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IMPLEMENTING CORE VARIABLES METHODOLOGICAL GUIDELINES

2011

**Implementing core variables
in EU social surveys**

DRAFT

Methodological guidelines

2011

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Methodological guidelines

Introduction

In 2007 the Core Social Variables Task Force recommended a set of core statistical variables for their systematic introduction in all the EU social surveys. The rationale for doing so was twofold:

- firstly, to better enable identification of specific populations across all the surveys and a better description of these groups;
- secondly, to facilitate socio-economic analysis based on the main structural variables.

The core variables selected by the Task Force are:-

Demographic information

- Sex
- Age in completed years
- Country of birth
- Country of citizenship at time of data collection
- Legal marital status
- De facto marital status (consensual union)
- Household composition

Geographic information

- Country of residence
- Region of residence
- Degree of urbanisation

Socio-economic information

- Self declared labour status
- Status in employment
- Occupation in employment
- Economic sector in employment
- Highest level of education completed
- Net monthly income of the household

In addition, to proposing a set of variables, the Task Force also made proposals as to how each variable should be defined, as set out in its Final Report, with the intention that these would require periodic updating.

Recent developments in the wider environment for European social statistics

There have been a number of developments in field of social statistics since 2007 which serve to increase the value of a set of core variables, common to all the social surveys.

Firstly, since 2007 there has been a strong commitment within the EU to modernise statistical production methods, (see for example Commission Communication 404 on the production methods of EU statistics¹ -"the vision"). The implications for social statistics include exploring the feasibility of collecting more data from alternatives to survey sources (such as administrative registers or the internet) and the extent to which these can replace the traditional individual/household surveys. Moreover, new techniques are emerging that could improve the efficiency of data production, in particular around data linking and data matching. The potential value of these techniques in the European context is starting to be tested.

¹ COM(2009) 404 final

Secondly, the recent financial crisis has highlighted the importance of monitoring a range of social indicators (such as unemployment rates or poverty rates), and in particular the need for this data to be available more quickly if it is to be helpful for policy makers. At the same time, however, the crisis has further constrained national resources needed to manage and develop existing systems for statistics and accounting. This has increased the policy focus on ensuring efficient and effective statistical systems to support social policy making in Europe. The implementation of a set of core variables across all surveys that support social indicators, especially when combined with the emerging techniques, has the potential to significantly increase the cost-effectiveness of data provided.

Thirdly, there is increased focus on the role of social statistics in defining and monitoring societal progress and its comparison between countries. Until now, these measurements have focused almost entirely on economic indicators such as GDP. The Commission came forward with its Communication "GDP and beyond: measuring progress in a changing world" in 2009² and this was reinforced with the publication of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report, commissioned by the French government, in the same year. Together, these initiatives provide a framework for the development of quality of life indicators.

The incorporation of a set of core variables across all social surveys in all the Member States will provide a strong foundation with which to respond to new challenges and to pursue further developments, and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of data production in Europe.

Overview of this document

This paper presents updated methodological guidelines for the implementation of core variables in social surveys. It updates the summary and detailed definitions for core variables as set out in the 2007 final report of the Core Social Variables Task Force.

The definitions of four variables selected for the first phase of implementation have been updated in Part one: Country of birth; Country of citizenship at the time of data collection; Occupation in employment, and Economic sector in employment. In addition some changes have been made to the following variable definitions: Net monthly income of the household (taking into account the EU-SILC methodology), and to Region of residence (to reflect the enlarged EU), and additional information is provided on the rationale for the variable "Highest level of education completed" and on progress towards the implementation of ISCED 2011.

In other revisions:-

- Section 6 relating to implementation has also been updated;
- Appendix 1 has been updated (to provide an overview of variables implementation by survey);
- Appendix 2 has been updated with the latest developments in the Socio economic classification and ESeC project.

Standard Code Lists for Dissemination purposes

A further recent development is the availability, now, of standard code lists for dissemination purposes. These standard code lists can now be accessed through the Eurostat website <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/metadate/classifications>, see the bottom of the left hand menu³.

² COM (2009) 443 final

³http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_NOM&StrGroupCode=SCL&StrLanguageCode=EN

PART ONE – The definitions

The definitions of the core variables presented here are intended to give the precise statistical definition needed by the statistician to adapt the concept to the context of a specific survey or by the enumerator to code adequately the answer of the respondent. More details are also given on filters, rationale for the variable, specific issues and further possible development. Finally, recommended good practice in field work and data processing is described.

1.1 Sex

Rationale

The need for adequate information on the situation of women and men in all policy areas it is generally recognised. By studying the gender differences and inequalities it is possible to understand them, and on this basis, make plans, formulate and monitor policies in all spheres of society. Hence, the importance of the variable "sex" which being cross classified with other characteristics of the population provides the basis for evaluating progress towards the complete elimination of still existing gender-based stereotypes.

Short description

Sex of the person

Proposed categories for transmission

<i>Category</i>	<i>Label</i>
1	Male
2	Female

- Classification used: Not applicable

Definition

- Reporting unit Individuals
- Filter None
- Reference period No reference period
- Concept Sex of the person

Sex refers to the biological sex of the person. According to WHO, "sex" refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women while "gender" refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women. Following this description, WHO considers that "male" and

“female” are sex categories, while “masculine” and “feminine” are gender categories⁴.

- Technical Issues There are no technical issues linked to this variable.

Issues and developments

- Coverage of the variable: all persons

Good practice

- Data collection through interviews or registers
- If the information on sex is missing from the questionnaire, it should be imputed on the basis of the answers provided to other questions.

⁴ WHO website: <http://www.who.int/gender/whatisgender/en/>

1.2 Age in completed years

Rationale

“Age” is a basic parameter in survey data analysis since the differences between the population groups constructed on it are relevant in developing many EU and national public policies and programmes. Also, existing information on the situation of specific age groups (elderly or young people) has important implications for the policies and programmes that are targeted towards these categories of population.

Short description

Age of the person in completed years at the date of reference

Proposed categories for transmission

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Labels</i>
The 3 digits of age in completed years	Age in completed years

- Classification used: Not applicable

Definition

- Reporting unit Individuals
- Filter None
- Reference period Specific to each survey
- Concept Age of the person in completed years at the date of reference
Age in completed years is the age expressed as the number of birthday anniversaries passed on the date of reference, i.e. the age at last birthday.
- Technical Issues There are different possibilities for calculating the age of a person (their use depends on the existing information):
 - information on the exact date of birth (day, month, and year) available. This would be the ideal case from the analytical point of view, as there is no risk of miscalculating the age – although for confidentiality reasons, it is not recommended to disseminate the exact date of birth.
 - information on the year of birth and month of birth available (this is the case of SILC and other surveys).
 - information on the year of birth and the relation of the date of birth to the date of reference available (the LFS case).
 - only the year of birth is available. This situation could lead to differences, since the age reached during the calendar year when the survey is carried out might not be the same with the age completed.

- asking directly the respondent for his/her age in completed years is not recommendable, as it might lead to an incorrect answer due to miscalculation or to the respondent's believe that an age rounded to 0 or 5 would suffice.
- Age grouping: age in completed years can be grouped according to needs for statistical analysis of each survey.

Good practice

- Data collection through interviews or registers

1.3 Country of birth

Rationale

It is important to be able to define different migration-related population groups in statistics to allow comparisons and analyses to guide and assess a range of different policies, such as those relating to the integration of immigrants and the free movement of persons within the EU. It is valuable to be able to compare the experience of migrant and non-migrant populations with regard to issues such as labour market situation, social exclusion, and poverty.

Country of birth is a key variable for the definition of migrant populations – either used as a single defining variable or in conjunction with other variables such as citizenship or duration of residence.

Country of birth allows for analyses comparing the circumstances of migrants to native-born residents.

Short description

Country of birth is the country where a person was born, defined as the country of usual residence of mother at the time of the birth, or, by default, the country in which the birth occurred.

Proposed categories for transmission

<i>Category</i>	<i>Label</i>
1	Native-born
2	Foreign-born
2.1	Born in another EU Member State
2.2	Born in non-EU country

- Classification used In the field work, classification of country of birth should be done on the basis of the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1201/2009 of 30 November 2009 implementing Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses as regards the technical specifications of the topic and of their breakdowns. This classification is compatible with the harmonised code list proposed by Eurostat. It should only apply for statistical purposes.

Definition

This definition is in accordance with the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1201/2009 of 30 November 2009 implementing Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses as regards the technical specifications of the topic and of their breakdowns and with the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistical Office of European Communities, 2006).

- Reporting unit Individuals

- Filter No filter
- Reference period Reference date of the survey or other statistical exercise.
- Concept Country of birth is the country where a person was born, defined as the country of usual residence of the mother at the time of the birth, or, by default, the country in which the birth occurred

Native-born — Person born in the country of residence (country of survey/enumeration).

Foreign-born — Person born in country other than country of residence (country of survey/enumeration).

Information on country of birth should be obtained in accordance with the national boundaries existing at the time of data collection.

The country of birth of a person who was born during the mother's short-term visit to a country other than her usual country of residence, should be the country where mother had her place of usual residence.

Particular care is needed in the cases where national boundaries have changed and/or where previously existing countries have split to form two or more new countries.

As noted in the UNECE 2010 census recommendations (par. 370), a person should not be regarded as foreign-born simply because the national boundaries of the country of birth have changed. Persons who migrated before the border change or break-up of a former country should be distinguished from those who did so after these changes. Care should be taken to ensure that persons who have only undertaken internal migrations (non international migrants) within the borders of the former country are not wrongly counted as international migrants.
- Technical Issues It is recommended that the questions related to the country of birth ask directly for the country of birth of the person, or the country of usual residence of the mother at the time of birth. More aggregated classification according to transmission categories can be used for transmission of data.

Issues and developments

The variable country of birth should be collected for all persons covered by a statistical exercise.

EU-SILC currently collects data, consistent with national boundaries, on country of birth as at the date of birth, rather than as determined at the time of data collection. This issue has already been raised at the Working Group meeting in June 2009. It has been agreed to change the definition starting from the 2010 EU-SILC operation.

Country of birth of parents can provide important supplementary information for statistical exercises seeking a more detailed analysis of the longer-term integration processes and the outcomes of immigrants and their descendants (proposal in separate document).

Good practice

The "Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and housing" (UN 2006⁵) par. 369 states that "in all topics related to international borders (country of birth, country of birth of parents, country of citizenship, country of previous/current residence) reference should be made to the boundaries existing at the time of the census". This is for purposes of international comparability as stated in the par. 374 of the recommendations.

The recommendations par. 370 suggest also to provide complementary tabulations on the stocks relevant to international migration in order to distinguish the persons who migrated before the break-up of the former country from those who did so after the break-up.

For annual or more frequent statistics, for better comparability, it is reasonable to consider the boundaries as existing at the reference period. It is particularly important in case where, due to changes of borders, two persons born in the same place may appear as born in different countries (as seen from the point of the reporting country).

⁵ http://unstats.un.org/unsd/censuskb/attachments/CES_2010_Census_Recommendations_English-GUID478c8e0d4a33483381ca030af38fa5b1.pdf

1.4 Country of citizenship at time of data collection

Rationale

This variable identifies nationals and non-nationals according to their legal links to the country of residence and allows for comparison between residents.

Citizenship is a key variable that provides information necessary to define particular migration-related population groups. Citizenship has a particular impact on the rights of the person with regard to duration of residence and access to the labour market. It therefore has important implications for the understanding of migrant integration processes and the longer-term social and economic success of migrants and their descendants. In the context of free movement of persons within the EU, it is important to be able to examine separately the situation of persons holding the citizenship of another EU country and persons who are not citizens of an EU country.

Short description

Citizenship is defined as the particular legal bond between an individual and his/her State, acquired by birth or naturalisation, whether by declaration, option, marriage or other means according to the national legislation.

Proposed categories for transmission

<i>Category</i>	<i>Label</i>
1	National/ has the citizenship of the reporting country
2	Non-national/ does not have the citizenship of the reporting country
2.1	National of other EU Member States
2.2	National of non EU countries

- Classification used In the field work, the classification of country of citizenship should be done on the basis of the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1201/2009 of 30 November 2009 implementing Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses as regards the technical specifications of the topic and of their breakdowns. This classification is compatible with the harmonised code list proposed by Eurostat. It shall only apply for statistical purposes.

Definition

This definition is in accordance with the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1201/2009 of 30 November 2009 implementing Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses as regards the technical specifications of the topic and of their breakdowns and with the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistical Office of European Communities, 2006).

- Reporting unit Individuals
- Filter No filter

- Reference period Reference date of the survey or other statistical exercise.
- Concept Citizenship is defined as the particular legal bond between an individual and his/her State, acquired by birth or naturalisation, whether by declaration, option, marriage or other means according to national legislation.

A person has the citizenship of a country in which he/she has the legal rights associated with being a citizen, e.g. has been issued with a citizen's passport or other citizen's document, or has the right to be issued with such documents. An adult person who never held this kind of document will be considered to be a citizen of a country if he/she states or believes that he/she has the legal right to be a citizen.

National: Resident person having citizenship of the country of residence (= country of survey/enumeration).

Non-national (foreigner): Resident person who does not have citizenship of the country of residence (= country of survey/enumeration).

The information sought is the country of current citizenship of the person concerned. Information on country of citizenship should be obtained in accordance with the administrative status/legal situation existing at the time of data collection.

Nationals and non-nationals shall be distinguished and, among the latter, a distinction shall be made between nationals of other EU Member States and nationals of non-EU countries. However, it is highly recommended to use the classification "Country of citizenship" proposed in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1201/2009.

A person with two or more citizenships shall be allocated to only one country of citizenship, to be determined in the following order of precedence:
 - 1) reporting country, or
 - 2) if the person does not have the citizenship of the reporting country: other EU Member State; or
 - 3) if the person does not have the citizenship of another EU Member State; other country outside European Union.
In other cases (e.g. dual citizenship where both countries are within the European Union but neither is the reporting country), the country of citizenship may be recorded either as that chosen by the person responding to the survey or, for administrative data, may be that recorded as the primary citizenship in the administrative record.
- Technical issues It is recommended that the country of citizenship is recorded during interview while a more aggregated classification according to transmission categories will be used for transmission of data.

Issues and developments

The variable country of citizenship should be collected for all persons covered by a statistical exercise.

Citizenship at birth, and the **way that national citizenship was acquired**, either at birth or by naturalisation or other means according to the national legislation and the **year of acquisition**, can provide useful supplementary information allowing more detailed analysis of integration processes and outcomes for immigrants and their descendants.

Good practice

In data collection and analyses, different migration-related groups must be carefully defined, and a clear distinction made between country of birth and citizenship.

It is important to note that native-born persons are not necessarily nationals of the reporting country, and conversely, that foreign-born persons may be nationals of the reporting country – either from birth or by acquisition. Therefore the use of citizenship, as a proxy for country of birth or any other variables such as country of previous or next residence should be avoided where possible.

The "Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and housing" (UN 2006⁶) par. 369 states that "in all topics related to international borders (country of birth, country of birth of parents, country of citizenship and country of previous/current residence) reference should be made to the boundaries existing at the time of the census. This is for purposes of international comparability as stated in the par. 374 of the recommendations.

For annual or more frequent statistics, for better comparability, it is reasonable to consider the boundaries as existing at the reference period. Rules for special cases of citizenship are the following:

- a. stateless persons must be considered under non-EU;
- b. recognized non-citizens (a special category mainly to those with former Soviet Union citizenship) must be considered in the group non-EU;
- c. in the case of citizenship of countries that no longer formally exist , where possible, the current situation should be taken into account. Thus, for example, ex-Czechoslovakian citizens can be considered as EU citizens while ex- Soviet Union citizens must be counted under non-EU.

However, in many cases it may not be possible to consider the current geo-political situation for persons with citizenships that no longer exist, simply because there is no information as to which citizenship the person may potentially have. In such cases, the classification can only be done using the names of these former countries. Generally, these cases would be included under non-EU, except for persons who held the citizenship of the former Czechoslovakia, who are potentially citizens of one of two current EU Member States and therefore can be classified among EU citizens.

It is important to record the country of citizenship and not just the citizenship of a person in terms of an adjective (for example, Chinese, German, British and so forth) in order to avoid confusion between ethnic background, national identity and legal citizenship.

⁶ http://unstats.un.org/unsd/censuskb/attachments/CES_2010_Census_Recommendations_English-GUID478c8e0d4a33483381ca030af38fa5b1.pdf

1.5 Legal marital status

Rationale

The legal marital status of the individual is a core variable of census. It is also a standard variable in administrative data and household surveys. Marital status with other demographic variables, like sex and age, is often used to classify and to base other information collected on person to help in the understanding of various issues. It is closely bound up with the issue of rights to and obligations to provide mutual financial support, not just in the present but in the future. As such, it is an important background variable in the study of social exclusion and poverty.

Short description

Legal marital status is defined as the (legal) conjugal status of each individual in relation to the marriage laws (or customs) of the country (i.e. *de jure* status).

Proposed categories for transmission

<i>category</i>	<i>Label</i>
1	Never married and never in a registered partnership
2	Married or in a registered partnership
3	Widowed or with registered partnership that ended with death of partner (not remarried or in new registered partnership)
4	Divorced or with registered partnership that was legally dissolved (not remarried or in new registered partnership)

- Classification used Legal marital status is classified as presented above.

Definition

This definition is in accordance with the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistical Office of European Communities, 2006).

- Reporting unit Individuals
- Filter No filter
- Reference period Current status at the time of interview or reference date of survey
- Concept Legal marital status is defined as the (legal) conjugal status of each individual in relation to the marriage laws (or customs) of the country (i.e. *de jure* status).

Technical Issues All individuals in survey will be classified as unmarried (never married), married, widowed and not remarried or divorced and not remarried.

Information on the legal marital status of each person should be collected at least for persons aged 15 and over. However, since the minimum legal age and the customary age for marriage varies between countries, and since the population may also include young persons who have been married in other countries with lower minimum ages, it is recommended to collect the data for all persons.

In case if other legal marital statuses (like registered/legal partnership or legally separated) are used in countries, information on these may collected separately but will be thereafter classified under four main legal marital statuses.

Persons whose only or latest marriage has been annulled will be classified according to their marital status prior the annulled marriage.

Persons living in consensual unions should be classified as never married, married, widowed or divorced in accordance with their *de jure* (legal) status.

Issues and developments

As the distinction between the concept of legal marital status and *de facto* marital status is becoming vague, integrating the two variables into one could be considered. The name of such variable could be “cohabitation status”. This variable would include both concepts “legal marital status” and “consensual union”. The combination of two variables may be needed for example in longitudinal studies where one wants to study specific groups – for instance divorced or widowed persons who later begin ‘a new life’ in a consensual union. However, it needs to be verified whether the integration and the way it would be implemented fit the data needs of the NSIs and the needs for the different surveys and users.

In case of registered/legal partnership or where the same-sex couples can legally marry, additional categories may be included in the classification or category "married" may be expanded in order to include these categories explicitly. However, introducing such sensitive categories needs prior testing.

Good practice

The sensitivity of the information particularly in the case of the same-sex marriages or registered partnership should be considered.

1.6 De facto marital status (consensual union)

Rationale

The presence of *de facto* marital status is a non-core census variable. Marital status with other demographic variables, like sex and age, is often used to classify and to base other information collected by census or survey to help in the understanding of various issues.

An increasing number of countries are experiencing an increase in the number of people living in consensual unions. In some countries it is already possible to identify registered partnerships as this category may have status equivalent to legal marriage. The extent to which couples form consensual unions rather than marry in the formal sense varies across EU Member States. In terms of the practical aspects of daily life living in consensual union does not significantly differ from the living with married or registered partner. Accordingly, collecting data only on the legal marital status does not allow fully defining family and identifying family composition.

Short description

De facto marital status is defined as the marital status of each individual in terms of his or her actual living arrangements within the household. Consensual union is defined as the union between non-married partners.

Proposed categories for transmission

<i>category</i>	<i>Label</i>
1	Person living in a consensual union
2	Person not living in a consensual union

- Classification used Not applicable

Definition

This definition is in accordance with the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistical Office of European Communities, 2006).

- Reporting unit Individuals
- Filter No filter
- Reference period Current status at the time of interview or reference date of survey
- Concept This variable is referred to as 'de facto marital status' in the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing:

Distinction will be made between persons living in consensual union and persons not living in consensual union.

De facto marital status is defined as the marital status of each individual in terms of his or her actual living arrangements within the household.

For the information on married person's *de facto* marital status according their actual living arrangements within the household (living alone and living with husband/wife), the household matrix data may be used.

De facto marital status is used for identifying persons living in consensual union. Two persons are taken to be partners in a consensual union when they have usual residence in the same household, are not married to each other, and have a marriage-like relationship to each other.

Person who lives with another partner than his/her legal husband/wife is considered living in consensual union.

Person who lives with partner with whom he/she is legally married is not living in consensual union.

Technical Issues

Information on *de facto* marital status can be derived from information collected on household and family characteristics of persons, characteristics of family nuclei and characteristics of private households, based on the relationship to the reference person question or the full household relationship matrix. Where such matrix is not used a separate question would need to be asked.

Information on the *de facto* marital status should be collected for the same age groups as for the legal marital status.

Issues and developments

As discussed under the previous variable, the distinction between the two concepts of marital status – legal marital status and *de facto* marital status – is becoming vague. A simplification by integrating the two variables into one could be considered. The name of such variable might be “cohabitation status”. This variable would integrate the concepts of “legal marital status” and “consensual union”. The combination of two variables may be valuable for example in longitudinal studies where one wants to study specific groups – for instance divorced or widowed persons who later begin ‘a new life’ in a consensual union. It would need to be verified whether the integration and the way it would be implemented fits the data needs of the NSIs and the needs for the different surveys and users.

Opposite- and same-sex and partnership may be distinguished under the category "Persons living in consensual union".

Good practice

The sensitivity of the information particularly in the case of the same-sex partnerships should be considered.

1.7 Household composition

Rationale

Many issues (housing problems etc) focus on data at the household level rather than the individual level. There is a relationship between the household arrangements of an individual, and their social situation. Therefore it is valuable to collect data on the dynamics of the household structure, such as the size and composition of the private household to which the respondent belongs, the relationships between household members, and the economic activity status of household members of working age.

Short description

This variable refers to the size and composition of the private household and is derived from the information on the relationship between household members, and the economic activity status.

Proposed categories for transmission

- #1 Household size (see the variable "age in completed year" for the definition of age)

<i>Labels</i>
Total number of persons in household
Number of persons aged less than or equal to 4
Number of persons aged from 5 to 13 *
Number of persons aged from 14 to 15 *
Number of persons aged from 16 to 24 of which, number of students
Number of persons aged from 25 to 64
Number of persons aged more than or equal to 65

* Information on the numbers of persons aged above/below 14 is required in order to apply the standard (OECD-modified) equivalence scale to adjust values collected for the separate core variable "total household net monthly income".

- #2 Household type

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Labels</i>
1	One-person households
2	Multi-person households
2.1.	Lone parent with child(ren) aged less than 25
2.2.	Couple without child(ren) aged less than 25
2.3.	Couple with child(ren) aged less than 25
2.4.	Couple or lone parent with child(ren) aged less than 25 and other persons living in household
2.5	Other type of household

* Category "other persons" includes all other persons in household who are not children of the couple or lone parent or partner in that couple.

** Category "Other type of household" includes all other households without parent-child relationship.

- #3 Economical activity (see the variable "self-declared labour status" for the definition of economic activity)

<i>Labels</i>
Number of persons aged 16-64 in household who are at work
Number of persons aged 16-64 in household who are unemployed or are economically inactive

- Classification used: Classified as presented above. Combination of size and type of household in case of categories 2.2., 2.3. and 2.4

Definition

- Reporting unit Derived from household matrix or from individual household relationship
- Filter No
- Reference period Moment of the interview
- Concept The place of usual residence is recommended to use as the basis of the household membership.

The existence of shared expenses in the household (including benefiting from expenses as well as contributing to expenses) shall be used to determine who is regarded as household members.

Private households will be classified by the total number of household members, broken down by age. In addition household type is applied for all households. Information is also sought on the economic activity status of household members of working age.

The concept of a private household is known as the housekeeping concept. In case of register-based surveys a different concept of the private household, namely, the household-dwelling concept, may be used. In view of international comparability it is recommended that countries that use the 'housekeeping' concept, if possible, make an estimate of the number of private households according to the 'household-dwelling' concept, and break this number down by household size.

The term "couple" includes married couples, registered couples, and couples who live in a consensual union.

"Child" refers to a blood, step- or adopted son or daughter (regardless of age and marital status) who has usual residence in the household of at least one of the parents, and who has no partner or own child(ren) in the same household.

- Household The following persons, if they share in household expenses (including benefiting from expenses as well as contributing to expenses) shall be regarded as household members:
 1. persons usually resident and related to other household members;

2. persons usually resident, not related to other household members;
3. resident boarders, lodgers, tenants, etc., with no private address elsewhere, actual/intended stay one year or more;
4. visitors, with no private address elsewhere, actual/intended stay one year or more;
5. live-in domestic servants, au-pairs, etc. , with no private address elsewhere, actual/intended stay one year or more;
6. persons usually resident but temporarily absent (for reasons of holiday travel, work, education or similar), with no private address elsewhere and actual/intended absence less than one year;
7. children of household members being educated away from home, with no private address elsewhere, continuing to retain close ties with the household;
8. persons absent for long periods but having household ties (eg. persons working away from home), child or partner of other household member, with no private address elsewhere, continuing to retain close ties with the household;
9. persons temporarily absent but having household ties (eg. persons in hospital, nursing homes or other institutions), with clear financial ties to the household, actual/prospective absence less than one year;

A person shall be considered 'usually resident' if they spend most of their daily rest there evaluated over the past one year. Persons forming new households or joining existing households shall normally be considered as members at their new location if there is an intention to stay for more than one year. Similarly, those leaving to live elsewhere shall no longer be considered as members of their original household.

Technical issues

Information should be collected about all persons living in private households on their relationship to other members of the household. Proxy answers are recommended, when not all the household members are interviewed.

An elaborative method developed for identifying household type is the household relationship matrix method. This matrix allows for the collection of all relationships between all household members.

An alternative is to record the relationship between each member and one 'key' individual in the household (the household reference person). When the household's reference person is chosen carefully, this method gives accurate information for most household types and family types. In certain cases, however, for instance in multiple family households, this method will not always give the information that is required.

A third option is to record for each person the person number of their spouse, mother, and father, if these persons are in the household. In addition, the person number of own children could be recorded for each adult.

A child who alternates between two households (for instance after his or her parents have divorced) should consider the household where he or she spends the majority of the time as his or her place of usual residence. Where an equal amount of time is spent with both parents the place of usual residence should be the place where the child is found at the end of the reference period.

The definition of household membership reflects recommendations in Commission Regulation no.1980/2003 implementing EU-SILC, with the exception of the 6 months threshold.

Issues and developments

The concept of a "dependent child" defined as "a person aged below 16 or a person aged between 16-24 who is economically inactive and living with at least one of his/her parents" was considered carefully by the Task Force in 2007. The TF concluded that it was difficult to implement and covers only partially the variety of situations encountered. As a result, this approach was abandoned.

The definition of the household boundaries has to follow the evolutions of the EU-SILC concepts, keeping in mind that in some instances membership threshold in SILC is currently 6 months.

There is an increasing amount of accommodation that is specifically provided for the elderly, the disabled, and other special groups, and which falls between an institutional and a private household, in that meals can be taken communally or by each household with its own cooking facilities. It is suggested that if at least half the population living in such accommodation possess their own cooking facilities, they should be treated as private households and, if possible, identified separately in the output.

For household surveys, transmission table #2 can typically be constructed in more detailed manner.

Good practice

- Data collection through interviews

1.8 Country of residence

Rationale

"Country of residence" is a fundamental variable for comparison of Member States in within the European Statistical System. The information is complementary to the variables *country of birth* and *country of citizenship*.

Short description

The respondent's *country of usual residence*.

Proposed categories for transmission

The categories are based on NUTS, at the most aggregated level (country level).

Table 1: NUTS Coding

<i>Category</i>	<i>Label</i>
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CZ	Czech Republic
DK	Denmark
DE	Germany
EE	Estonia
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FR	France
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
CY	Cyprus
LV	Latvia
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
HU	Hungary
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
AT	Austria
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania

Table 1: NUTS Coding continued

<i>Category</i>	<i>Label</i>
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovak Republic
FI	Finland
SE	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom
BG	Bulgaria
HR	Croatia
RO	Romania
TR	Turkey
IS	Iceland
LI	Liechtenstein
NO	Norway

- Classification used NUTS
Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics, at the most aggregate level (level 0 or country level).

Definition

- Reporting unit Individuals or households
- Filter None (apart from exclusion of out-of-scope sample elements)
- Reference period Moment of the interview
- Concept The respondent's *country of usual residence*.
- Technical issues -

Issues and developments

For most social surveys, the variable will not put any significant burden on respondents nor on the statistical institutes as the information is almost automatically available. However, for certain groups of respondents, the *country of residence* may be ambiguous. These include (recent) expatriates or persons with a second or holiday home (and who may be registered in administrative files in both countries).

Misclassification error is nevertheless possible where the statistical unit's country of residence cannot be checked or collected: e.g. in the Structure of Earnings Survey (SES). Here, the employer reports on the employees' earnings and working time and, although most workers will presumably live in the country where the enterprise or local unit is based, this assumption may be problematic in border regions (cross-border workers).

LFS definition of *resident population* (see also ESA95 – European System of Accounts):

- A person belongs to the resident population of a given country if he is staying, or intends to stay, on the economic territory of that country for a period of one year or more.
- All individuals who belong to the same household are resident where the household has a centre of economic interest: this is where the household maintains a dwelling, or succession of dwellings, which members of the household treat, and use, as their principal residence. A member of a

resident household continues to be a resident even if that individual makes frequent journeys outside the economic territory, because its centre of economic interest remains in the economy in which the household is resident.

- A person is regarded as temporarily absent from his/her household (respectively his/her country of residence) if he or she is staying, or intends to stay outside his household (respectively his/her country of residence) for a period of less than one year. In this case he or she has to be considered as a member of his household (respectively his/her country of residence).

Remark:

This definition fits the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing. By applying these rules, double accounts should be avoided. Resident population and belonging to a household are however two separate concepts, identified at different steps of the survey.

Examples:

- a student studying abroad for a period of less than one year has to be surveyed only in his household of origin.
- a seasonal worker who works every year 6 months in a country and 6 months in another country has to be surveyed in the country where he/she has his/her economic interests (the family dwelling).

Good practice

- To be extracted from the sampling frame (based on population register), where available.
- The Recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing should be implemented.

1.9 Region of residence

Rationale

Regional information is important in the context of social statistics for a number of reasons. Firstly, major differences in living standards exist between regions within a country – even in smaller countries (e.g. capital region versus more rural areas). Secondly, many policies designed to address social exclusion and poverty, particularly those that address infrastructural deficits, are best implemented at regional level. Thirdly, the labour market can vary substantially between regions within the same country.

Short description

This variable indicates the region where the individual/household is living (place of usual residence).

Proposed categories for transmission

The categories are listed in the NUTS classification. The categories to be used will depend on the level of detail applied in the different surveys. The categories can be found on the classification server Ramon (web link, below):

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/index.cfm?TargetUrl=DSP_PUB_WELC

- Classification used NUTS
Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics, at 2-digit level. This detail is not necessarily to be disseminated as the information may be regrouped when necessary (and where the sample size allows it).

Definition

- Reporting unit Individual or household
- Filter None (apart from exclusion of out-of-scope sample elements)
- Reference period Moment of the interview
- Concept The respondent's *region of usual residence*.

Issues and developments

From an analytical point of view, **2-digit level of NUTS is recommended**. However, for sample reasons, this goal may not be feasible for certain social surveys due to sample size restrictions. Where this is the case, intermediate solutions could be considered, e.g. if a country is due to sample size restrictions not able to comply with the NUTS 2 breakdown, a simplified breakdown in, for example, 3 or 4 regions could be a pragmatic alternative. Where possible, the data collection should aim at 2-digit level of NUTS (i.e. 271 regions in the EU27).

See **http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/index.cfm?TargetUrl=DSP_PUB_WELC** to find out for each country the level of detail linked to 2-digit NUTS breakdown.

Table 2: Number of regions per NUTS level:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
AT	3	9	35
BE	3	11	44
BG	2	6	28
CY	1	1	1
CZ	1	8	14
DE	16	39	429
DK	1	5	11
EE	1	1	5
ES	7	19	59
FI	2	5	20
FR	9	26	100
GR	4	13	51
HU	3	7	20
IE	1	2	8
IT	5	21	107
LT	1	1	10
LU	1	1	1
LV	1	1	6
MT	1	1	2
NL	4	12	40
PL	6	16	66
PT	3	7	30
RO	4	8	42
SE	1	8	21
SI	1	2	12
SK	1	4	8
UK	12	37	133
HR	1	3	21
TR	12	26	81
CH	1	7	26
IS	1	1	2
LI	1	1	1
NO	1	7	19
EU-27	97	271	1303

Good practice

- Data collection from the sampling frame (or register)
- The Recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing should be implemented.

For further information, consult the Eurostat website which has more information about the NUTS system of classifying regions, how the NUTS system was developed and how it is used.⁷

⁷ http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/nuts_nomenclature/introduction

1.10 Degree of urbanisation

Please note that: the Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), Eurostat, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Directorate-General for Regional Policy (REGIO) have developed a new typology of urban-rural regions, described in chapter 15 of the Eurostat Regional Yearbook

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-HA-10-001/EN/KS-HA-10-001-EN.PDF

The new typology distinguishes three types of regions as in the core variable 'degree of urbanisation'. However, the classification rules and the underlying rationale differ from the one currently used. The new approach is currently being discussed with Member States. Once an agreement on the implementation data is reached, the core variable description will be updated..

Rationale

This core variable refers to the type of locality the individual/household is living in, namely whether an urban or a rural area (or a borderline case). This is a valuable explanatory variable in the analysis of social statistics.

For example, there are important differences in the form that social exclusion takes between urban and rural areas. For instance, housing costs tend to be higher in urban areas, while access to essential services and opportunities for social and cultural participation may be more restricted in rural areas. Problems with vandalism and crime also tend to be more prevalent in urban areas. The profile of the labour market also tends to be different in rural and urban areas. Access to broadband or mobile telecommunication networks can be problematic in more remote rural areas.

Short description

The type of locality the individual/household is living in, namely whether an urban or a rural area (or a borderline case).

Proposed categories for transmission

<i>Category</i>	<i>Label</i>
1	Densely-populated area
2	Intermediate populated area
3	Thinly populated area

○ Classification used: Not applicable

The proposed three-categories breakdown is currently already applied in the Labour Force Survey, EU-SILC and the survey on ICT usage.

Definition

- Reporting unit Individuals/household
- Filter None (apart from exclusion of out-of-scope sample elements)
- Reference period Moment of the interview
- Concept The detailed definition of the three types of area is as follows:

(1) Densely-populated area

This is a contiguous set of local areas, each of which has a density superior to 500 inhabitants per square kilometre, where the total population for the set is at least 50,000 inhabitants.

(2) Intermediate area

This is a contiguous set of local areas, not belonging to a densely-populated area, each of which has a density superior to 100 inhabitants per square kilometre, and either with a total population for the set of at least 50,000 inhabitants or adjacent to a densely-populated area.

(3) Thinly-populated area

This is a contiguous set of local areas belonging neither to a densely-populated nor to an intermediate area.

(A set of local areas totalling less than 100 km², not reaching the required density, but entirely enclosed within a densely-populated or intermediate area, is to be considered to form part of that area. If it is enclosed within a densely-populated area and an intermediate area it is considered to form part of the intermediate area)

Note: for the definition of area, see below (“Issues and developments”).

- Technical issues According to the Labour Force Survey recommendations, a set of local areas totalling less than 100 square kilometres, not reaching the required density, but entirely enclosed within a densely populated or intermediate area, is to be considered to form part of that area. If it is enclosed within a densely populated area and an intermediate area it is considered to form part of the intermediate area.

The calculations of the density of population for the “local unit”, the total population of the contiguous area for the densely populated and intermediate areas, and the “situation” (enclosed or not) for the isolated local units have to be made in order to guarantee harmonised application of the definitions. This would normally be available at the National Statistical Institution, since it is needed for the Labour Force Surveys.

The information on the urbanisation of the area may be available from the sampling frame, from registers, or the interviewer may record information on the locality - Local Administrative Unit – LAU - (such as the name of the

commune (BE)/Demos (CY)/Gemeinde/ (DE)/ municipio (ES)/ward (IE) etc.) which would permit it to be classified according to one of the three categories outlined above without any significant burden on the respondents.

Issues and developments

- An "area" consists of a group of contiguous "local areas" where a "local area" corresponds to the following Local Administrative Units (LAU1 or LAU2) in the respective Member States:

Belgium: Gemeente / Commune

Bulgaria: Naseleni miasti

Czech Republic: Obce

Denmark: Kommuner

Germany: Gemeinde

Estonia: Vald+Alev+Linn

Greece: Demotiko diamerisma / Koinotiko diamerisma

Spain: Municipio

France: Commune

Ireland: DED / ward

Italy: Commune

Cyprus: Demos/Koinotites

Latvia: Pagast+ Pilsetas

Lithuania: Seniunija

Luxembourg: Commune

Hungary: Telepules

Malta: Localities

The Netherlands: Gemeente

Austria: Gemeinde

Poland: Gminy+Miasta **Portugal:** Freguesias

Romania: Comune, Municipii, Orase

Slovenia: Obcine

Slovakia: Obce a Mesta

Finland: Kunnat

Sweden: Kommune

United Kingdom: Ward

Iceland: Sveitarfélag

Norway: Kommuner

Croatia: not yet available (to be checked)

Turkey: not yet available (to be checked)

- DG Regio and DG Agri (with the help of JRC) are currently finalising a new rural/urban classification on LAU level with similar categories as Degree of Urbanisation provides. On that basis, Eurostat will propose a revision of the relevant text in the description of the variable DEGURBA (degree of urbanisation), with a view to possible implementation for reference quarters from 2012 Q1 onwards.

Alternatives

A more detailed breakdown could possibly enable distinctions between, for instance, deep rural and peri-urban rural or between capital areas and more provincial urban areas.

The proposed 3-category breakdown, focusing on population density rather than on land use, has been retained by the Task Force because it is an acceptable compromise from a user point of view, because it doesn't necessitate additional burden on respondents or statistical offices and because this classification is currently already in use in several harmonised social surveys.

Good practice

- Data collection from the sampling frame (or register)
- Conversion tables to convert municipal codes into the three degrees of urbanisation have been made available by Eurostat to the NSIs. This brings the data collection burden down to recoding the municipal code in the survey database into the degree of urbanisation by a simple look-up in the conversion table.

1.11 Self-declared labour status

Rationale

This variable sheds light on the self-perceived labour status and the main reason for not working. This is different from the ILO labour status during one specific reference week, as in particular collected in the LFS. For those presently outside the labour force according to the self-assessment, the nature of their present status has an important bearing on their likely future labour market participation. People who are retired or unable to work because of disability, for instance, are less likely to respond to an increase in demand for labour than are students or those engaged in home duties.

The person's main economic situation (self-defined) allows an important classification of the regular nature of the work or the main reason for not working as opposed the situation in one specific reference week as in the LFS. For those outside the labour force at present, the nature of their present activity has an important bearing on their likely future labour market participation. People who are retired or unable to work because of disability, for instance, are less likely to respond to an increase in demand for labour than are students or those engaged in home duties.

The self-declared economic situation is also the only practical definition to use in examining labour transitions, unless longitudinal linking of individual records is feasible. In contrast to the ILO definition⁸, which is derived from several items, this variable is typically based on a single item in surveys.

Short description

Normal or current 'main' labour status as perceived by the respondent

Proposed categories for transmission

<i>Category</i>	<i>Label</i>
10	Carries out a job or profession, including unpaid work for a family business or holding, including an apprenticeship or paid traineeship, etc.
11	<i>Full time</i>
12	<i>Part time</i>
20	Unemployed
31	Pupil, student, further training, unpaid work experience
32	In retirement or early retirement or has given up business
33	Permanently disabled
34	In compulsory military or community service
35	Fulfilling domestic tasks
36	Other inactive person

⁸ Based on the International Labour Organisation guidelines, employed persons are defined as persons aged 15 years and over who during the reference week did any work for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour, or were not at work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of, e.g., illness, holidays, industrial dispute and education or training. Unemployed persons comprise persons aged 15 to 74 who were without work during the reference week, were currently available for work and were either actively seeking work or who found a job to start within the next three months.

- Classification used not applicable

Definition

- Reporting unit Individuals
- Filter All persons aged 15 or more (according to the survey)
- Reference period No specific reference period should be mentioned (see concept)
- Concept

The self-declared current or normal ‘main activity status’

The target variable captures the person’s own perception of their main activity at present. It differs from the ILO concept⁸ to the extent that people’s own perception of their main status differs from the strict definitions used in the ILO definitions. For instance, many people who would regard themselves as full-time students or homemakers may be classified as ILO-employed if they have a part-time job. Similarly, some people who consider themselves ‘unemployed’ may not meet the strict ILO criteria of taking active steps to find work and being immediately available.

It is also broader than the ILO definition in a number of respects. The term ‘normal’ refers to disregarding purely transient or other temporary changes in the situation, and to an averaging over time in case of fluctuations (such as over 4 weeks preceding the interview). Despite a certain degree of vagueness, the concept of ‘normal’ is useful and is widely employed in social research.

The concept of ‘current’ implies that any definitive changes in the activity situation are taken into account. For instance, if a person has lost a job or has retired recently, or the activity status has changed otherwise in a definitive manner, then the situation as of the time of the interview should be reported. In this sense, ‘current’ overrides any concept of averaging over any specific reference period.
- Technical Issues

The self-declared main activity status is, in principle, determined on the basis of the most time spent, but no criteria are specified explicitly.

A **part-time worker** is “an employed person whose normal hours of work are less than those of comparable full-time workers” (International Labour Conference, 81st session, 1994).

The variable refers to the main job.

The distinction between full-time and part-time work should be made on the basis of a **spontaneous answer** given by the respondent. It is impossible to establish a more exact distinction between part-time and full-time work, due to variations in working hours between Member States and also between branches of industry. This distinction can be collected in a separate question or variable, and all the categories merged after the interview. In some surveys the distinction could refer to the reference week or to the International Labour Organisation employment definition. This would be acceptable for the sake of limiting response burden.

In case respondents hesitate between the answers 'permanently disabled' and 'in retirement', the code 'in retirement' should be privileged for persons having reached the most frequent legal retirement age or the one in their previous occupation.

The code 'in compulsory military or community service' might not be relevant any longer in certain countries.

Issues and developments

- Self-declared versus International Labour Office concept: It was recognised that the high objectivity and comparability of the ILO status can not overcome its high number of necessary questions and obvious burden on respondents.
- Distinction full-time / part time: although it implies a slight increase in burden for respondents, this dimension can bring additional information either in terms of time available along with the household data for child or dependant care or in terms of possible lower labour integration and wage.
- There is a need for two variables on labour status (self-declared versus ILO concept): It was recognised that the high objectivity and comparability of the ILO status cannot overcome its high number of necessary questions and obvious burden on respondents.
- Categories of inactivity: some of them represent only a limited percentage of the population. They still need to be covered for the interviews since some respondents would find it difficult to classify themselves in other categories.

Good practice

- When collected via interview, the question should not in any case precede the questions on the labour status according to the ILO definition or questions on the registration at the public employment office.

1.12 Status in employment

Rationale

Status in employment is associated with life chances in a number of important ways. People who are self-employed benefit directly from the level of profit made by the business or enterprise. On the other hand, they are generally more exposed than employees to economic risk, in that their remuneration is tied more directly to the level of profit. Status in employment is also needed for the proposed European Socio-Economic Classification (see appendix 2) with the addition at a later stage of the "employers" category.

The variable collects the professional status for the main job of employed persons (employees or self-employed) with a breakdown for employees with permanent or temporary contracts.

Short description

Professional status for the main job of employed persons

Proposed categories for transmission

<i>Category</i>	<i>Label</i>
10	Self-employed
20	Employee
21	<i>with a permanent job or work contract of unlimited duration</i>
22	<i>with temporary job/work contract of limited duration</i>

- Classification used: based on the ILO resolution concerning the International Classification of Status in Employment (15th ICLS, 1993).

Definition

- Reporting unit Individuals
- Filter Employed, according to self-declared status
- Reference period Normal or current situation (see self-declared status)
- Concept The definition is based on the ILO resolution concerning the International Classification of Status in Employment (15th ICLS, 1993). The two dimensions that are central to the concept of status in employment are economic risk and authority

The basic distinction is that between employees and the self-employed. Employees are all those workers who hold the type of job defined as "paid employment jobs" – "jobs where the incumbents hold explicit (written or oral) or implicit employment contracts which give them a basic remuneration which is not directly dependent upon the revenue of the unit for which they work (this unit can be a corporation, a non-profit institution, a government unit or a household). Some or all of the tools, capital equipment, information systems and/or premises used by the incumbents may be owned by others, and

the incumbents may work under direct supervision of, or according to strict guidelines set by the owner(s) or persons in the owners' employment. (Persons in "paid employment jobs" are typically remunerated by wages and salaries, but may be paid by commission from sales, by piece-rates, bonuses or in-kind payments such as food, housing or training.)

Self-employment jobs are those jobs where the remuneration is directly dependent upon the profits (or the potential for profits) derived from the goods and services produced (where own consumption is considered to be part of profits). The self-employed make the operational decisions affecting the enterprise, or delegate such decisions while retaining responsibility for the welfare of the enterprise. (In this context "enterprise" includes one-person operations.)

Employees with a limited duration job/contract are employees whose main job will terminate either after a period fixed in advance, or after a period not known in advance, but nevertheless defined by objective criteria, such as the completion of an assignment or the period of absence of an employee temporarily replaced.

○ Technical Issues

Employees

The distinction between work of limited or unlimited duration can be collected in a separate question or variable, and all the categories merged after the interview. In some surveys this distinction could refer to the reference week or to the International Labour Organisation employment definition. This would be acceptable for the sake of limiting response burden.

Employees can be further divided into the following groups:

- Paid employees in a family business or on a family farm
- Other paid employees
- **Apprentices** or **trainees** receiving remuneration (i.e. workers who hold explicit or implicit contracts of "paid employment" which specify that all or part of their remuneration should be in the form of training for a trade or profession)
- Those on state employment schemes (workers participating in public or private employment promotion or job training schemes on terms of employment which correspond to "paid employment" jobs)

An employee is usually working for an outside employer, but a son or daughter, for example, who is **working in a parent's firm** and receives a regular monetary wage should be classified as an employee. The separate identification of 'paid employees in a family business' is not mentioned in ICSE-93. It is important in income or labour force surveys, since the remuneration and working conditions of employees in a family business can differ significantly from that of employees working for others. In many cases the hourly rate of pay is lower than would be expected, in anticipation of the person eventually taking over or becoming a partner in the business.

Self-employed

The self-employed can be further divided into

- employers (who, have engaged one or more persons to work for them on a continuous basis in their business)
- own-account workers (who have not engaged any employees on a continuous basis).
- Members of producers' co-operatives (who hold a self-employment job in a co-operative producing goods and services, in which each member takes part on an equal footing with other members in determining the organisation of

production, sales and/or other work of the establishment, the investments and the distribution of the proceeds of the establishment amongst their members.) In the case co-operative hired workers and these workers have an employment contract that gives them a basic remuneration (which is not directly dependent upon the revenue of the co-operative), these workers are identified as employees of the co-operative.

- **Contributing family workers** (who hold a "self-employment" job in a market-oriented establishment operated by a related person living in the same household, who cannot be regarded as a partner, because their degree of commitment to the operation of the establishment, in terms of working time or other factors, is not at a level comparable to that of the head of the establishment.

In the two categories classification Employees / self-employed, unpaid family workers are not distinguished separately and are grouped with self-employed.

Border cases:

A **person who looks after one or more children** that are not his/her own on a private basis and receiving a payment for this service should be considered as self-employed. A **person looking after children in his/her own home** should be classified as an employee if he/she is paid to do this by the local authority (or any other public administration) and if he/she does not take any decision affecting the enterprise (e.g. schedules or number of children) but should be classified as self-employed if he/she does it privately.

A **freelancer** should in general be classified as self-employed. However in situations where freelancer works for a single employer and receives employment rights from that employer (e.g. holiday pay) he should be classified as an employee (code 20).

A **person who gives private lessons** should be considered as self-employed if he/she is directly paid by his/her students.

Priests (of any kind of religion) are considered employees

Persons working in a family business or on a family farm without pay should be living in the same household as the owner of the business or farm, or in a slightly broader interpretation, in a house located on the same plot of land and with common household interests. Such people frequently receive remuneration in the form of fringe benefits and payments in kind. However, this applies *only* when the business is owned or operated by the individual themselves or by a relative. Thus, unpaid voluntary work done for charity should *not* be included.

Examples of unpaid family workers are:

- A son or daughter living inside the household and working in the parents' business or on the parents' farm without pay.
- A wife who assists her husband in his business, e.g. a haulage contractor, without receiving any formal pay.
- A relative living elsewhere but coming to help with the business, e.g. during the harvesting season, without pay in money or kind should not be included. If the relative receives any remuneration (including benefits in kind) the professional status should be coded as 20 Employee.

Contract duration - border cases:

The category “temporary contracts” includes:

- Persons with a seasonal job
- Persons engaged by a **temporary employment agency** or business and hired out to a third party for the carrying out of a "work mission" (unless there is a work contract of unlimited duration with the employment agency or business)
- Persons with **specific training contracts**.

The main issue involved is the actual employment being time-limited under an agreement - not that the person has, for example, considered stopping work in order to travel or attend college.

Respondents who have a contract to do their job, which is expected to be **renewed**, for example, once a year, should be coded according to whether or not the respondents themselves consider their job to be of an unlimited duration.

- A person having a contract for a probationary period should be considered having a temporary contract.
- In case of secondment from a permanent job, the person should be considered as having a contract of unlimited duration, if the person has an assurance to go back to his previous job.

Issues and developments

The main discussions around this variable concerned the additional dimension permanent / temporary contract. Despite the supplementary burden, persons with temporary contracts constitute a numerous and growing group among employees (around 15% of employees) but are more exposed to economic risks.

The definition and technical issues were revised to be in line with the recent suggestions of the recent task force on 'LFS explanatory notes'.

1.13 Occupation in employment

Rationale

It is generally recognised that the occupation can have a great influence on the living conditions of the individual and household. Hence, “social stratification” and “social mobility” researchers pay attention to occupation as a central element in studies of inequalities of opportunities and results, and their reproduction over life cycles and generations.

Information on characteristics of the job and on social class has two uses: in studying deprivation and social exclusion such variables are used as covariates in the models, while in studying the labour market they have the role of dependent variables.

Short description

Occupation in the main job

Proposed categories for transmission

<i>Category</i>	<i>Label</i>
11 to 14	Managers (4 positions)
21 to 26	Professionals (6 positions)
31 to 35	Technicians and associate professionals (5 positions)
41 to 44	Clerical support workers (4 positions)
51 to 54	Service and sales workers (4 positions)
61 to 63	Skilled agricultural, fishery and forestry workers (3 positions)
71 to 75	Craft and related trades workers (5 positions)
81 to 83	Plant and machine operators and assemblers (3 positions)
91 to 96	Elementary occupations (6 positions)
01 to 03	Armed forces (3 positions)

Classification used Classification ISCO-COM (88) was to be used until reference year 2010 and ISCO-08 will be used starting from reference year 2011 (from 2010 onwards for SES). The transmission categories based on ISCO-COM (88) are available in the report TF on social variables, 2007 edition. The transmission categories based on ISCO-08 are as above (on 2 digits, 43 positions)

Definition

- Reporting unit Individuals
- Filter Persons in employment according to the self-declared status
- Reference period As in self-declared status (main status, no reference period)
- Concept The person’s occupation in their main job.

The 'main job' is defined according to the Labour Force Survey definition of 'first job' (Working Group on Employment Statistics, January 2001). The LFS normally takes a reference week to define the current situation of the respondent but the main status should be considered here. Multiple job holders decide for themselves which job is to be considered as the main job. In doubtful cases the main job should be the one with the greatest number of hours usually worked.

The basis for the classification in the ISCO-08 classification is the nature of the job itself and the level of skill required. A job is defined as the set of tasks and duties to be performed. Skills are the abilities to carry out the tasks and duties of a job. Skills consist of two dimensions: skill level and domain specialisation. The skill level is related to the level of educational attainment.

- Technical Issues The information needed for the classification by occupation are the job title associated with the main job and a further description of the tasks and duties.
For a few occupations, information on size of the workplace (the local unit of activity) is needed to code ISCO 08.
In some surveys the occupation could refer to the reference week or to the International Labour Organisation employment definition. This would be acceptable for the sake of limiting response burden.

ISCO is a major classification and it is also used as input into various socio-economic classification schemes. For the proposed European Socio-Economic Classification the ISCO-08 would be needed with at least the two-digit level of detail. For this reason, information on occupation will need to be collected not only for those currently at work, but also at a later stage for those who previously held a job (people who are retired, the unemployed who worked before, those who worked before but are no longer in the labour force).

Issues and developments

- ISCO level recommended

Categories at two digits is the requirement achievable for all surveys: the implementation of the collection at one digit level would not provide sufficient quality (level 1 is not appropriate for a direct collection). Level 2 is already implemented in most surveys and would constitute the minimum level required for interviews. For register based data, ISCO is often coded at even more detailed level.

A shorter categories list could be studied in the case of reduced breakdowns (manual/non manual, skilled/unskilled). However, the need for more details in certain categories will need to be checked for implementation of the classification ESeC (European Socio-economic Classification).

- Quality of ISCO

There is not yet complete information at Eurostat on the way ISCO is collected or derived in each country and survey. Due to the numerous comparability issues for certain ISCO categories across countries, specific actions should be launched at EU level to ensure comparable ISCO data.

- Coverage of the variable: persons not currently working (last job)

This variable is to be collected among persons presently not employed. The additional burden on respondents to collect this variable from persons not currently employed but with previous working experience would be too high although it is relevant for certain surveys like the LFS, EU-SILC or the EHIS. It would be needed for the full version of the classification 'ESEC': persons who are not long-term unemployed are defined according to their previous job in the ESeC.

Good practice

- Data collection through interviews

- Categories at **more** than two digits in the field work could be considered as a good practice.

1.14 Economic sector in employment

Rationale

The industry in which people are employed is a key descriptor for labour market analysis (including issues linked to skills, mobility of workers, quality of the job, etc.) and together with the occupation (ISCO) and the type of contract is very useful to describe the socio economic status of individuals.

This core variable is defined as the economic activity of the local unit where the respondent is employed (incl. self-employed). The economic activity of the enterprise can serve as a proxy where information at local unit level cannot be collected or is not available.

Short description

Economic activity of the local unit where the respondent carries out his/her main professional activity (incl. self-employed).

Proposed categories for transmission

<i>Category</i>	<i>Label</i>	<i>NACE Rev. 2 sections</i>
1	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	A
2	Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	B, C, D and E
3	Construction	F
4	Wholesale and retail trades, transport, accommodation and food service activities	G, H and I
5	Information and communication	J
6	Financial and insurance activities	K
7	Real estate activities	L
8	Business services	M and N
9	Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	O, P, and Q
10	Other services	R, S, T and U

- Classification used NACE Rev.2

This grouping is not part of NACE but it was originally introduced by national accounts (in regulation 715/2010).

Definition

- Reporting unit Individuals
- Filter Persons employed, filtered from the variable *Self-declared labour status*
- Reference period As in self-declared status (main status, no reference period)
- Concept Economic activity of the local unit where the individual carries out his/her main professional activity.
- Technical issues "Local unit" is the geographical location where the job is mainly carried out or, in the case of itinerant occupations, can be said to be based; normally it consists of a single building, part of a building, or, at the largest, a self-contained group of buildings. In many cases, the "local unit" is the common site where the group of employees of the enterprise work together.

Where information for the 'local unit' is not available, the 'enterprise' can serve as a proxy. This approximation can be relevant for countries where the information can be derived from registers (f.i. by linking the respondent via a national register number to an enterprise by using a social security register).

Where the local unit or enterprise has more than one 'economic activity', the main activity should be retained. The ideal measure for determining the main activity would be the *number of employees* for the different activities, rather than more economical concepts like *added value* or *turnover*.

The scope is limited to persons currently in employment. In some surveys the economic sector could refer to the reference week or to the International Labour Organisation employment definition. This would be acceptable for the sake of limiting response burden.

Issues and developments

- NACE Rev.2.
The 21 sections of NACE Rev. 2 provide a very interesting insight for social statistics. However, some social statistics can not collect the information at that level of detail. Therefore the proposed 10 categories are retained as a minimum to ensure comparability, but publication by 21 sections is encouraged whenever possible. Use of more detailed breakdown (e.g. 2 digit level) is welcome provided the data quality allows it.
- The proposed 10-category breakdown is also used in national accounts.

Good practice

- Data collection.
- Ideally information coming from the employer or the business register should be used. However, in most cases the information will be obtained using a self-assessment question in the interview. The interviewer can present the respondent with the answering categories or can ask for the sector of activity where he/she is employed and attribute the appropriate code.

1.15 Highest level of education completed (Educational attainment)

Rationale

The level of education is a critical factor for the knowledge economy and society. The influence of educational level of people on their social situation is widely recognised.

There is strong relationship between the educational level of an individual and their membership of a socio-economic group. A higher level of education is strongly associated with a higher socio-economic status. This is because membership generally creates more favourable employment prospects which in turn improve lead to higher standard of living and an improved social situation. Therefore, for young people, their level of educational attainment will be a key factor in influencing their adult lives.

On a macro-economic level, there is considered to be a relationship between economic growth in a country and educational attainment of its citizens. High level of educational attainment is an indication of the value of human capital in an economy. Developing human capital is considered to be one of the drivers for economic development due to the constant economic pressure for higher skills. The educational attainment level of young people and the percentage of early school leavers were two of the five benchmarks used to evaluate progress of the Lisbon strategy. Two of the headline indicators to monitor the EU2020 strategy are linked to educational attainment, namely (i) tertiary educational attainment of persons aged 30-34, and (ii) early leavers from education and training (early school leavers) are two of the 8 headline indicators under the Europe 2020 strategy. Many national and European programmes seek to increase the opportunity for people to improve their knowledge and skills through on the one hand, raising the level of initial education, and then by encouraging participation in lifelong learning.

Short description

This variable provides information about educational level successfully completed by a person.

Proposed categories for transmission

Category	Label
0	No formal education or below ISCED1
1	ISCED 1 - primary education
2	ISCED 2 - lower secondary education
3	ISCED 3 - upper secondary education
4	ISCED 4 - post secondary education but not tertiary
5	ISCED 5 - tertiary education, first stage
6	ISCED 6 - tertiary education, second stage

- Classification used: **ISCED 1997**⁹

⁹ The most widely accepted educational classification is the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) which was designed by UNESCO in the early 1970's to serve "as an instrument suitable for assembling, compiling and presenting statistics of education both within individual countries and internationally". ISCED was revised in November 1997. The basic unit of classification in ISCED-1997 is the educational programme. ISCED-97 provides a set of criteria for assigning individual programmes to 'levels' of education.

Because of implementation constraints in some surveys and countries, the proposed categories are the simplest ones. They allow easy aggregation of these groups into three levels frequently used in data dissemination: low, medium and high educational level. Nevertheless it is strongly recommended, particularly in the surveys including several variables on education, to follow the categories used in the EU-LFS.

Definition

- Reporting unit Individual
- Filter All persons aged 15 years or more (according to the survey).
As many young people are still in education, this variable is more relevant for persons aged 25 and more (after the end of tertiary studies).
- Reference period Moment of the interview
- Concept The person's highest level of education completed

The main concern to measure is the level of education achieved. The Task Force on Harmonisation of Social Statistics defined this concept (CC23) as: Educational attainment of a person is the highest level of an educational programme the person has successfully completed.

- Technical issues

"Highest level of education completed" means level successfully completed and must be associated with obtaining a certificate or a diploma (see the section 'implementation of ISCED 2011') . When determining the highest level, both general and vocational education should be taken into consideration. Persons who have not completed their studies should be coded according to the highest level they have completed (not be coded with a blank). Persons still in education have to indicate their last level of education successfully finished.

Issues and developments

- National Educational Attainment Classifications (NEACs)

The NEACs provide the first information from individual about his/her educational attainment according to the specific national situation. They are a basis for recategorisation of national levels to the ISCED along with ISCED mappings. These classifications used since many years in the LFS surveys should be considered as a model for other surveys.

In the context of the ISCED review (leading to the adoption of ISCED 2011), Eurostat has begun to discuss the possibility of integrated ISCED mappings to be used by all data producers. More information will be included in the next revision of the manual following the adoption of ISCED 2011.

- ISCED level recommended

One digit level of ISCED 1997 (see table above) is the minimum requirement feasible for all surveys although the implementation at two digits level as currently used in the EU-LFS, and shown in Table 3 below, is considered as a good practice.

Table 3: Two digits level of ISCED 1997 as currently used in the LFS

<i>EU-LFS Category</i>	<i>Label</i>
01	No formal education or below ISCED1
11	ISCED 1
21	ISCED 2
22	ISCED 3c (shorter than 2 years)
31	ISCED 3c (2 years or more)
32	ISCED 3 a, b
30	ISCED 3 (2 years or more, without distinction a, b or c possible)
41	ISCED 4 a, b
42	ISCED 4c
43	ISCED 4 (without distinction a, b, c possible)
51	ISCED 5b
52	ISCED 5a
60	ISCED 6

Categories ISCED 1997 at two-digits-level enables, in the countries with ISCED 3c short programmes, the more fine aggregation of the ISCED to three commonly known levels:

- Low educational attainment level (ISCED 0-3c short, corresponding to the aggregation of categories 01, 11, 21 and 22). This level is also called 'lower secondary'.
 - Intermediate/Medium educational attainment level (ISCED 3 and 4, corresponding to the aggregation of categories 31, 32, 30, 41, 42 and 43). This level is also called 'upper secondary'.
 - High educational attainment level (ISCED 5 and 6, corresponding to the aggregation of categories 51, 52 and 60). This level is also called 'tertiary'.
- o Implementation of ISCED 2011
- Revised ISCED has been prepared by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, for adoption by the General Conference of UNESCO in autumn 2011.
 - ISCED 2011 will include for the first time concepts related to educational attainment as a derived unit of this classification.. Eurostat is preparing (in close collaboration with the OECD) guidelines for collection of educational attainment data in household surveys. The guidelines are expected to be available from mid 2012 to prepare their implementation along with the new ISCED 2011. They will in particular set recommendations on the collection of the highest certificate and diploma obtained for programs at upper secondary and tertiary levels. An alternative question is foreseen for persons without any certificate and diploma (for lower secondary education levels) – See page 4 of the [document for item 3.1.2](#) of the March 2011DSS workshop on core variables.
 - The implementation date for EU surveys and data collections is decided by the Directors of Social Statistics in their September 2011 meeting. The earliest possible implementation date would be 2014 for a first dissemination in 2015. A legal act would be adopted by end of 2012 accordingly. This manual will be adapted by the same time.

Good practice

- o Data collection through interviews

Categories of the national educational levels in the way making two digits categories in ISCED possible could be considered as a good practice.

The question about educational attainment can be asked as an open question in a survey and recoded after or directly coded according to the national list of educational programmes.

It should be recommended to avoid proxies (in some cases, it can be difficult to determine educational level of the older person, of the migrant or of the person whose participation in formal/non-formal education programmes could be confused).

- Data collection through registers can raise the issue of updating the information on educational attainment of the person, especially for young people. A good practice could be to complement the register information through a specific question during the interview (allowing the validation of the register records).

1.16 Net monthly income of the household

Rationale

For the collection of total household net income:

The aim of this core variable is to obtain a proxy of the economic well being of the respondent. The standard of living of a person not only depends on the income of this person but also on the income received by the rest of the people living with him/her. For this reason, the variable of interest for measuring economic well-being is the total household income.

In addition, the net and not the gross income is of interest because it gives an idea of what households actually have available to spend or save.

For the adjustment to equivalised income:

Other things being equal, a large household will have a lower standard of living from the same income received by a small household. It is therefore standard practice to apply an "equivalence scale" to income values in order to reflect differences in size and composition, and thereby obtain a more comparable measure of economic well-being.

For the collection of monthly income:

The spectrum of choices of reference period ranges from income received over the whole lifetime to income received over the most recent period (last week or month). Although annual income is the more commonly adopted reference period, monthly income is proposed here for its simplicity and because the goal is to use the variable to classify people in different "standard of living groups" and not to compare people at individual level according to the income received. For a high percentage of respondents, the monthly income multiplied by twelve will correspond to the annual amount; consequently, the majority of people will be classified correctly.

Short description

The proposal is to consider "the net monthly equivalised income of the household" as a core variable.

Proposed categories for data collection and transmission

- o Data collection category

<i>Category</i>	<i>Label</i>
⌋ ⌋ ⌋ ⌋ ⌋ ⌋	Net monthly income of the household (value in national currency)

- Transmission categories – EQUIVALISED household total net monthly income¹⁰

Category	Label
1	Below 1 st quintile
2	Between 1 st quintile and 2 nd quintile
3	Between 2 nd quintile and 3 rd quintile
4	Between 3 rd quintile and 4 th quintile
5	Between 4 th quintile and 5 th quintile
9	Unknown

NB. Metadata should include the quintile cut-off point values in national currency.

- Classification used Not applicable

Definition

- Reporting unit Household/individuals
- Filter No filter
- Reference period Current month (if income varies between months, an average is to be given)
- Mode of collection Personal interview or register or self-administered questionnaire
- Concepts

Household income: The income of all persons who are currently members of the household at the date of the interview as well as the income received by the household as a whole are to be taken into account.

Monthly income: To ease data collection, the general recommendation is to use the easiest reference period in each country, monthly or yearly, although annual income is the more commonly recommended reference period. In case the household income varies substantially over the year (in case of seasonal activity or dividends/bonuses for instance), it is recommended to collect average monthly income (in practice, to obtain the net household income over the past year and divide by twelve).

Net income: Net income means amounts as the household receives them, which is normally after deduction of tax and contributions to social insurance and pensions, as well as after deduction of inter-household cash transfers paid and thus represents the amount available for consumption expenditure, savings and investment.

*Income components*¹¹: In calculating the total net monthly income of the household, the most important element is to ensure consistency at national level. It is not the purpose of this variable to ensure cross-countries comparability neither to make any assumptions on income trends during consecutive years.

¹⁰ i.e. household total net monthly income divided by equivalent household size according to OECD modified scale

¹¹ Detailed information on the below mentioned income components can be found in the document "EU-SILC 065 – Description of target variables"

The following income components are to be considered:

(a) Income from work:

- Wages and salary earnings (including bonuses regularly paid at the time of each payment – such as regular overtime hours, bonuses for team, night or weekend work, tips and commissions) for the most recent month before the interview (or the monthly average for a recent period if this is easier to collect or estimate); net of any amounts deducted at source for tax and contributions to social insurance and pensions;
- For income from self-employment, the respondents can be asked for an estimate of their (usual) monthly disposable income, taking into account drawings from their own business. Alternatively, monthly trading profit estimates could be supplied, together with an estimate for income tax payable.
The income should be net of any amounts deducted at source for tax and contributions to social insurances and pensions.
Negative income (eg. trading losses) should be treated as zero amounts.

PLUS

(b) Income from social benefits: unemployment benefits, old age and survivors' benefits, sickness and disability benefits, family/children related allowances, social exclusion allowances not classified elsewhere, housing allowances and education-related allowances. It should refer to the last monthly payment received before the interview (or the monthly average for a recent period if this is easier to collect or estimate); net of any amounts deducted at source for tax and contributions to social insurance and pensions.

PLUS

(c) Other cash income components: income from capital and investments (property, assets, savings, stocks, shares, private pension plans, etc); cash transfers from other households (for example alimony payments)...

Note: imputed rent is not taken into account

MINUS

(d) Cash transfers paid to other households (for example alimony payments)...

Equivalised income: the total income variable is to be corrected for the household composition (dividing the income by an equivalence scale that weights different members within the same household with different weights according to their ages).

For that purpose, the OECD modified scale should be used (giving a weight of 1.0 to the first member of the household aged 14 or more, 0.5 to each additional member aged 14 or more and 0.3 to each member aged less than 14 years old).

o Technical Issues

- In case registers are used, the national consistency is ensured.

- In case the information is collected via interviews:
 - As the general public has little knowledge of equivalence scales, it is not feasible to collect information on equivalised income directly by interview for any relevant survey.

Consequently, instead of the equivalised household income, it is proposed to ask in the interview the total net household income, and to calculate the equivalised net income afterwards, using the separate core variable on the household composition (which gives the exact number of persons aged above and below 14).

- For the total household net income, the exact or estimated total amount should be asked in a first stage.
(See example questionnaire below.)

During subsequent data processing, the collected income value for the household (exact or approximate amount) will be converted to equivalised income using the separately collected data on household composition. This will be done by dividing the collected income value by an equivalence scale that weights different members within the same household with different weights according to their age. The OECD modified scale should be used. The resulting figure is attributed to each individual household member.

Except for single person households, this equivalised value per individual will be higher than the simple household net income per capita (i.e. total net monthly income of the household divided by total number of household members) due to the implied economies of scale.

If the respondent doesn't know the exact or approximate amount for their household, he/she should be requested to indicate the income range corresponding to the total household net income per month. The interviewer will be given a table where the household income range appears. *(See example questionnaire below.)*

Note: *The post treatment of grouped income distribution requires special attention. Given the aim is to gather individual equivalised net monthly disposable incomes into quintile classes, individuals for which household income is reported using ranges should be given an approximate income. The simplest approximation is to assume uniform distribution of income in each income classes (except for the open top class). The number of ranges has to be determined by an ex ante analysis of the household income distribution at national level. The number of classes should be enough so to obtain adequate a good shaping of the distribution and to limit approximation.*

Imputation of missing data: Where a respondent is unable or unwilling to supply actual income values or an approximate income range, there will be missing data on total household net monthly income. In these circumstances, it will be necessary to impute values. Imputation methods based on those used in EU-SILC at national level may be used for this purpose. It may be possible to use external sources (eg. administrative registers) to complete this information.

Where a respondent is unable or unwilling to supply actual information for the separate core variable on household composition (persons aged above/below 14), there will be a potential inability to convert collected income data into per capita amounts or into equivalised income values. It may be possible to complete the household composition information from external sources.

Example questionnaire (data on household income):

Q1: If you add up the income from work and from social benefits, income from capital and any other regular source of income for all the members of your household, also taking into account the regular inter-household cash transfers paid and received, do you know what is your household's total net monthly income per month?

YES => Q2

NO => Q3

Refusal=> Q3

Q2: What is your household's total net income per month? If you don't know the exact figure, please give an estimate.

VALUE L L L L L

Q3: If you cannot provide an estimate or exact amount of your income, can you provide an approximate range instead? Is your household's total net monthly income¹²

0 to under 600 EURO

600 to under 800 EURO

800 to under 900 EURO

900 to under 1000 EURO

1000 to under 1200 EURO

1200 to under 1300 EURO

1300 to under 1500 EURO

1500 to under 1700 EURO

1700 to under 2100 EURO

2100 EURO or more (MAX value)?

MISSING

NB1. The EURO values should be replaced with approximate values in national currency.

NB2. To avoid categories errors, it is suggested to leave the calculation of equivalised amounts (and their conversion into quintiles) to the post-collection processing.

Issues and developments

As mentioned earlier, the purpose of this core variable is not to carry out in-depth studies on income (this remain in the scope of EU-SILC), but to classify households. For that purpose, certain flexibility can be allowed among countries, provided that in each country, the data collected are consistent. In particular, some flexibility can be allowed on:

- the monthly income recommendation:
 - for countries where only *annual* income is available in the survey vehicle or from administrative sources, this reference period can be used (in that case, the collected value would be divided by twelve). Moreover, in case the household income varies substantially over the year (in case of seasonal activity or dividends for instance), it is

¹² The income bands proposed here, for illustrative purposes only, are based on the EU income distribution derived from SILC 2005. It is suggested to use more than five positions in order to have more precise information about the quintiles.

recommended to collect average monthly income (in practice, to obtain the net household income over the past year and divide it by twelve).

- the choice of the *equivalence scale* to be used: a decision on the appropriate equivalence scale for the adjustment and comparison of household incomes has already been reached at EU level in the context of the Open Method of Coordination, concerning the use of the OECD-modified scale.

Tests

- The proposed definitions and methods have to be tested, in particular the feasibility and the appropriate ways of transforming classes into imputed amounts, the possibilities for presenting variables or moving ranges according to the composition of the household, the effect on the measurement error or the resulting item non response. These tests would be run on the occasion of the next implementation of the following surveys: HBS, EHIS, AES and ICT from 2011 onwards.
- In parallel, or prior to this implementation, tests of the correctness of classification of individuals according to the simplifying assumptions made for this core variable can also be made from EU-SILC¹³.
- Quality of data collected on self-employed persons and usefulness of income bands to solve possible problems with respect to the declared income of this group, has also to be tested.

Good practice

- In case of interviews:
 - As a general rule, it is recommended that this information is collected to the household respondent¹⁴. If it is not possible/easy to ask the household respondent for a given survey (i.e. when no household component is included in the survey), and if the selected respondent does not know about the household income, it is recommended to ask additional information (such as, for instance, level of education and occupation of the head of the household etc...) in order to impute the household income (imputation methods may be based on those used at national level for EU-SILC).
 - The question must be as simple as possible in order not to be cumbersome for the respondent. In a given country, in order to ensure consistency at national level, it is recommended that the instructions for interviewers provide a detailed list of/detailed guidelines on the components that are included in the definition, to be used only at the respondent's inquiry.

The exact or estimated total net household income should be asked in first stage. In case the interviewee does not know this amount/does not want to respond, he/she should be asked to indicate the income range corresponding to the total net household income per month (the interviewers will be provided with the household income ranges). To obtain an amount as detailed as possible, the number of income ranges should be high enough (close to or more than 10 categories); they could be defined on the basis of the information available at national level.

¹³ See for instance tests carried out in FR and IT.

¹⁴ As defined in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1981/2003 of 21 October 2003: "Interview information relating to the whole household and general information on each household member shall be provided by (one or more) members of the household. The household respondent shall be chosen according to the following priorities:

— Priority 1: the person responsible for the accommodation.

— Priority 2: a household member aged 16 or over, who is best placed to give the information".

- During data processing, the target income variable is to be corrected for the household composition (dividing the income by an equivalence scale that weights different members within the same household with different weights according to their ages).
For that purpose, the OECD modified scale should be used (giving a weight of 1.0 to the first member of the household aged 14 or more, 0.5 to each additional member aged 14 or more and 0.3 to each member aged less than 14 years old).
- Only the net monthly equivalised income is transmitted (in quintiles) to Eurostat.

Relevant statistical unit¹⁵

The relevant unit for analysis of the proposed core variables is the individual. This is true also for the core variables on "composition" of the household and "net monthly income of the household" where the level of information collected is at the household rather than the individual, which is therefore a category to which the individual belongs. There is no reason to change the specific statistical unit of each survey. At the same time, it is not intended that each member of the household is interviewed.

The scope of all surveys, with the exception of the Structure of Earnings Survey, is the resident population. The Core Social Variables Task Force recommended the use of a common definition as described in the European System of Accounts (ESA95) and in the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing. Both define the resident population as persons who are staying, or intend to stay, on the economic territory of a country for a period of one year or more.

The same threshold of one year of staying or intention to stay in a household is proposed in order to simplify the definitions. It is however clear that resident population and households are separate concepts, identified at different stages of the survey.

¹⁵ The question of the coverage of institutional households is outside the scope of this report.

PART TWO – Implementation

2.1 Principles for Implementation

This section describes progress in introducing and harmonising the core variables on a survey by survey basis. At the outset it was considered (by the Task Force on Core Social Variables) that implementation of the 16 core variables selected by the Task Force would be largely a question of the harmonisation of variables already existing in the surveys rather than adding new variables to them. An exception to this was already known to be the ICT survey, for which full compliance with core variables would require several new variables to be introduced.

The harmonisation of the variables within the surveys should take place in three phases¹⁶:-

- Phase 1: geographic data - first part (linked to migration): country of birth, country of citizenship, country of residence; highest level of education completed;
- Phase 2: demographic data: sex, age, legal marital status, self declared marital status, de facto marital status, household composition; labour related data: self-declared labour status, status in employment, occupation in employment, employment by industry;
- Phase 3: geographic data - second part (linked to address): region of residence, degree of urbanisation, net monthly income of the household and socio-economic classification.

These revised guidelines reflect the changes to the definitions that will allow for the completion of phase 1. Where the survey has a legislative base, it was proposed to make changes to variables on the basis of gentleman's agreements until such time as a revision of legislation is underway and any changes could be formalised. In this way, the approach was for a gradual evolution of the legislative base of surveys, rather than immediate systematic change.

Other guidelines for implementation¹⁷ are as follows:-

- The need for consistency in implementing core variables across surveys in one country. This is a desirable objective, both from an EU and from a national point of view
- The importance of both a sectoral approach (survey-by-survey) as well as a variable approach (checking and consistent introduction of the variables, one after another)

¹⁶ Agreed at the September 2008 meeting of the DSS

¹⁷ Agreed in July 2008 by the Strategic Development Group (SDG) of the DSS

- The need for strong co-ordination, both at Eurostat and at the Member State level
- Regular monitoring of progress
- The value of a stepwise approach: proceeding in stages (one variable or a small set of variables at a time) to sequence the work and efforts.

A Working Group on Core Variables in Social Surveys (CVSS) was set up to support the coordination of this work, with membership comprising one nominated co-ordinator for the implementation of all variables in each survey from each Member State. A launch meeting of the WG was held in May 2009, with the expectation that subsequent tasks would be carried out by electronic means.

Implementation progress – surveys and census

This section considers the implementation of core variables for the following data collection instruments at EU-level. An overview of the implementation status of each survey and each variable is in Appendix 1.

- Labour Force Survey (LFS)
- Survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC)
- Household budget survey (HBS)
- Adult education survey (AES)
- ICT usage in households and by individual (ICT)
- European health interview survey (EHIS)
- European Survey on Health and Social Integration (ESHSI)
- European Safety Survey (SASU)
- Time use survey (TUS)
- Census
- Structure of earnings survey (SES)

2.2 Labour Force Survey (LFS)

All the core variables proposed are already implemented in the LFS with the following caveats:

- The variable 'self-declared status' is surveyed on an optional basis. Presently all Member States report it except Germany and the United Kingdom (2009 data). Several Task Forces have recommended in recent years to make this variable compulsory. Eurostat is in the early steps towards making it compulsory, but there is no timetable yet.

It should be noted that the LFS collects self-declared status in the reference week.

- The variable 'country of birth' is not transmitted by Germany (Germany has a derogation). The problem is the persons born before 1945. Eurostat imputes from other LFS variables information to distinguish between persons born in Germany and outside Germany, but in the latter case there is no country detail. There are ongoing discussions with DESTATIS to transmit data for persons born after 1945.
- The variable 'household income' is not feasible in the LFS. Although household income would be useful for household analyses, the introduction of a variable on individual wages deciles for employees is considered a more important dimension for the use of the LFS in labour market analysis. Individual wages have become mandatory since 2009, but self-employed persons are excluded, and only deciles are collected. The definition of wages is somewhat vague e.g. use of gross or net salary as a proxy, use of administrative sources (with their own definitions), etc.
- In the LFS, variables economic sector and occupation are linked to the ILO labour status variable rather than the self-perceived labour status.

2.3 Survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC)

Annual data collection under EU-SILC is governed by a Framework Regulation of the European Council and the Parliament (no. 1177/2003 amended by no. 1553/2005) and by a series of implementing Commission Regulations.

All of the proposed core variables are considered to be directly relevant to the aims of EU-SILC (the delivery of reference information at EU level on income, poverty and social exclusion). All of them are feasible from the instrument as it is currently designed. Except as indicated below they are already implemented.

Issues and developments:

- For the country of birth and the country of citizenship, EU-SILC uses standardised categories set out in regulation 1983/2003, which is more detailed than the recommended three-digit categories of the UNSD Area Codes derived from the ISO 3166 classification. Nevertheless, through a post-categorisation at Eurostat the compliance with the recommended three-digit categories can be reached. Information on country of birth and citizenship is collected for people aged 16 or more.
- EU-SILC collects information on labour and educational level for people aged 16 or more.
- EU-SILC collects information on status in employment (wage/salary employee or independent self-employed) which can be combined with the type of contract variable (permanent/temporary).
- EU-SILC collects detailed and exhaustive information about annual income. It does not seem appropriate to ask for additional information on net monthly income. Therefore, EU-SILC will implement the core variable by considering 1/12 of the collected household equivalised annual disposable income. The reference period will

remain different - but this should not be a major problem for classification into quintiles.

- In EU-SILC, persons temporary absent from the household dwelling for more than six months and not considering their address as being the household dwelling are not considered as members of the household. Resident population is however defined in the core variables as a stay of one year or more, following the national account principles and the census recommendations. This difference might have consequences when comparing individual counts obtained through EU-SILC and resident population count obtained using the core variable definition.

However, EU-SILC is the most advanced instrument regarding household definition and implementation. The economical concept at the basis of the definition mastered in SILC seems to be more suitable for household composition than length of residence. Furthermore, changing the EU-SILC definition of household membership might have important consequence as regards its organisation as a panel. Such a change could not take place in the short and medium term. It would also probably have an impact on the data, as the reference population will be slightly different. For all these reasons, it is proposed not to change household definition in EU-SILC. It is recommended as well that Eurostat performs an analysis of the impact on the data of a change in SILC.

2.4 Household budget survey (HBS)

The periodic (quinquennial) collection and transmission of ex-post harmonised data to Eurostat is undertaken on the basis of a gentleman's agreement.

All of the proposed core variables are considered to be directly relevant to the aims of the HBS (the delivery of comparable information at EU level on consumer expenditure and consumer behaviour). All of them are feasible within the instrument as it is currently designed.

Issues and developments:

- HBS does not currently collect information on the following core variables:
 - Country of birth;
 - Country of citizenship;
 - Economic sector in employment.
- HBS currently collects information on the following core variables, but with less than full compliance:
 - Age in completed years (does not currently collect date of birth);
 - Legal marital status but mixes de jure situation and de facto situation;
 - Household type and household activity status according to slightly different definitions;
 - Region of residence (which allows derivation of country of residence) but only at NUTS level 1, rather than at level 2;

- Highest level of educational attainment, aggregating ISCED97 1-digit categories by combining levels 1 and 2 ('low'), levels 3 and 4 ('intermediate') and levels 5 and 6 ('high');
 - Current self-declared activity status can be complemented with information about usual activity status (but without breakdown full-time/part-time).
- For the core variable on income:
 - HBS currently collects information on household composition by age and can derive information needed to establish the OECD-modified equivalence scale.
 - HBS does not currently collect income information in accordance with the core variable recommendation. Instead, one variable collects information on annual monetary net income of the household (total from all sources) and another variable records annual total net income of the household (including non monetary components). This is complemented with information on main source of the household's income.

A working group for HBS took place in June 2009 and its next publication was discussed. It was proposed that this should have 2010 as a reference year with a probable publication date of mid 2012. There was an agreement in principle that, for the next wave, all the core social variables should be included and all Member States will work towards this aim (as per document HBS/153/2009/Rev entitled "Data transmission for the HBS round of the reference year 2010"). However this would be dependent on various issues, with the most important being the continuous pressure on resources. In view of this it is expected that not all MS will be fully compliant. Moreover at this point one cannot foresee the progress in the different variables that each MS will have reached.

2.5 Adult education survey (AES)

A pilot AES was conducted from 2006 to 2008. The next survey is based on a legal act and runs over the period July 2011 – June 2012. The 2011 AES covers all core variables. In the pilot survey, three of the proposed core variables were not collected: marital status and consensual union (considered not very relevant), and household income.

Because of the size of sample recommended, information at regional level was not collected as it was not considered as reliable. The 2011 AES collects this variable to allow for grouping or data matching.

For age, only year of birth was asked in the pilot survey, month of birth is added in, the 2011 survey. Regarding household size, the pilot survey collected information on the number of persons living in the same household, by 6 age-groups (in which 4 concerning children and teenagers).. The variable "household type" was not collected in the pilot survey but added to the 2011 survey.

Labour status is self-declared, occupation and economic activity are asked at 2-digits ISCO and NACE level. Information on full- and part-time work is collected, as well as on permanent/temporary job. Highest level of education completed is collected in the same way as in the EU-LFS.

The pilot AES focused on the individual, therefore, with respect to income, only the income of the person was asked: based on the monthly (take home) pay from main job, by 5 quintiles. The 2011 AES includes household income. Data matching is to be used to provide information on individual wages.

2.6 ICT usage in households and by individual (ICT)

As of the reference year 2006, the Community survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals has a legal basis. The framework Regulation 808/2004 was amended by framework Regulation 1006/2009, foreseeing annual implementing measures. The most recent Commission Regulation implementing Reg 808/2004 was published in September 2010 (*Commission Regulation (EC) No 821/2010 of 17 September 2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on the information society*, OJ L 246, 18.9.2010) and lays down the contents and arrangements for the reference year 2011 (data collection in 2011, results available end of 2011).

The implementation of the core variables in the ICT survey requires the introduction of several supplementary variables rather than simply the harmonisation of already existing variables as is the case in other surveys. The DSS confirmed that the introduction of core variables cannot be done at the expense of substance variables in the ICT survey.

The implementation of core variables has been discussed in the Working Group on Information Society Statistics. There are restrictions on the burden to respondents in the framework regulation for information society statistics and in increasing sample sizes. Moreover, the discussions pointed to the certain variables which may have interest for additional analysis in the context of potential future data matching projects but no direct relevance for the ICT domain (e.g. marital status, some breakdowns related to employment situation). However, if accepted by the ISS WG, missing core variables could be implemented on a voluntary basis. The framework regulation has expanded the general scope for new breakdowns.

Currently, the ICT usage survey's compliance to the proposed list of core variables has made improvements:

- The variable region according to NUTS1 was introduced as mandatory and NUTS2 as optional in 2008, country of birth and country of citizenship as optional in 2010 and as mandatory in 2011. For the 2011 survey, age in completed years and educational levels according to the seven ISCED categories will become available in the database. Furthermore, legal marital status and de facto marital status were added as optional variables.
- The above variables are expected to be continued in the 2012 survey. The other remaining core variables have been proposed to be included as optional in the model questionnaire. Concerning household income, further harmonisation would be needed after assessing the transition from quartiles to quintiles foreseen for testing in the 2012 survey.

There is very good compliance with the following variables

- Sex
- Age
- Country of residence
- Region of residence
- Degree of urbanisation
- Country of birth
- Country of citizenship
- Marital status (optional)
- Consensual union (optional)
- Educational attainment

The following variables are collected, but are currently not compatible with the Core Variables:

- Household type (only ‘number of HH members’ and ‘number of HH members under 16’ are collected, household composition according to core variables will be collected on an optional basis for the 2012 survey)
- Income (net monthly household income using quartiles, additional transmission in quintiles and correction for equivalised net monthly household income are foreseen for testing in 2012; optional variable)
- Occupation (only broken down by ‘non-manual’ versus ‘manual workers’ and ‘ICT jobs’ versus ‘non-ICT jobs’ – usually recoded from ISCO codes, occupation core variable and optional transmission according to all ISCO-08 2 digit codes expected in 2012.
- Self-declared labour status (currently only four categories, merged variant of the LFS question, proposed to be added as optional for 2012 survey)

The following variables are not collected, but implementation is planned:

- Status in employment, proposed to be added as optional for 2012 survey
- Type of employment (full time vs. part time), proposed to be added as optional for 2012 survey
- Type of contract (fixed duration vs. temporary contract), proposed to be added as optional for 2012 survey
- Economic sector of employment, proposed to be added as optional for 2012 survey

2.7 European health interview survey (EHIS)

The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) was developed between 2003 and 2006, during a process in which all the EU Member States (MS) were largely involved. It consists of four modules on health status, health care, health determinants, and background variables that may be grouped in one separate national survey or they may be included in existing national surveys (i.e. national health interview survey, or other household survey). The final version of

the questionnaire was adopted by the MS at the Working Group on Public Health Statistics in November 2006.

The module on background variables already includes most of the core social variables proposed by the Task Force. The currently missing variables (consensual union) will be proposed for inclusion. Also, some other variables (legal marital status, household type, self-declared labour status, status in employment) need adaptations to the format proposed by the Task Force.

The first wave of the EHIS was implemented during the period 2006-2009 under a gentlemen's agreement. Nineteen countries have carried it out. The second wave of the survey (planned for 2014) will be implemented under an implementing Regulation which is planned to be ready by 2013. Eurostat aims to carry out the EHIS every five years.

2.8 European Health and Social Integration Survey (EHSIS)

The European Health and Social Integration Survey (EHSIS) was developed from 2007 onwards. It will be implemented for the first time in 2012.

The EHSIS will cover 12 sections:

- A health component (three MEHM questions and a health problems list); basic activity limitation questions: seeing, hearing, walking, ...; activities of daily living (ADL) questions around self-care activities such as feeding oneself, dressing, bathing, ..., as well as instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) around domestic life activities, such as managing money, shopping, using the telephone use, housekeeping);
- Ten areas on important facets of life that enable an individual to be a fully functional and integrated member of society: mobility, transport, accessibility to buildings, education and training, employment, internet use, social contact and support, leisure pursuits, economic life, attitudes and behaviour.
- All 16 core variables will be included.

2.9 EU Safety Survey (SASU)

The European Safety Survey (SASU) was developed from 2007 onwards. A pilot version was tested in most Member States during 2008-9. A draft Regulation will be submitted for approval of the Council and European Parliament in 2011 and a delegated act will be prepared to set out the technical characteristics of the survey.

In its current form the questionnaire comprises modules on background variables, feelings of safety and worries about crime, experience of crime and main characteristics of the crime event and its follow-up, security precautions and attitudes to law enforcement. Data on sexual violence is asked separately on an optional basis. Member States have the option to implement a new survey or to adopt existing national surveys on crime or security, where these exist. As the questionnaire has been recently developed, the module on background

variables has been designed to include all the core variables, including for example main employment status, and also including the country of birth of both parents and persons living in a consensual union.

Under the draft Council and European Parliament Regulation, the SASU will be implemented for the first time in 2013. Most Member States will conduct the fieldwork in the second semester, but France and Luxembourg will do so in the first semester. Some non-EU countries such as Norway will also participate. It is intended to repeat the SASU at regular intervals (about every five years) but currently the Regulation is restricted to the 2013 implementation.

2.10 Time use survey (TUS)

There is no legal basis for the TUS, the implementation of methodological issues (including core variables) relies on gentlemen's agreements.

It is recommended to carry out TUS every 5 to 10 years. Between 1998 and 2004 there was a first wave of European TUS relatively harmonised, which used the guidelines approved in 2000. An update of the guidelines was approved in 2008 to be used in the new wave of European TUS, although there is no common reference year. In addition several countries which participated in the first wave may not do so in the second wave.

The 2008 guidelines comply with most of the core variables, the exceptions are:

- The facto marital status: people legally married are not asked this variable.
- Occupation and economic sector: the filter is persons in employment according to ILO status.
- Net monthly income of the household: When no exact figure can be given, deciles are requested. In this case the equivalised quintiles can not be calculated.

2.11 Censuses

Censuses of the population produce the most reliable and geographically detailed count of the population. They report the benchmark figure for the 'total population' and cross-classify it in great detail for selected characteristics. This makes censuses one of the richest sources for data on the regional distribution of people living in a country and their most important characteristics.

A milestone towards harmonising the data from the censuses conducted in the EU Member States will be the publication of results that break down the census topics (variables) in the same way and where these topics follow the same definitions and specifications. The breakdown specifications have been designed to provide the highest possible information value to the European Commission, any other European institutions and any user of European census data.

There is a longstanding co-operation of international and supra-national agencies, namely the United Nations Statistics Division, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and

the European Commission (Eurostat). Census experts from these agencies have co-operated with census experts from the national statistical institutes. This made a very high level of expertise available during the drafting of the different recommendations on censuses.

The EU's legislation on population and housing censuses is concerned with output harmonisation rather than input harmonisation. On the one hand, Member States are free in conducting their 2011 censuses to choose the data sources, methodology and technology they feel are the best in the context of their country. On the other hand, as a condition to Europe-wide comparability, the data about the census topics shall follow the same definitions and technical specifications in all Member States.

The Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses (Regulation (EC) No 763/2008) lists in the Annex all census topics about which the EU Member States shall report data. The census topics concern geographic, demographic, economic and educational characteristics of persons, international and internal migration, as well as household, family and housing characteristics.

However, Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 does not stipulate how the census topics are to be broken down. Nor does it specify the census topics further. This is done with an implementing Commission regulation which is, for the 2011 census round, Regulation (EC) No 1201/2009.

The specifications of Regulation (EC) No 1201/2009 comply with international recommendations, in particular with the "Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing" (CES Recommendations). However, the specifications of Regulation (EC) No 1201/2009 are more specific where the CES Recommendations have left the choice between several options. Regulation (EC) No 1201/2009 specifies the breakdowns of the topics where this is not done in the CES Recommendations or where more detail was required. Comprehensive and concrete breakdown specifications were a condition to defining, in a second step, a unified tabulation programme.

The Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing ('CES Recommendations', United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistical Office of European Communities, 2006) are elaborated in close co-operation with the Statistical Institutes in the countries in the UNECE region. Many but not all of them are part of the ESS. Consequently, the CES recommendations are beyond the sole control of the ESS, and the recommendations of the task force do not directly apply to them. However in a majority of cases, the definitions proposed in this document are compatible with the CES recommendations, and the variables recommended by the task force can be derived from the census recommended practice.

For some topics, this document on the Core Variables refers to Regulation (EC) No 1201/2009 and the CES Recommendations. In these cases, the specifications and/or breakdowns provided there are more detailed as those of the Core Variables. However, a maximum degree of consistency between the relevant international recommendations on censuses, the EU legislation on censuses and the Core Variables is always guaranteed.

2.12 Structure of earnings survey (SES)

The Structure of Earnings Survey is carried out on businesses. Some of the core variables are not available at the level of an individual business; such as country of birth, legal marital status, consensual union, household information, household net income. Moreover it would be illegal for a company to keep records with this information on their employees for reasons of privacy and data protection. Therefore core variables implementation for the SES relates to achieving a better harmonisation with the feasible variables.

Some countries could be able to match the SES surveyed variables with other administrative sources, but this is not possible for every country. As regards geographical information, labour status and status in employment, the SES can not provide exact information for these three core variables since it collects data on resident and non resident employees working in a resident local unit.

Implementation progress – income variable

The Task Force considered that implementation of the income variable was feasible, provided some precautions are taken. Several issues should be considered:

- The relevance for comparative purposes of information on total household income without an adjustment and income equivalised for differences in the size and composition of households
- The relevance of specifying the concept of gross or net income, provided that the same concept is used systematically in one country
- The aim of having information on the precise amount, whether extracted from administrative sources, directly asked or estimated on the basis of a self ranking into national deciles.
- The need to have harmonised techniques of estimation in case the amount cannot be collected
- The need to test the Task Force recommendation on real scale surveys
- The difficulties seen by some Member States in transmitting directly to Eurostat an income amount that could potentially be misused and create difficulties. The need to preserve the actual value from misuse also if the data sets are used for scientific purposes.
- The particular situation of the LFS, in which the wages will be most probably introduced in 2009

The Task Force therefore recommend for the implementation of the income variable:

- The realisation of tests on collecting and estimating the total amount at the occasion of the next implementation of the following surveys or pilots: HBS, EHIS and ICT.
- The proposal by Eurostat of a common estimation method to impute missing values.
- The establishment of a gradual extension of the transmission of data to Eurostat that is proposed to start with the transmission of both total and equivalised income expressed in deciles and after some years of implementation, the transmission of actual values.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Summary table (existing data collections)

Appendix 2: Socio economic classification and the Esec project

Appendix 1
**Summary table showing stage of variable introduction into
existing data collection instruments**

Appendix 1 - Summary table showing stage of variable introduction into existing data collections instruments (Notes provided overleaf)

<i>Directly relevant to the survey (DR) or relevant for socio-economic research (RSER); Feasible (F) or not feasible (NF); Available - complying (AC), available - not complying (ANC), not available (NA) .</i>	LFS	EU-SILC	HBS	AES	ICT	EHIS	TUS	Census	SES	EHSIS	SASU
	Labour Force Survey	Survey on Income and Living Conditions	Household Budget Survey	Adult Education Survey (14)	ICT usage in households and by individuals	Health Interview Survey	Time Use Survey (12)		Structure of Earnings Survey	European Health and Social Integration Survey	EU Safety Survey
Sex	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC
Age in completed years	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC (4)	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC (6)	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC
Country of birth	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, NA	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC (2)	RSER, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER, NF, NA	DR, F, AC	RSER, F, AC
Country of citizenship	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, NA	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC (2)	RSER, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, NF, ANC (7)	DR, F, AC	RSER, F, AC
Legal marital status	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	RSER, F, AC	RSER, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER, NF (11), NA	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC
Consensual union	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER, F, AC	RSER, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC (13)	RSER, F, AC (5)	RSER, NF, NA	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC
Household composition	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	RSER, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER, NF, NA	RSER, F, AC	RSER, F, AC
Country of residence	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, NF, ANC (8)	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC
Region of residence	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	RSER, F, AC	DR, F, AC (3)	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, NF, ANC (8)	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC
Degree of urbanisation	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER, F, AC (5)	RSER, NF, NA	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC
Self-declared labour status	DR, F, AC (1)	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER, NF, ANC (9)	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC
Status in employment	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER, F, NA	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER, NF, ANC (9)	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC
Occupation in employment	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC
Economic sector in employment	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, NA	DR, F, AC	RSER, F, NA	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	RSER, F, AC (5)	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC
Highest level of education attained	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC (4)	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC
Net monthly income of household	RSER, F, NA	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	RSER, F, AC (5)	RSER, NF, NA (10)	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC
Next year of survey implementation	Quarterly	Annual	2015	2011	Annual	2014	current wave ends 2012	2011	2014	2012	2013
Estimated date of full compliance (15)	No date possible at this time	CSV fully implemented	N/A (survey based on gentleman's agreement)	2011	2014 (16)	2014	N/A (survey based on gentleman's agreement)	2021	No date possible at this time	2012	2013

Notes to the summary table

Notes

- (1) Optional
- (2) Country of birth and country of citizenship added for 2010 as optional variables, from 2011 as mandatory
- (3) Available since 2008 survey, selected indicators in published database, NUTS 1 and optional NUTS 2
- (4) Full compliance in 2011
- (5) Availability depends on the decisions of every individual Member State about inclusion of non-core variables in census
- (6) Only the year of birth is to be given (reason: reduce administrative burden for enterprises). The age is then calculated as the difference between the reference year of the survey and the year of birth.
- (7) Optional: a) resident with citizenship ;b) resident with foreign citizenship; c) commuter from another country
- (8) Country of work is collected at NUTS 1. Region of residence at NUTS1 level of the enterprise/local unit is collected. This does not necessarily coincide with the region from which the surveyed employee is coming (commuters from abroad).
- (9) Enterprise survey (no self-declaration by the individual person) : by definition only employees are covered. Type of employment contract (unlimited duration/limited duration/apprenticeship) as well as distinction full-time/part-time is included. Unpaid workers are excluded.
- (10) Gross earnings of individuals are collected.
- (11) Feasible in certain countries
- (12) Column filled in according to the Harmonised European Time Use Survey. 2008 guidelines. Their application is not compulsory.
- (13) Question not asked if the legal marital status is married
- (14) Information provided for the 2011 survey
- (15) There is some currently difference in the interpretation of full compliance between survey working groups: see accompanying progress report to the DSS
- (16) See Progress Report: Working Group expressed view that mandatory collection of marital status, household income and some variables related to employment situation may not be possible

Appendix 2
Socio economic classification and ESeC project

Appendix 2 - The European Socio-economic Classification (ESeC)

1. History

1.1 Prototype defined under the 6th Research Framework Programme (FP6)

The 6th Framework Programme project on ESeC followed a task force on harmonisation of social statistics in 1997-2000 which also covered this topic. The project aimed at producing a European Socio-economic Classification for use in the field of EU comparative research in human sciences which allow EU wide analyses of health, living conditions, labour market situation of men and women, economic situation of citizens among Member States, along with intergenerational social mobility and intergenerational inheritance of inequalities.

The consortium running the project was composed of universities and research centres from the UK, Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden. Apart from regional meetings for the future ISCO, the Consortium organised several workshops to build the classification. One conference took place on 19/20 January 2006 in Lisbon and aimed at proposing a first version of the classification and validation studies. An additional conference targeted to National Statistical Institutes was organized in June 2006 in Slovenia to present a more complete version along with a user guide for implementation in EU surveys.

In some countries, national socio-economic classifications already exist. They are either developed as a normative/deductive matrix (mostly Anglo-Saxon countries: the Erikson-Goldthorpe-Portocarero - EGP schema) or as a theoretical/inductive classification (French 'nomenclature des Professions et Catégories Socioprofessionnelles' PCS).

The ESeC prototype defined under the 6th Research Framework Programme (FP6) is a matrix based on existing variables which makes it theoretically easy to implement it at EU level since it does not require additional data collection.

1.2 The ESeC task force

In 2007, in the framework of the discussion on core variables for social surveys, the Directors of Social Statistics (DSS) decided to create a task force on the European Socio-Economic Classification (ESeC). The aim of the ESeC task force was organising the tests of the classification prototype by National Statistical Institutes in the context of co-financing proposed in the Commission budget for 2007.

The mandate of this task force was therefore to:

- review the objectives of the classification in the framework of an EU classification to be implemented in all ESS surveys
- study the dimensions needed to derive the matrix on the basis of the main issues related to the current prototype and similar national classifications,
- summarise and use the NSI contributions presented in the Bled (Slovenia) conference in June 2006 which concluded the work of the ESeC consortium for the FP6,
- propose guidelines for specific improvement and validation procedures focussing on comparability across countries,
- address the main quality issues, including sources, reduced versions, labels, classification of occupations (ISCO 2008, FP6 project on euro-occupations) and EU comparability.

The task force to discuss the ESeC prototype met in April 2007 and proposed a set of tests for the improvement and the validation of the proposed classification at EU level. A call for grant proposals was sent to the European Statistical System members a few months after. The results of the tests

provide an assessment of the current prototype and suggestions for an improved version valid at EU level and most social surveys.

The task force concluded that three main aspects needed to be covered:

1. Quality and comparability of occupations (ISCO and ISCO 2008) and other dimensions of the prototype,
2. Improvements needed to obtain a classification applicable to all social surveys (links between simplified/reduced and full versions, identification of additional dimensions required)
3. Other quality issues (including presentation and labels).

Examples of validation procedures from an ESeC conference organised in Slovenia in 2006 were also selected by the task force.

1.3 Grants

The call for proposal for grants launched in 2007 was divided in 3 sets of items, each of them containing a standard list of questions to be studied. The sets are not independent and focus on:

either on the first set A (ISCO),

or, on sets A and B (ISCO and improvements),

or, on sets A, B and C (ISCO, improvements and quality issues).

Four countries applied for these grants: Bulgaria, France, Italy and Hungary. The tests started in January 2008. Bulgaria, Italy and Hungary transmitted their final reports to Eurostat in the summer 2009. France did so mid October 2009.

Based on the input from these countries and the proposal from France, Eurostat has proposed the following developments in the last ISCO workshop (November 2009):

- Adapt ESeC to ISCO-08 and built a new version of the classification
- Focus on the improvement of the implementation of ISCO 08 since it is the main input in ESeC.
- Continue to work on a derivation of ESeC exclusively on core variables to allow for an implementation in all social surveys (e.g. ISCO 2 digits, status in employment, sector)
- Study the possibility of providing more precise results from the LFS with additional variables already available in this survey (if necessary, e.g. size of the enterprise, ISCO at 3 digits, Supervision variable).
- Test the quality of this variable, taking into account that such derived ESeC could be slightly different from the initial ESeC used by researchers.

An ESSnet of several Member States was considered the most appropriate way of tackling these questions. This would allow presenting a clearer proposal to the DSS in 2012-2013, after having reached an agreement with the research Community.

1.4 Outcomes of the Directors of Social Statistics meeting of September 2009

Two options were proposed to the DSS regarding the future of ESeC:

- To restrict ESeC to researchers
- To improve ESeC for a core variable and decide upon

The latter would mean using only core variables, mainly ISCO 2008 (2 digits) but also professional status and sector. Further details would be restricted to the LFS (ISCO 3 digits, supervisory responsibilities, enterprise size). An ESSNet on ISCO-08/ESeC was proposed to be created.

During the DSS meeting, the Czech Republic also highlighted that ESeC was very sensitive to the number of ISCO-88 digits used. France informed about the promising results for the future of ESeC after the analyses carried out through Eurostat grants. A focus on the implementation of ISCO-08 should allow a proper revision of ESeC and avoid the issues raised by the Czech Republic. This should ensure the comparability of ISCO results across Member States and allow an implementation in all surveys using only core variables.

France has volunteered to lead the ESSNet ISCO-08/ESeC.

2. Present situation

It is now agreed that a call for proposals of creation of an ESS net on this classification will be sent in 2011.

The possible areas of work of the ESS net were discussed during the ISCO workshops in 2009 and 2010.

The main objectives of the ESS net are:

- Adapt ESeC to ISCO-08 and build a new version of the classification
- Improve comparability of the EU implementation of ISCO 08 since it is the main input in ESeC.
- Continue to work on a derivation of ESeC exclusively on core variables to allow for an implementation in all social surveys (e.g. ISCO 2 digits, status in employment, sector)
- Study the possibility of providing more precise results from the LFS with additional variables already available in this survey (if necessary, e.g. size of the enterprise, ISCO at 3 digits, Supervision variable).
- Test the quality of these variables
- The team will likely be coordinated by France and Denmark, Czech Republic, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Portugal and Finland have shown interest in being co-partners. Bulgaria and Belgium could also be interested.
- Works will take place between 2011 and 2013.
