



# **Family Budget Survey (FBS) in Brussels, autumn 2017**

# Content of this presentation

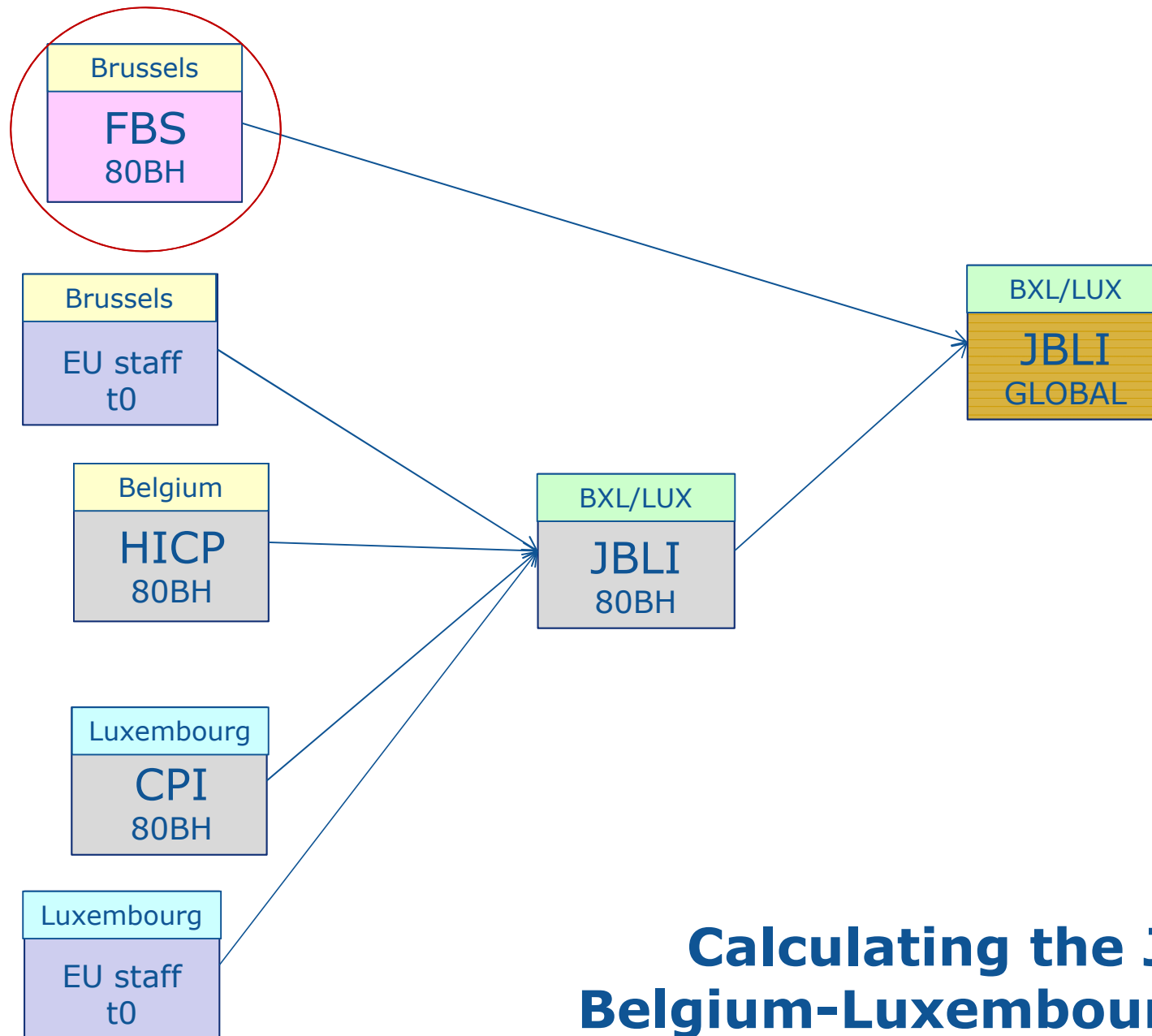
- Why are FBS organised ?
- Recent and planned FBS
- **Organisation of Brussels FBS, autumn 2017**
- Guidance on filling in the questionnaire...
- What will happen to your answers
- Where to find further information

## Purpose & background

Every 5-7 years Eurostat collect data in order to obtain the appropriate weighting structure by basic heading which is used in the following two calculations:

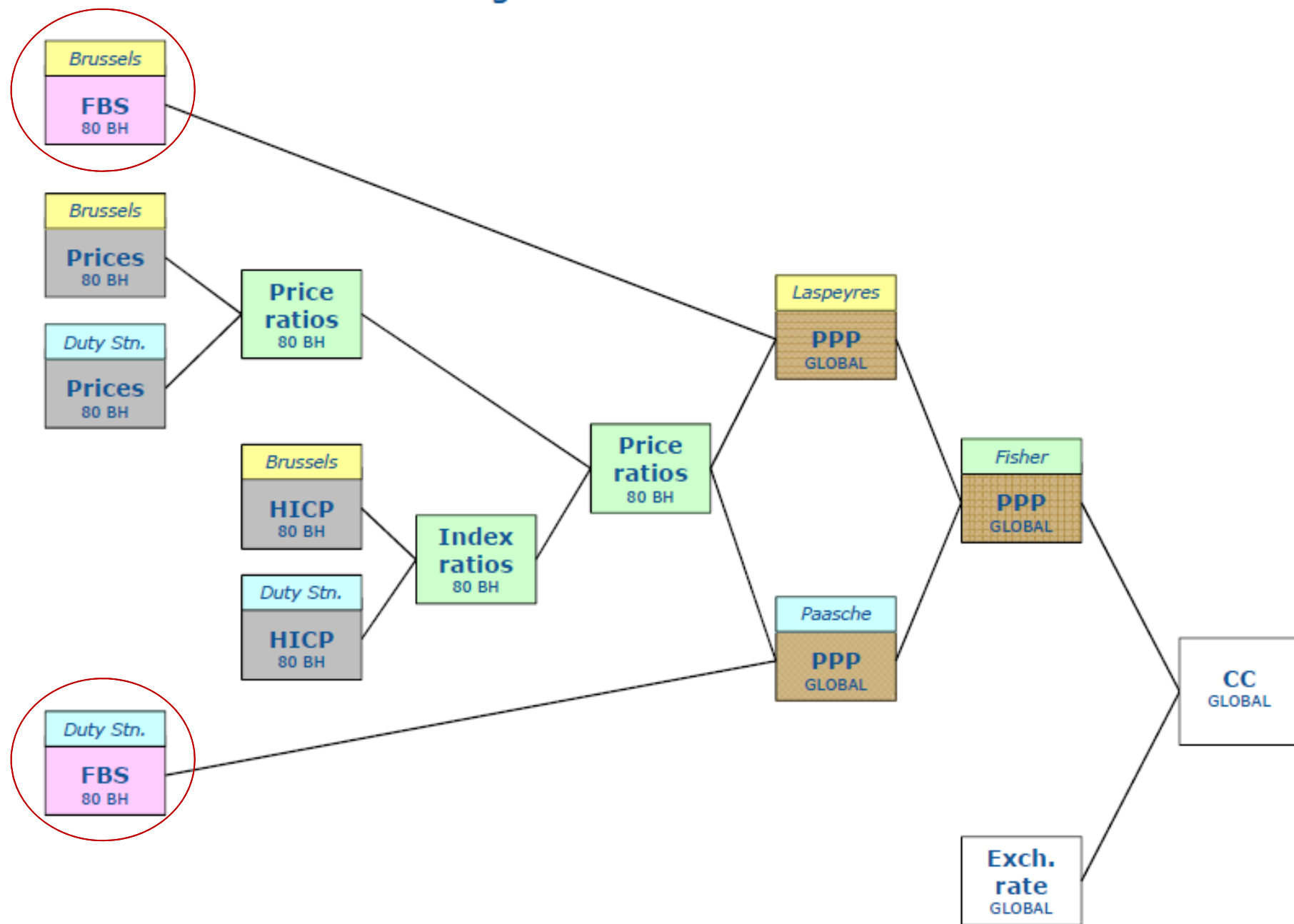
1. To establish the aggregate Joint Belgium-Luxembourg Inflation Index (JBLI);
2. To establish aggregate purchasing power parities (PPP) between Brussels and other places;

Both these calculations have a direct impact on the salaries paid to EU officials.



**Calculating the Joint  
Belgium-Luxembourg Index**

## Diagram of CC calculation



# The current Brussels weights

source: FBS 2010

COICOP group	‰
1 Food, drink	128.2
2 Alcohol, tobacco	20.3
3 Clothing, footwear	54.3
4a Rent	237.1
4b Other dwelling costs	67.5
5 Furniture, utensils	74.7
6 Health	19.2
7 Transport	127.2
8 Communication	21.5
9 Leisure, culture	91.7
10 Education	14.7
11 Hotels, restaurants	100.6
12 Miscellaneous	50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000.0</b>

## Other recent and planned surveys

	Persons
Spring 2016 [2009]: BG, HR	50
Autumn 2016 [2008]: EL, ES, IT, AT, PT	5,500
Spring 2017 [2009]: DK, EE, FI, LV, LT, SE,	) 2,000
CZ, CY, HU, MT, PL, RO, SI, SK,	)
(No survey done in Luxembourg)	
<b>Autumn 2017</b> [2010]: <b>BE</b>	50,000
2018-19 [2011-13]: DE, FR, IE, NL, UK	8,000
2019-20 [2013]: Pensioners (EU28)	20,000
[2010]: Extra-EU staff (144 places)	2,500

## FBS Brussels 2017 timetable

Pre-launch:	early October (IntraComm) late October (GTR) early November (CCP)
Formal launch:	mid November (via Ares, e-mail to all staff)
Questionnaire:	= same as other 2016-17 surveys (some small format improvements) = different to last one in BXLS (2009-10)
Reply deadline:	mid December



# Target participation in FBS BE 2017

Institutions	COMM, PARL, CONS, EESC, CoR, OMBUD, EDPS
Agencies	(JRC), GSA, SRB, EDA, EUISS, EACEA, EASME, ERCEA, REA, INEA, ARTEMIS, BBI, CS2, ECSEL, ENIAC, FCH2, IMI, SESAR, Shift2Rail, EASA, ...
Other EU	EEAS, 5x EurSch-t1
Non-EU	EuroControl, NATO, ISRP
Places:	<b>Brussels</b> , Geel, Mol

# Careful questionnaire design

- To obtain the necessary information
- To minimise the response burden
- To maximise the number of respondents
- To maximise the response quality
- Refined over many years
- Harmonised with other international organisations
- Lessons learned from each survey done

## Will be available online in two languages

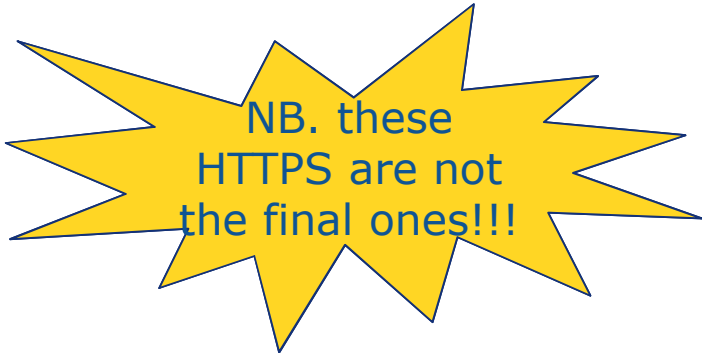
- English

<https://www.familybudgetsurvey.org/en/homecode/TESTBE2017>

- French

<https://www.familybudgetsurvey.org/fr/homecode/TESTBE2017>

- Also as PDF in German



NB. these  
HTTPS are not  
the final ones!!!

EUROSTAT - ISRP

## WELCOME TO THE 2017 FAMILY BUDGET SURVEY

This survey is conducted simultaneously among staff working in the :

European Union (EU) institutions and agencies

Co-ordinated Organisations

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

European Space Agency (ESA)

European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)

European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)

Council of Europe (CoE).

Other international organisations, including:

European Patent Office (EPO)

European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation (EuroControl)

European Schools (EurSch)

European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN)

European Southern Observatory (ESO)

Thank you in advance for your participation.

[START A NEW SURVEY](#)

Introduction	INTRODUCTION
Section 1 : Personal Information	SECTION 1 : PERSONAL INFORMATION
Section 2 : Dwelling Related Regular Bills	SECTION 2 : DWELLING RELATED REGULAR BILLS
Section 3 : Average Monthly or Yearly Household Expenses	SECTION 3 : AVERAGE MONTHLY OR YEARLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES
Section 4 : Education and Health	SECTION 4 : EDUCATION AND HEALTH
Section 5 : Other Expenses	SECTION 5 : OTHER EXPENSES
Comments	COMMENTS
Summary - Save or Submit	SUMMARY - SAVE OR SUBMIT
Glossary	GLOSSARY
Frequently Asked Questions	FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Anonymity is guaranteed!**

- Your replies are essential.
- We need detail, but we recognise the questions can seem intrusive.
- Your answers will be processed with full anonymity and in strict confidentiality.
- We will only present results as an overall average: it will not be possible to identify individual respondent.

# Improvements from 2010 questionnaire

- Abandon the daily diary
- Automatic yearly figures if monthly is filled-in
- Pop-up windows with information
- Able to search for specific words in the glossary
- Detailed FAQ
- Possibility to change currency for specific questions
- Record in-area and out-of-area expenditures
- Complete view of answers at the end, showing **EMPTY** if nothing was entered

## **Before you start!**

*We recommend gathering information together:*

- *Bank statements*
- *Credit card statements*
- *Supermarket till receipts, petrol receipts*
- *Contracts (eg. dwelling rent, car lease, school fees)*
- *Invoices (eg. vehicles, furniture, clothes, electronics)*
- *Medical claims*
- *Insurance records*



## Tips and tricks

*Most respondents find it helpful to print out a **paper version** of the questionnaire to fill that either partially or completely, before doing the online version.*

*Expected completion time is around 60 minutes in total.*

*Having started the questionnaire, you can **save** your unfinished survey and **continue** later.*

*If you have questions, please read the **FAQ**.*

*For additional detail, contact [estat-c3-fbs@ec.europa.eu](mailto:estat-c3-fbs@ec.europa.eu)*

# **Answer everything!**

*We do not expect that everybody has expenditure under every category (eg. no car, no petrol)...*

*...But if you only fill in parts of the questionnaire, we may not be able to estimate values for the missing bits.*

***Accuracy*** is important, but we don't need decimal point.

*Sometimes, a good **estimate** may be better than entering a zero value or leaving it blank.*

***Dwelling size*** m2 is needed for rent imputations...

## We seek high and balanced participation

- *Male/female*
- *Young/old*
- *Single/married*
- *With/without children*
- *AD/AST/CA, all grades*
- *Permanent/temporary*
- *Arriving/departing*
- *Indigenous/expatriate*
- *Tenant/owner*
- *Urban/rural*
- *Political/religious/sexual orientation*
- *Ethnic origin*
- *Leisure interest*
- *etc. etc.*

**...YOUR SURVEY  
NEEDS YOU!**

## What if you choose not to reply?

Participation is voluntary, however:

- There is unlikely to be another survey for at least 5 years
- The sample will not be as robust as it could be, and the resulting average expenditure weights structure is less likely to reflect your individual expenditure pattern
- The calculation of the JBLI element of the annual adjustment of salaries (parallelism) may lack precision
- The calculation of the PPP element of the annual adjustment of salaries (equivalence) may lack precision

## What will happen to your answers?

- Eurostat will review and process the FBS replies in the months following the survey
- They will be used to establish a new set of expenditure weights for Brussels.
- This will be evaluated against available comparative data (existing weights; HICP weights; national HBS)
- Target: introduce for July 2018 CC + JBLI

## To find further information

### ***Manuals and guidelines***

*Intra-EU CC: doc.A64645/14/59rev3 (May 2016)*

*European Comparison Programme KS-RA-12-023*

*Joint Index: doc.A64645/14/58rev (July 2014)*

*HICP compendium (2013); ILO manual CPI*

### ***Website "Dedicated Section"***

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/civil-servants-remuneration/overview>

## CIVIL SERVANTS REMUNERATIONS

Overview

– CORRECTION COEFFICIENTS 

– Data

Database

Mission expenses

– Specific indicators

– Data

Database

Country manuals

Publications

*Thank you for your attention!*