



Comparative EU Statistics
on Income and Living Conditions
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Suggestions for better utilisation of EU SILC

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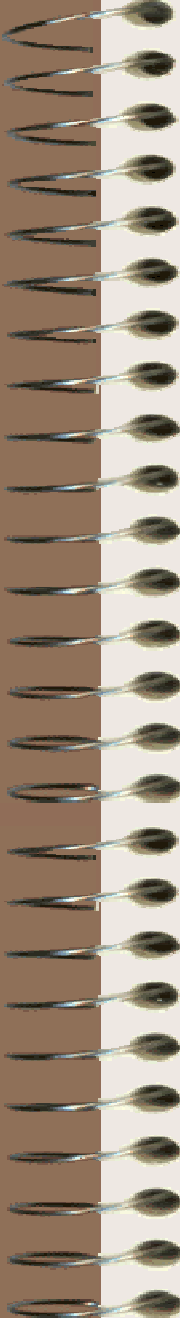
Questions received in advance:

- Missing key dimensions?
- Ways of better meeting the demand for socio-economic analysis?
- 3. Ways to ensure better use as an instrument of policy monitoring?

Aim here: proposals in relation to point 2,
[from the perspective of (potential?) users

Four types of possible suggestions (in general):

1. About the **fieldwork instrument** (sample design, question blocks in the questionnaire, etc.): too late and too early now
- (2. About the **structure of the UDB**: timely, may be utilised soon)
3. About **dissemination policies** (always timely)
- (4. About setting **monitoring indicators** (policy issue))



Proposal 1: Some systematic work on questionnaire development may be still a good idea.

Possible fields of extension:

more background info on **ethnic and migrant groups**
more variables on **durable goods**
more variables on **child care use**
more on **health status**

However, this is not a first priority now.



Proposal 2: Recalculations, sensitivity estimates should be encouraged at the analytic level.

This does not raise an immediate need for instrument refinements.

Rather, to achieve this, **easier microdata access** for broad based robustness analyses and indicator development is to be suggested.

Proposal 3: More „macro” benchmarking, external validation should be initiated (also on national level)

More external validation of

- **income elements** (labour, self employment, capital and property incomes) to macro statistics (National Accounts),
- **expenditure elements** (by function of government expenditures like health, for example)
- **prevalence of goods** (durables, etc.) **and practices** (health visits, etc.)
- **recipient populations** (social benefit recipients, pensioners, taxpayers, employees, etc.)
- **non-covered populations** (institutionalised, homeless, illegal immigrants)

Proposal 4: Think of other techniques to raise value added of SILC UDB!

Institutional database (IDB):

MISSOC and ESSPROS-based tool, well tailored to serve analytic research on social benefits, tax provisions, treatment of capital incomes, etc.

- More active use of stochastic and direct **matching procedures for imputations** for variables not currently covered (tax records in survey countries, for example)

• Microsimulation techniques

Euromod, I-CUE and national efforts as well:

Options for data dissemination

1. **Unlimited access** at zero costs
2. **Price discrimination** (total or marginal cost pricing)
3. **Non price rationing**
 - first come-first served*
 - merit based licencing*
 - ad hoc, for single occasions
 - general, long-term, until withholding

The current system is based on **short-leashed single licences**.
Suggestion: **turn it into a general licensing practice** (with sanctions announced for those violating current requirements)

Proposal 5: Remove the unnecessary constraints on access (at Eurostat level)

Blocking broad based, innovative use is a very high price for...

... fraud prevention?

... privacy ?

(... what exactly is the reason for access restrictions??)

Rather than being preoccupied with finding out complicated ways of monitoring data access,

- **eliminate the restrictions** to the extent possible!
- initiate Commission **regulation on compulsory public access!**
- put the data into a **public**, openly accessible **data archive!**

Advantages:

... increased long term credibility

... increased pressure on NSIs for quality control

... broader involvement in indicator development etc.

Proposal 6: Build a user community for analytic research!

Website:

FAQs,

Best practices of data handling, fieldwork practices, etc

Inventory of useful procedures for definitions, indices, etc

EU-SILC WP series

Mailing lists for researchers

Summary of recommendations:

- Invest in secondary use and further value added!
- Minimise access barriers!
- Build an open research community!

Thank you!

www.tarki.hu

Annex:

Free and open dissemination policy??

Current requirements for being eligible to access micro data

- Proofs on institutions (if not university)
- Identifications of persons in charge (management, research, data handling, etc)
- Description of relevant target research projects
- Copy of underlying contract with other EU bodies (What if the research contract is not with EU?)
- Consultation with member state national authorities (Why?)

Usage restrictions:

- Confidentiality declarations: o.k.
- Provision of a copy of all reports: O.K.
- Only for the shown contract: ?
- Only the staff of the contractor (no external subcontractor: why ?)
- No data to third party: ?
- No copies of datasets:?