |
| **Malta** | 66.7 | 66.7 | 47.6 | 100.0 |
| **Netherlands** | 95.2 | 103.3 | 87.3 | 100.0 |
| **Austria** | 76.2 | 80.0 | 60.3 | 100.0 |
| **Poland** | 81.0 | 96.7 | 77.8 | 100.0 |
| **Portugal** | 81.0 | 80.0 | 68.3 | 100.0 |
| **Romania** | 85.7 | 80.0 | 60.3 | 100.0 |
| **Slovenia** | 76.2 | 90.0 | 66.7 | 100.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 71.4 | 73.3 | 49.2 | 100.0 |
| **Finland** | 81.0 | 86.7 | 69.8 | 100.0 |
| **Sweden** | 71.4 | 66.7 | 57.1 | 100.0 |
| **United Kingdom** | 95.2 | 100.0 | 88.9 | 100.0 |
| **Iceland** | 52.4 | 53.3 | 42.9 | 100.0 |
| **Norway** | 71.4 | 63.3 | 50.8 | 100.0 |
| **Switzerland** | 95.2 | 90.0 | 90.5 | 100.0 |
| **Turkey** | 100.0 | 90.0 | 92.1 | 100.0 |

## Non-response rate

The (weighted) non-response is less than 15%([15]) and exceeds 10% only in Germany and Ireland.

([15]) With the exception of Luxembourg

## ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

### Univariate distribution by country

In all countries([16]) the vast majority of employed persons report that they do not want to change professional status. At EU level, the corresponding percentage is 84.7% and ranges from 72.1% (Portugal) to 94.8% (the Czech Republic). The other answer categories were selected by small groups of respondents. The rate of self-employed who would like to work as employees is quite small (2.3% at EU level) and only in 3 countries is more than 5% (Greece, Italy and Romania). The percentage of employees or family workers who would prefer to work as self-employed is 7.8% at EU level and (with the exception of Luxembourg) only in 8 countries is more than 10%.

**Table 2.10.2:** Percentage of respondents reporting each answer category in PREFSTAP by country

| | Does not want to change professional status | Is self-employed but wishes to work as an employee | Is working as an employee or family worker but wishes to be self-employed | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EU-28** | 84.7 | 2.3 | 7.8 | 5.2 |
| **Belgium** | 91.9 | 1.6 | 6.4 | 0.0 |
| **Bulgaria** | 84.9 | 2.1 | 12.5 | 0.6 |
| **Czechia** | 94.8 | 1.6 | 2.9 | 0.7 |
| **Denmark** | 86.7 | 0.7 | 12.5 | 0.1 |
| **Germany** | 82.8 | 0.7 | 4.1 | 12.4 |
| **Estonia** | 84.2 | 1.1 | 12.4 | 2.2 |
| **Ireland** | 80.0 | 1.1 | 4.9 | 14.0 |
| **Greece** | 81.2 | 8.9 | 6.8 | 3.0 |
| **Spain** | 82.3 | 3.5 | 8.3 | 5.9 |
| **France** | 85.3 | 1.6 | 10.9 | 2.2 |
| **Croatia** | 85.9 | 1.4 | 10.0 | 2.7 |
| **Italy** | 83.8 | 5.9 | 8.3 | 1.9 |
| **Cyprus** | 90.4 | 4.1 | 5.5 | 0.0 |
| **Latvia** | 84.3 | 2.2 | 9.4 | 4.1 |
| **Lithuania** | 91.7 | 1.1 | 7.2 | 0.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | 24.4 | 1.5 | 49.0 | 25.1 |
| **Hungary** | 84.2 | 0.4 | 7.8 | 7.6 |
| **Malta** | 86.3 | 1.5 | 12.2 | 0.0 |
| **Netherlands** | 82.7 | 1.2 | 8.4 | 7.6 |
| **Austria** | 91.1 | 1.0 | 7.9 | 0.0 |
| **Poland** | 84.1 | 2.2 | 5.9 | 7.7 |
| **Portugal** | 72.1 | 2.4 | 17.2 | 8.3 |
| **Romania** | 84.5 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 4.7 |
| **Slovenia** | 92.0 | 2.3 | 5.6 | 0.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 90.7 | 2.5 | 5.8 | 0.9 |
| **Finland** | 88.5 | 1.2 | 6.0 | 4.3 |
| **Sweden** | 86.7 | 0.7 | 9.8 | 2.8 |
| **United Kingdom** | 87.1 | 1.5 | 9.4 | 2.0 |
| **Iceland** | 82.0 | 1.1 | 12.2 | 4.7 |
| **Norway** | 85.4 | 1.2 | 7.3 | 6.1 |
| **Switzerland** | 83.6 | 1.3 | 12.4 | 2.7 |
| **Turkey** | 81.5 | 4.5 | 14.0 | 0.0 |

([16]) With the exception of Luxembourg

**Figure 2.10.1:** Interquartile range, first and fourth quartile for the answer categories of variable PREFSTAP
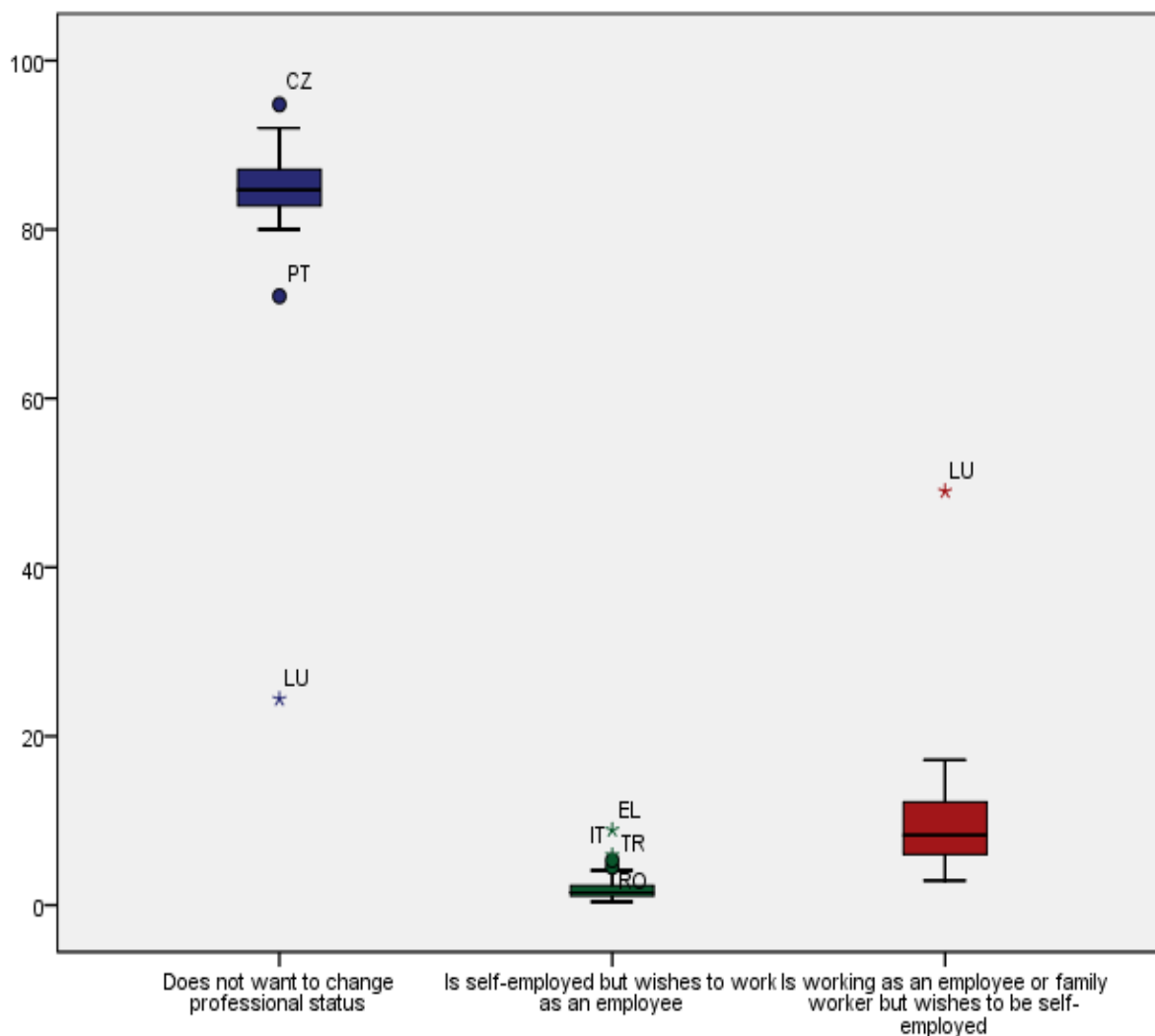


**Table 2.10.3:** Minimum, maximum and quartiles for percentages of respondents reporting every answer category of PREFSTAP (all countries)

|  | Does not want to change professional status | Is self-employed but wishes to work as an employee | Is working as an employee or family worker but wishes to be self-employed | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MINIMUM** | 24.4 | 0.4 | 2.9 | 0.0 |
| **1st quartile** | 82.8 | 1.1 | 6.0 | 0.5 |
| **2nd quartile** | 84.7 | 1.5 | 8.3 | 2.7 |
| **3rd quartile** | 87.5 | 2.3 | 12.2 | 6.0 |
| **MAXIMUM** | 94.8 | 8.9 | 49.0 | 25.1 |

**Comments from countries on problems with implementation**

EE: Interviewers mentioned problems with proxy interviews.

FR:  The STCR/STAPRO filtering discrepancy was stronger with this variable, and resulted in some additional non response.

HR: In the cases of proxy in questions Q1_Preference, Q2_Preference and Q3_Preference it was very hard for interviewers to obtain an answer. For such subjective questions proxy answers should not be allowed.

IT: People with second job and family workers that consider themselves independent, have some difficulty with this question.

MT:  Subjective variable thus in cases proxy interviewing is used, the collected data may not always reflect the respondent's opinion.

PT: In this type of variable (self-opinion) the response is difficult, namely in proxy interviews.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The variable seems to provide only the information that the vast majority of workers would prefer not to change professional status. The percentage of respondents who would prefer to work as self-employed is small and, consequently, the target population of variable OBSTACSE is quite small.

Countries mention mainly the issue that the question is not suitable for proxy interviews.

# 11. OBSTACSE: Main reason for not becoming self-employed

## TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### Definition of the variable

*The main reason why current employees or family workers who wish they were self-employed have not switched to their preferred professional status.*

### Target population

All employees or family workers who wish to be self-employed.

### Purpose of the variable

The purpose is to know what is keeping employees and family workers from changing to being self-employed, if they have said that they would like to be self-employed.

### Link to core LFS

No direct link

### Data set codes

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Financial insecurity |
| 2 | Difficulties with getting financing for the business |
| 3 | Too much stress, responsibilities, or risk |
| 4 | Less coverage from social protection |
| 5 | Other reason |
| 9 | Not applicable (not included in the filter) |
| Blank | No answer / Don't know |

## Model questionnaire

Employee or family worker who wants to be self-employed / PREFSTAP=3

Q1_Obstacle

*What is the main reason you have for not following your wish of becoming self-employed?*

Read out the answer options

(1) Financial insecurity

(2) Cannot get finance for the business

(3) Too much stress, responsibilities, or risk

(4) Less coverage from social protection

(5) Other reasons than mentioned

Cannot say

Any answer                                    END

## QUALITY ASSESSMENT

### National implementation of the questionnaire

Most countries (22) used the question proposed in the model questionnaire. The United Kingdom and Denmark asked a yes/no question for each of the reasons and a follow-up question on which of the yes answers corresponds to the main one. The Netherlands asked about the reason for not being a self-employed **now**.

The answer categories are in general the same, with a few exceptions. Latvia used the extra answer category **"too high administrative burden"** and Poland used the extra answer category **"I'm during the process of becoming self-employed (fixing the formalities)"**.

Austria, Estonia and Ireland added an extra open question to identify the reason for not be self-employed that was addressed to all persons that answered in the first question with "other".

## Number of questions per variable

| OBSTACSE | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(The model questionnaire proposed 1 question)* | | | | | | | |
| **Belgium** | 1 | **Spain** | 1 | **Hungary** | 1 | **Slovakia** | 1 |
| **Bulgaria** | 1 | **France** | 1 | **Malta** | 1 | **Finland** | 1 |
| **Czech Republic** | 1 | **Croatia** | 1 | **Netherlands** | 1 | **Sweden** | 1 |
| **Denmark** | 2 | **Italy** | 1 | **Austria** | 2 | **United Kingdom** | 2 |
| **Germany** | 1 | **Cyprus** | 1 | **Poland** | 1 | **Iceland** | *NA* |
| **Estonia** | 2 | **Latvia** | 1 | **Portugal** | 1 | **Norway** | 1 |
| **Ireland** | 2 | **Lithuania** | 1 | **Romania** | 1 | **Switzerland** | 1 |
| **Greece** | 1 | **Luxembourg** | 1 | **Slovenia** | 1 | **Turkey** | 1 |

## Estimations above publication thresholds

If we analyse the answers to variable OBSTACSE by country and by age group (15 – 24, 25 – 34, …, 65 – 74, 75+), occupation (coded at 1-digit level of ISCO), sector of economy (coded at 1-digit level of NACE) or sex, the estimates are in most cases above the publication threshold. Table 2.11.1 presents the situation by country.

**Table 2.11.1:** Percentage of estimations that can be published when analysing variable OBSTACSE by COUNTRY and AGE, ISCO, NACE or SEX

| | AGE | ISCO | NACE | SEX |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Belgium** | 54.3 | 58.0 | 33.3 | 100.0 |
| **Bulgaria** | 45.7 | 38.0 | 20.0 | 80.0 |
| **Czechia** | 62.9 | 64.0 | 34.3 | 100.0 |
| **Denmark** | 45.7 | 46.0 | 24.8 | 90.0 |
| **Germany** | 25.7 | 18.0 | 6.7 | 70.0 |
| **Estonia** | 40.0 | 30.0 | 8.6 | 80.0 |
| **Ireland** | 42.9 | 40.0 | 18.1 | 80.0 |
| **Greece** | 54.3 | 62.0 | 42.9 | 90.0 |
| **Spain** | 65.7 | 84.0 | 68.6 | 100.0 |
| **France** | 48.6 | 40.0 | 16.2 | 100.0 |
| **Croatia** | 28.6 | 24.0 | 8.6 | 70.0 |
| **Italy** | 68.6 | 84.0 | 75.2 | 100.0 |
| **Cyprus** | 37.1 | 28.0 | 11.4 | 90.0 |
| **Latvia** | 22.9 | 18.0 | 4.8 | 80.0 |
| **Lithuania** | 20.0 | 10.0 | 2.9 | 80.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Hungary** | 48.6 | 44.0 | 26.7 | 90.0 |
| **Malta** | 42.9 | 38.0 | 9.5 | 80.0 |
| **Netherlands** | 71.4 | 82.0 | 56.2 | 100.0 |
| **Austria** | 57.1 | 50.0 | 21.0 | 100.0 |
| **Poland** | 60.0 | 66.0 | 46.7 | 100.0 |
| **Portugal** | 54.3 | 52.0 | 32.4 | 100.0 |
| **Romania** | 48.6 | 42.0 | 14.3 | 90.0 |
| **Slovenia** | 48.6 | 36.0 | 14.3 | 100.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 28.6 | 20.0 | 6.7 | 70.0 |
| **Finland** | 42.9 | 36.0 | 22.9 | 90.0 |
| **Sweden** | 51.4 | 42.0 | 23.8 | 80.0 |
| **United Kingdom** | 68.6 | 68.0 | 53.3 | 100.0 |
| **Iceland** | 25.7 | 12.0 | 4.8 | 70.0 |
| **Norway** | 31.4 | 22.0 | 10.5 | 80.0 |
| **Switzerland** | 74.3 | 78.0 | 65.7 | 100.0 |
| **Turkey** | 74.3 | 88.0 | 74.3 | 100.0 |

## Non-response rate

The (weighted) non-response is in general low (lower than 15%) for all countries, with the exception of Luxembourg which did not provide any results for variable OBSTACSE.

## ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

### Univariate distribution by country

Financial insecurity is the most frequent reported reason for not becoming self-employed at EU level (39.3%). Difficulties with financing is the second more frequently reported reason, though in some countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Croatia and Turkey) this reason is reported by more than 55% of the respondents. The answer "other reason" was selected by 24.9% of the respondents (at EU level) but in several countries (Denmark, Estonia, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, Iceland and Switzerland) it is the most frequent answer selected by respondents.

**Table 2.11.2:** Percentage of respondents reporting each answer category in OBSTACSE by country

| | Financial insecurity | Difficulties with getting financing for the business | Too much stress, responsibilities, or risk | Less coverage from social protection | Other reason | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EU-28** | 39.3 | 19.5 | 9.8 | 3.6 | 24.9 | 3.0 |
| **Belgium** | 39.9 | 14.6 | 7.4 | 8.2 | 30.0 | 0.0 |
| **Bulgaria** | 24.0 | 57.2 | 12.4 | 0.0 | 6.1 | 0.0 |
| **Czechia** | 28.9 | 23.3 | 16.1 | 2.1 | 28.8 | 0.8 |
| **Denmark** | 31.6 | 12.3 | 6.0 | 2.1 | 41.4 | 6.7 |
| **Germany** | 37.2 | 5.5 | 7.5 | 6.9 | 29.9 | 13.0 |
| **Estonia** | 30.4 | 17.5 | 12.5 | 3.2 | 35.4 | 1.1 |
| **Ireland** | 49.6 | 11.7 | 13.6 | 2.8 | 21.4 | 1.0 |
| **Greece** | 47.0 | 30.0 | 7.9 | 0.7 | 13.7 | 0.7 |
| **Spain** | 37.4 | 37.2 | 5.7 | 1.8 | 16.7 | 1.2 |
| **France** | 42.7 | 13.7 | 9.9 | 4.4 | 29.3 | 0.0 |
| **Croatia** | 22.3 | 56.5 | 5.4 | 0.0 | 14.0 | 0.7 |
| **Italy** | 50.4 | 16.7 | 14.7 | 6.0 | 11.9 | 0.4 |
| **Cyprus** | 28.2 | 37.6 | 11.1 | 6.0 | 17.2 | 0.0 |
| **Latvia** | 32.7 | 23.9 | 10.3 | 0.0 | 28.1 | 2.2 |
| **Lithuania** | 36.0 | 10.9 | 23.7 | 11.3 | 18.1 | 0.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| **Hungary** | 25.3 | 60.4 | 7.2 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 1.1 |
| **Malta** | 42.8 | 19.2 | 19.6 | 0.0 | 17.3 | 0.0 |
| **Netherlands** | 29.1 | 12.7 | 5.3 | 2.3 | 49.9 | 0.8 |
| **Austria** | 36.8 | 16.4 | 13.2 | 5.9 | 27.7 | 0.0 |
| **Poland** | 25.7 | 36.9 | 15.0 | 1.3 | 15.8 | 5.3 |
| **Portugal** | 43.4 | 31.8 | 7.2 | 2.9 | 14.1 | 0.6 |
| **Romania** | 39.0 | 36.7 | 12.0 | 3.4 | 8.9 | 0.0 |
| **Slovenia** | 37.7 | 9.7 | 10.8 | 7.7 | 34.1 | 0.0 |
| **Slovakia** | 36.6 | 33.2 | 18.9 | 5.1 | 6.2 | 0.0 |
| **Finland** | 31.0 | 5.8 | 7.3 | 2.7 | 51.9 | 1.3 |
| **Sweden** | 30.9 | 6.9 | 7.1 | 0.0 | 51.7 | 2.9 |
| **United Kingdom** | 46.2 | 7.7 | 10.0 | 2.7 | 32.3 | 1.1 |
| **Iceland** | 26.5 | 14.2 | 9.7 | 2.0 | 43.5 | 4.1 |
| **Norway** | 44.1 | 7.9 | 10.4 | 0.0 | 32.6 | 2.6 |
| **Switzerland** | 34.7 | 13.8 | 9.3 | 1.8 | 37.9 | 2.5 |
| **Turkey** | 30.8 | 55.3 | 5.4 | 0.7 | 7.8 | 0.0 |

**Figure 2.11.1:** Interquartile range, first and fourth quartile for the answer categories of variable **OBSTACSE**
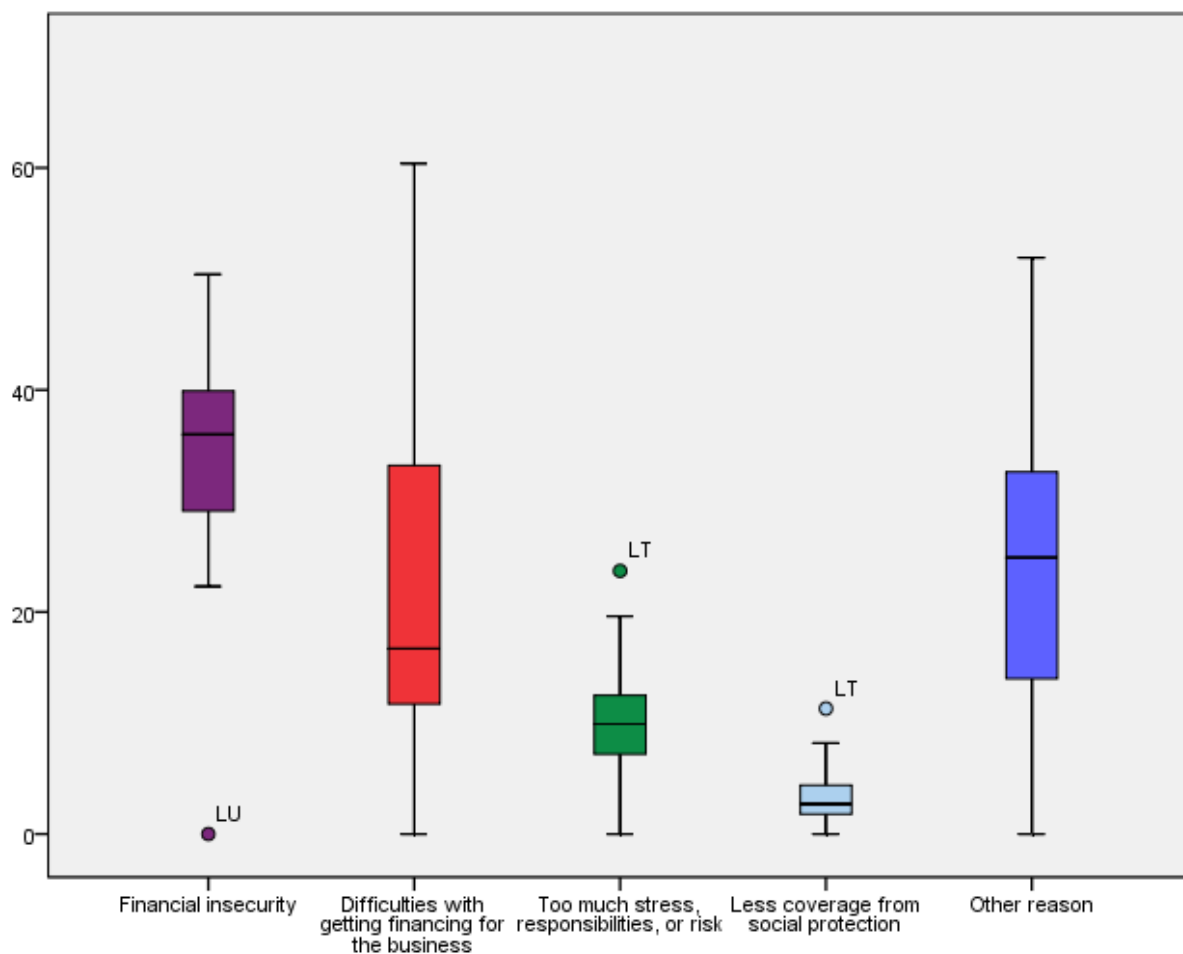


**Table 2.11.3:** Minimum, maximum and quartiles for percentages of respondents reporting every answer category of OBSTACSE (all countries)[17]

|  | Financial insecurity | Difficulties with getting financing for the business | Too much stress, responsibilities, or risk | Less coverage from social protection | Other reason | No answer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MINIMUM** | 22.3 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 0.3 | 4.0 | 0.0 |
| **1st quartile** | 29.8 | 12.0 | 7.3 | 1.8 | 14.1 | 0.0 |
| **2nd quartile** | 36.0 | 16.7 | 10.0 | 2.7 | 27.7 | 0.8 |
| **3rd quartile** | 41.3 | 35.0 | 12.9 | 4.8 | 33.4 | 1.8 |
| **MAXIMUM** | 50.4 | 60.4 | 23.7 | 11.3 | 51.9 | 13.0 |

([17]) Luxembourg data were not used in the table

**Comments from countries on problems with implementation**

AT: 27.7% indicated Code 5 "Other reason", this shows that the existing answering categories are not sufficient. As we had an additional follow-up question if Code 5 "Other reason" was indicated, we are at least able to split the 27.7% into different groups for national analysis. Some - in the follow-up question - mentioned individual reasons that corresponded to one of the listed answering possibilities and could be put there.

EE: Respondents who are self-employed in the secondary job consider this question inappropriate (are coded as 'other reason'). The share of category 'other reason' is too large (35%).

HU: Understanding of social protection caused problem to the respondents.

IT: The lack of a reference period was a problem for some respondents.

PL: In the OBSTACSE variable we didn`t know how to treat persons who already started the process of becoming self-employed (currently they are fixing the formalities).

PT: In this type of variable (self-opinion) the response is difficult, namely in proxy interviews. In addition, there were too many response options.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There are some important issues with variable OBSTACSE. The category "other" collects one fourth of the responses at EU level (24.9%). If we take into account the small target population, the possibility of a meaningful analysis of the results is questionable. In case of a repetition of the module, the particular variable should be excluded or thoroughly reconstructed.

# Economically dependent self-employed

One of the main purposes of the 2017 ad-hoc module was the estimation of the number of dependent self-employed.

According to the operational definition adopted by Eurostat, the economically dependent self-employed (ESDE) were defined as self-employed without employees who worked during the last 12 months before the reference week of the survey for only one client or for a dominant client[18] and this client decides about his/her working hours.

In terms of the LFS ad-hoc variables, ESDE persons are those who have:

STAPRO = 2 (self-employed without employees)

MAINCLNT = 2, 3, 5 (self-employed with only one or one dominant client)

WORKORG = 2 (client decides his/hers working hours)

For the creation of the variable EDSE the following trans-codification scheme is used:

Table 2.12.1: Definition of variable Dependent self-employed

| STAPRO | MAINCLNT | WORKORG | EDSEs |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 1, 4, 6 | 1, 2, 3, 9, blank | 0 (NO) |
| 2 | 2, 3, 5 | 1,3 | 0 (NO) |
| 2 | 2, 3, 5 | 2 | 1 (Yes) |
| 2 | 2, 3, 5 | blank | Blank (Dependency not known) |
| 2 | blank | 1,3 | 0 (NO) |
| 2 | blank | 2, blank | Blank (Dependency not known) |

The results of the ad-hoc survey indicate that only a small percentage of the self-employed are classified in the category of dependent self-employed (as defined above). At EU level, the dependent self-employed amount to 3.5% of the self-employed and 0.5% of the total employment. The share of dependent self-employed exceeds 1% of the total employment only in two countries (Slovakia and the United Kingdom). This very low share creates problems concerning the analysis of the results (it is worth noting that the estimated number of dependent self-employed is below the publication threshold in 7 countries).

At EU level the percentage of self-employed with one (or one dominant) client is about 17% of the total self-employed (Figure 2.12.1). The main reason for the low percentage of dependent self-employed is the fact that the number of self-employed who reports that their clients decide their working time is small.

[18] A client was defined as dominant if provided at least 75% of the self-employment income of the respondent in the last 12 months.

**Table 2.12.2:** Persons by employment status and distinction between dependent and independent self-employed, by country (%)

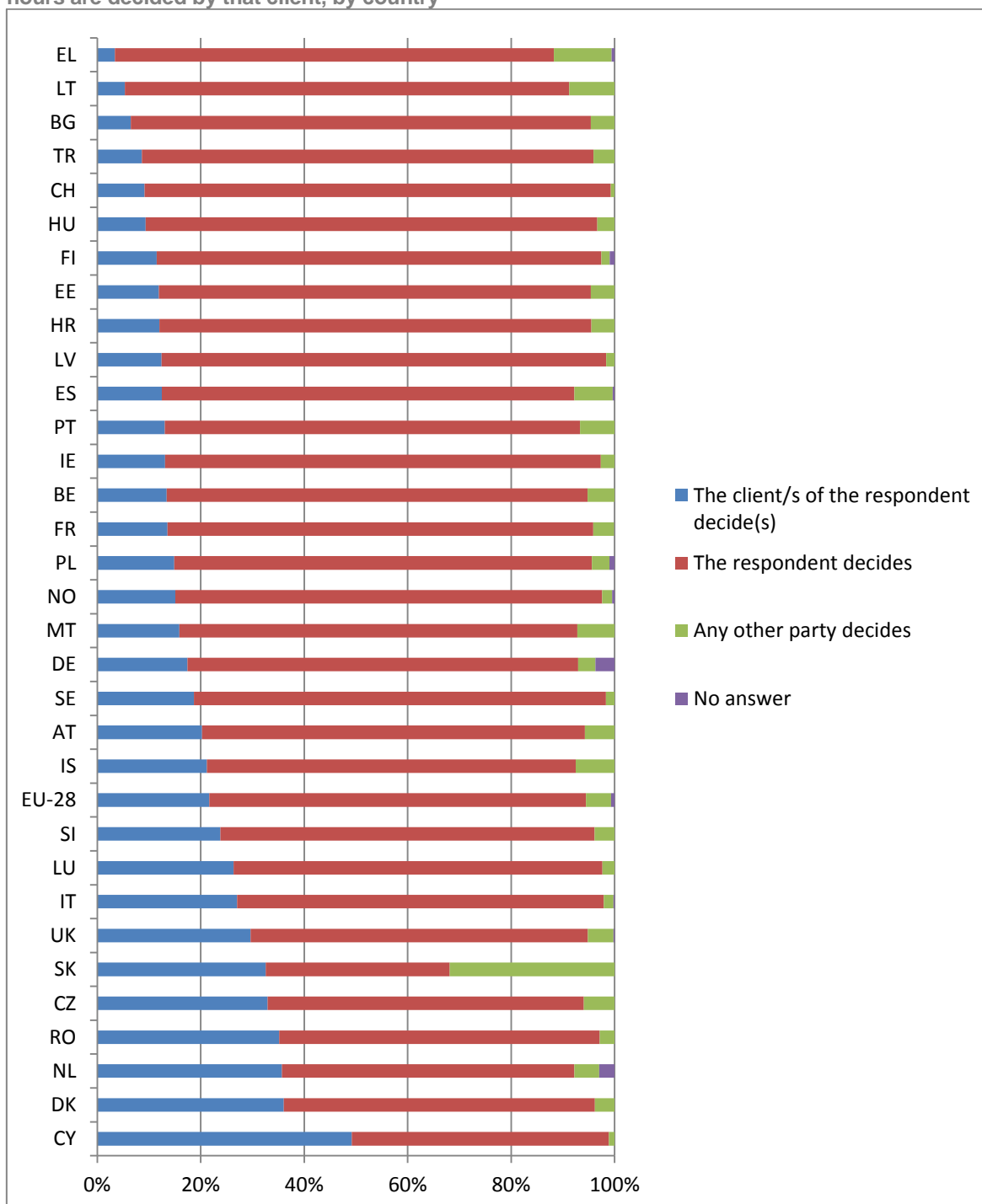| | Dependent self-employed without employees | Employee | Family worker | Independent self-employed without employees | Self-employed with employees | Self-employed without employees, dependency not known | No answer | % of dependent self-emplpoyed over the self-employed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EU-28** | 0.5 | 84.4 | 1.1 | 9.7 | 4.1 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 3.4 |
| **Belgium** | 0.2 | 85.5 | 0.7 | 9.3 | 4.2 | * | 0.0 | 1.5 |
| **Bulgaria** | * | 88.1 | 0.7 | 7.3 | 3.6 | * | 0.0 | 1.4 |
| **Czechia** | 1.0 | 83.1 | 0.4 | 12.3 | 3.1 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 5.8 |
| **Denmark** | 0.3 | 91.9 | 0.3 | 4.1 | 3.3 | * | 0.0 | 4.0 |
| **Germany** | 0.2 | 89.7 | 0.3 | 5.1 | 4.4 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 2.0 |
| **Estonia** | * | 89.8 | * | 5.1 | 4.7 | * | 0.0 | 1.4 |
| **Ireland** | 0.3 | 84.5 | 0.6 | 8.4 | 4.5 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 2.2 |
| **Greece** | 0.1 | 66.1 | 4.0 | 22.1 | 7.2 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| **Spain** | 0.2 | 83.3 | 0.5 | 10.4 | 5.5 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 1.3 |
| **France** | 0.2 | 88.4 | 0.4 | 6.8 | 4.2 | * | 0.0 | 1.7 |
| **Croatia** | * | 87.5 | 1.1 | 5.8 | 5.5 | * | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| **Italy** | 0.9 | 76.8 | 1.3 | 14.8 | 6.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 4.3 |
| **Cyprus** | 0.9 | 87.3 | 0.8 | 8.9 | 2.1 | * | 0.0 | 7.3 |
| **Latvia** | * | 87.7 | 1.0 | 6.6 | 4.4 | * | 0.0 | 2.2 |
| **Lithuania** | * | 87.5 | 0.9 | 8.9 | 2.6 | * | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| **Luxembourg** | * | 89.8 | 0.8 | 3.9 | 3.5 | 1.4 | 0.3 | 2.8 |
| **Hungary** | 0.2 | 89.8 | 0.3 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 2.0 |
| **Malta** | * | 85.4 | * | 9.5 | 4.8 | * | 0.0 | 1.9 |
| **Netherlands** | 0.8 | 84.1 | 0.3 | 10.9 | 3.8 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 5.3 |
| **Austria** | 0.3 | 87.6 | 1.5 | 6.0 | 4.7 | * | 0.0 | 2.5 |
| **Poland** | 0.4 | 79.8 | 2.7 | 13.2 | 3.8 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 2.5 |
| **Portugal** | 0.2 | 82.6 | 0.5 | 8.2 | 4.7 | 3.9 | 0.0 | 1.3 |
| **Romania** | 0.8 | 71.2 | 9.4 | 17.6 | 1.0 | * | 0.0 | 4.4 |
| **Slovenia** | 0.5 | 85.2 | 3.0 | 7.4 | 3.9 | * | 0.0 | 4.5 |
| **Slovakia** | 1.5 | 84.8 | * | 10.2 | 3.2 | * | 0.0 | 9.9 |
| **Finland** | 0.3 | 87.0 | 0.4 | 7.0 | 3.8 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 2.1 |
| **Sweden** | 0.4 | 91.4 | 0.2 | 4.9 | 3.1 | * | 0.0 | 4.2 |
| **United Kingdom** | 1.0 | 84.5 | 0.3 | 11.6 | 2.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 6.7 |
| **Iceland** | 0.7 | 88.7 | 0.3 | 6.6 | 3.6 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 6.0 |
| **Norway** | 0.3 | 93.3 | * | 4.2 | 1.8 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 3.9 |
| **Switzerland** | 0.1 | 84.6 | 2.1 | 6.8 | 6.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| **Turkey** | 0.3 | 67.1 | 11.5 | 16.5 | 4.6 | * | 0.0 | 1.3 |

**Figure 2.12.1:** Percentage of self-employed with a dominant or only one client, by country
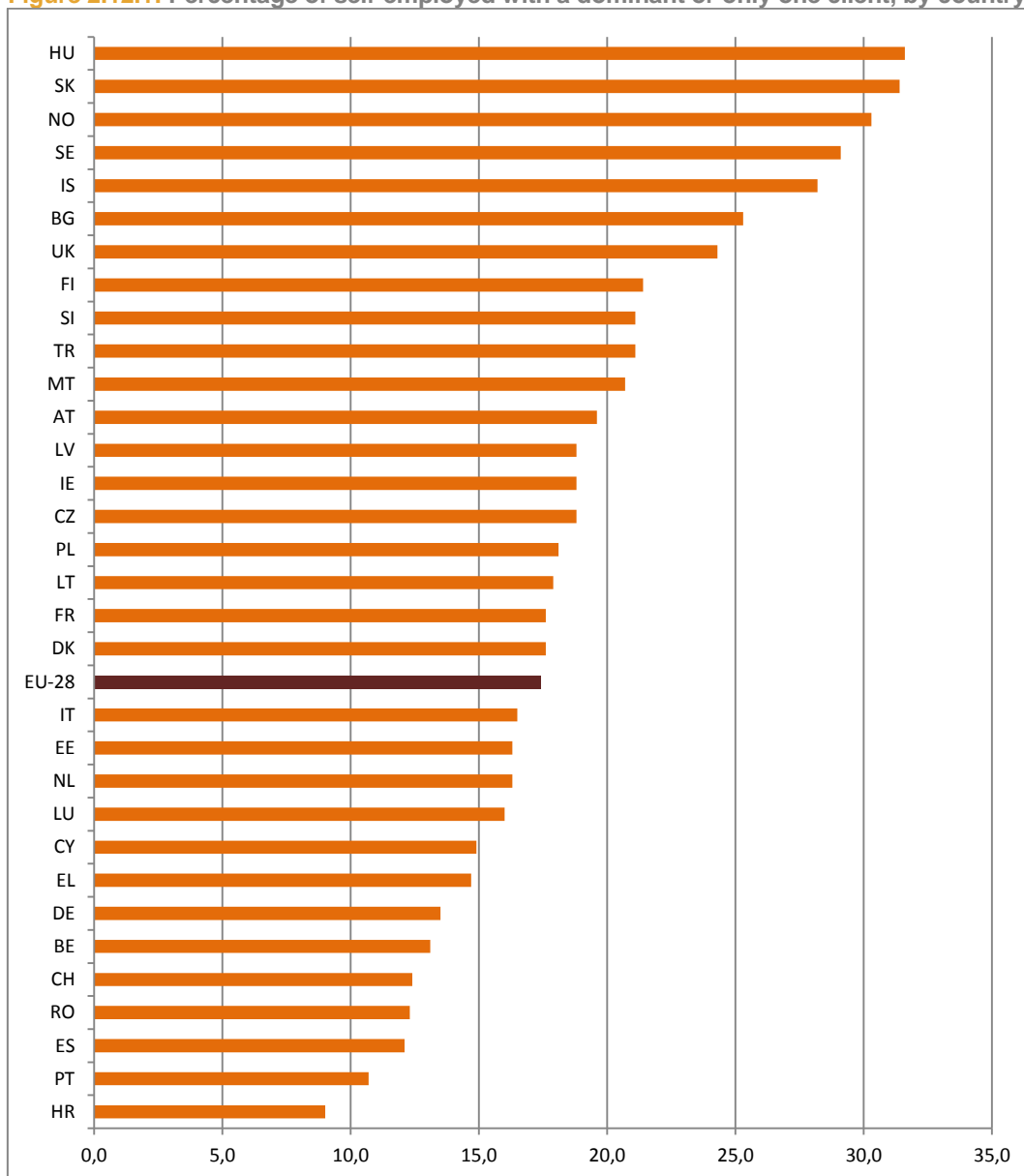


Figure 2.12.2 shows that the percentage of self-employed with a dominant or with only one client, whose working hours are decided by that client, varies considerable among the countries. It should be investigated if this variabiltiy reflects actual differences or if it is the result of differences in the implementation or the comprehension of the relevant questions.

The definition of the economically dependent self-employed chosen in the context of the 2017 module should nevertheless be considered as a first approach to the concept. Discussions are currently ongoing at international level (with the International Labour Organisation) on the definition to adopt.

**Figure 2.12.2:** Percentage of self-employed with a dominant or only one client, whose working hours are decided by that client, by country



- The client/s of the respondent decide(s)
- The respondent decides
- Any other party decides
- No answer

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Whatever problem exists in variables MAINCLNT and WORKORG affects the quality of variable Dependent Self Employed. Both the implementation of these variables but also the operational definition of EDSE should be reconsidered (for example, about 12% of independent self-employed report that they cannot influence neither the content nor the order of their tasks).

# Labour Force Survey (LFS) ad-hoc module 2017 on the self-employed persons

**ASSESSMENT REPORT**

This report evaluates the 2017 EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) ad-hoc module on self-employment. The main objective of this report is to describe the implementation of the survey and to assess the quality of the dataset. The report presents some main results and recommendations on how to improve the module for future repetitions.

**For more information**
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