

Evaluation of particular procedures within EU SILC
2005 and 2006 survey organisation process
(preparation of fieldwork, data collection, data
recording)

Workshop, 6.-8-11. 2006 Helsinki

High-order aim of project

- ✦ to create statistics on income distribution, on level and structure of poverty and social exclusion in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Aim of the project

- ✦ To obtain comparable (harmonized) and current cross-sectional and longitudinal data on:
 - ✦ level and income distribution,
 - ✦ level and structure of poor and socially deprived households,
 - ✦ structure and reasons (factors) of social exclusion of persons,

which reliably allows comparison of development in this area among EU Member States and on national level allows to create database for calculation of specific concept of poverty in compliance with methodology of the Eurostat and data necessary for estimation of national absolute at-risk-of poverty threshold, or national subjective at-risk-of poverty threshold

External assumes

- ✦ integration of the SR into EU in the year 2004 involved acceleration of starting working on the project EU SILC one year earlier. Initially we had supposed that implementation of this project would be from the year 2006.
- ✦ active preparation in form of three pilot projects
- ✦ financial coverage through grants of the European Commission

1- st pilot project

It showed fields, which involved special interest to be solved:

- ✓ more detailed explanation of methodology of income variables
- ✓ special interest in case of variables such as housing costs, inter household transfers, value of goods produced by own-consumption, year of contract or purchasing or installation

2 - nd pilot project

It showed fields, which involved special interest to be solved:

- ✘ verification of longitudinal component of the survey – „observation of households“ turned out to be insufficient by reason of small number of households or persons moved
- ✘ more detailed structure of income variables. The main reason was to eliminate rough estimations caused by respondents or by interviewers. Also by reason of elimination of non-responses we allowed respondents to be included into proposed income intervals.

3-rd pilot project

- ✘ verified accuracy of right order of questions in particular modules and right solution of bounces to relevant questions, it verified proposed interval extents in case of income variables, structure of social benefits and explanation of their methodology
- ✘ mentioned insufficient explanation of methodology of some variables and potential difficulties in fieldwork (cash employee income, self-employment income, difficulties to enter some dwellings or houses)

EU SILC 2005 – main activities

- ✘ Preparation of fieldwork
- ✘ Data collection in field
- ✘ Data processing on decentralized level
- ✘ Data processing on centralized level
- ✘ Data transmission
- ✘ Creation of outputs

EU SILC 2005 - timetable of action

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| - preparation of fieldwork | November 2004 |
| - fieldwork | May-Jun 2005 |
| - carrying out data checking, cleaning and editing on decentralized level | July-September 2005 |
| - processing data on centralized level | October-December 2005 |
| - imputation of data in relation to income, weighting of the data files | January - February 2006 |
| - creation of microfiles | March 2006 |
| - coherence | March 2006 |

EU SILC 2005 - timetable of action

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. transmission of cross-sectional data-files and social cohesion indicators | 10. April 2006 |
| 2. transmission of cross-sectional data-files and social cohesion indicators | 23. May 2006 |
| 3. transmission of cross-sectional data-files and social cohesion indicators | 12. July 2006 |
| - transmission of an intermediate quality report | 30. August 2006 |
| - transmission of a final quality report is planned | 30. June 2007 |

EU SILC 2005 - preparation

- * in consequence of short time period between realization of the 3-rd pilot project and the main survey, in phase of preparation of the EU SILC 2005 it was not possible to analyze results from pilot project in detailed aimed at analysing of data quality and their verification and comparison with data from external sources.
- * thus questionnaires for the EU SILC 2005 did not differ in a large extent from those ones used in the 3-rd pilot project. Changes related to wording of some more difficult understanding questions and adjustments in Manual for interviewers with specification and simplified explanations of methodology of some income variables

EU SILC 2005 - questionnaires

- * questionnaire as a source of two types of data (X,L)
- * in the SR there is no alternative national survey. Questionnaire for the EU SILC survey was enlarged due to variables added on the base of requirements of national users (especially Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)

EU SILC 2005 - fieldwork: tasks of the Regional Offices

- ❖ they participate in preparation of the survey through comments (questionnaires, Manual for interviewers, Technical projects...)
- ❖ they create the interviewers' network
- ❖ they ensure and realize training of interviewers
- ❖ they ensure survey propagation on regional level
- ❖ they provide methodological direction of fieldwork and they are responsible for data collection and checking of questionnaires
- ❖ they realize data processing on decentralized level (data recording, checks, data corrections and auto correction of input information)

EU SILC 2005 – data processing on decentralized level

- ❖ SW DC 2000 was used for data recording and editing, which has been also used for other national surveys of productive and social statistics. SW was updated for purposes of the EU SILC survey and it is known as „DC SILC 2000“ – enlargement of output statistics, evaluation of non-responses, taking longitudinal component into account, solution of bounces)
- ❖ syntax and logical checks are exactly defined in Technical project of the survey
- ❖ on decentralized level these actions were made:
 - receiving questionnaires from interviewers
 - their checking and preparing for data recording (data coding)
 - data recording
 - correction of error protocols
 - creation of basic microfiles on regional level

EU SILC 2005 – data processing on centralized level

- ❖ data saving, creating of derived files, on which additional checks, calculations were made.
- ❖ data processing using SAS
- ❖ correction of errors, released by the Regional Offices
- ❖ frequency and analytical tables
- ❖ correction of errors (e.g. age of person in QA and QC) using SQL
- ❖ imputation, weighting, coherence, calculation of some variables
- ❖ creating of microfiles R, D, H, P which were checked by SW SAS made by Eurostat

EU SILC 2005 - outputs

- ❖ microfiles R,D,H,P
- ❖ indicators based on cross sectional components of EU SILC2005 transmitted to Eurostat
- ❖ press conference – presentation of preliminary data
- ❖ providing of anonymized data files to external users – MLSA and F, MF and research
- ❖ preparing of publications
- ❖ preparation of special outputs according to users' requirements (OECD)

EU SILC 2006 - basic data

- * survey was identical to EU SILC 2005 in term of organization
- * questionnaires were adapted according to the new experience and requirements of users
- * fieldwork was carried out from 1 April until 30 April 2006
- * data processing on decentralized level: Jun - July 2006
- * data processing on centralized level: September 2006 - continues...

EU SILC 2006 - activities

- * New aspect was observation of households and their members within longitudinal component of the survey

EU SILC 2006 – household observation I.

- * we created address at internal server (intranet) – working with confidential and personal data
- * there was information based on finding of interviewers about moved households and persons (addresses, identification numbers, basic information – years and month of birth, sex) filled up by coordinators
- * coordinator on the base of information, where household moved, entrusted other interviewer for obtaining data in new address
- * we made evidence about date of obtaining information - address and about its assigning and we were monitoring progress from time to time
- * in case of successful obtaining of address, where was possible to contact moved household, interviewer received financial reward

EU SILC 2006 – household observation II.

- * information on moved persons was provided by other household members
- * information on moved households was provided by neighbourhood, deputies of public administration (city mayor, clerk responsible for evidence of community population...)
- * major problem appears to be giving reasons for collection of information on address, first name and surname in case of moved persons. The reason for refusal of other relatives to provide this information was personal data protection.
- * split-off and moved households represented 2 % of whole number of households included again into survey and moved persons represented 1%. Successful of obtaining address of moved persons was almost 90 %.

Evaluation of EU SILC 2005

✘ Strength of the survey

- implementation of results from pilot projects
- active cooperation with external users from the beginning of the survey preparation
- priority was given on the basis of requirement of Eurostat (after that national requests)
- survey propagation through media led to increasing of public interest
- possibility of financial motivation of interviewers, what led to steadiness in interviewers' network
- verification of functionality of designed SW within the 3-rd pilot project

✘ Weakness of the survey

- lack of time for preparation of the survey
- lack of time for more detailed analyse of more difficult areas from the 3-rd pilot project
- minimum experience with survey aimed at social variables related to deprivation and social exclusion on level of national statistical office
- non-explanation of some methodological issues related to target variables from side of coordinator of the project
- what led to changes in consequent year and would be possible source of disparity in time series

Evaluation of EU SILC 2006 (for activities realized until now)

✘ Strength of the survey

- utilization of experience from the EU SIL 2005 (in phase of questionnaire design, realization of training, fieldwork, data processing)
- taking changes related to national requirements in preparation of questionnaire into account
- using of steady network and skilled interviewers

✘ Weakness of the survey

- in some cases interviewers not always took changes in methodology into account, which occurred compared to the year 2005,
- numerous changes required strong editing of programs intended for data processing
- low experience with implementation of panel survey and longitudinal component (in relation to questionnaire design and mode of interview)

Thank you for your
attention