

## EU-SILC Survey Process in the Czech Republic

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## Organization of EU-SILC

- All stages are performed by one department
- The whole process contain:
  - Pre-fieldwork:
    - Questionnaire creation
    - Sample design
    - Organization guidelines
  - Fieldwork
  - Post-fieldwork
    - Scan of questionnaires
    - Logical checks
    - Data processing



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## Design of EU-SILC

- Annual survey
- The decision on fieldwork period:
  - In EU-SILC, this is related to the choice of the income reference period:  
Previous calendar year / moving 12 months period →
- Previous calendar year chosen
  - Possibility to refer to information from tax declarations in the questionnaire
  - Easier attribution of the results to calendar years
  - Better defined base for calibration of survey data



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## Design of EU-SILC

- Fieldwork period has to be restricted to a limited period within each year
- Considerable negatives concerning fieldwork:
  - Creates significant organisational difficulties (too many people for a limited time period)
  - Difficult to manage the interviewers' network (recruitment, long-term training activities)
  - Difficult to integrate with ongoing surveys (LFS and HBS – with continuous fieldwork period) or with other field-related activities
- Organizational pluses:
  - Concentration of some operations (esp. OCR)
  - More time for preparing the final data files



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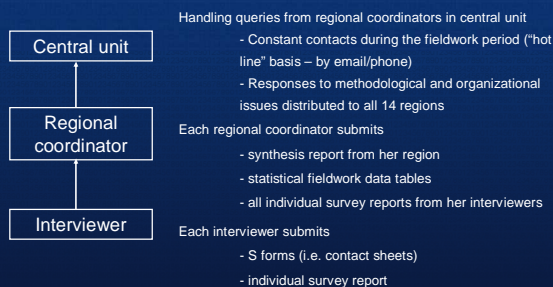
## Fieldwork in EU-SILC

- Fieldwork managed by regional offices of CSU
  - 14 regional coordinators (one in each NUTS3 region)
  - They are assisted by general fieldwork persons at the NUTS4 level during the peak time survey period ("census people")
  - Recruitment of interviewers done by regional coordinators
  - Interviewers receive temporary contracts, separately for each year's survey
  - The long-term cooperation is therefore not guaranteed, but there is a significant overlap, we hope for further stabilisation in the following years
- Administrative problems:
  - Tax disincentive to take more than 20 households
  - Paying for the use of private cars



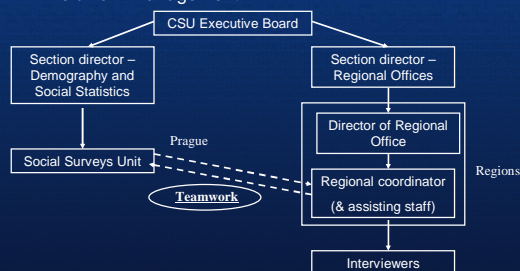
## Fieldwork in EU-SILC

- Fieldwork management & feedback



## Fieldwork in EU-SILC

- Fieldwork management



## EU-SILC longitudinal design

- CSU uses the integrated (cross-sectional and longitudinal) design
- Rotational panel (4 years)
- Each survey year: one replication (from year n-4) dropped, one new replication newly added



## Tracing

- Moved individual sample persons and whole households need to be traced and surveyed on their new addresses
- The need to ensure nationwide co-ordination of this process
- Intranet based application launched to facilitate this process in the survey operation:
  - Regional (NUTS3) coordinators select household/person from the previous wave database and enter the tracing process into the database
- Assign it to relevant coordinator – then the process is automatically forwarded to the appropriate region
- Central monitoring: overview of all ongoing processes and their statuses (waiting for acceptance by the coordinator, assigned to interviewer, finished process – interview result)



## Data collection in EU-SILC

- PAPI with OCR scan of questionnaires
  - Paper questionnaires are used by interviewers
- Next phase (regional offices):
  - Coding of some variables (ISCO, NACE, citizenship ...)
  - Throughout control of the questionnaire material
  - Control sums inserted for numerical variables
- Questionnaires are then scanned into output raw data database
- After the scan:
  - Regional offices receive the files on CDs together with:
    - Logical checks routines
    - Images of the questionnaires
    - Database application to manage both
  - After checks and editing the data are sent to the central unit



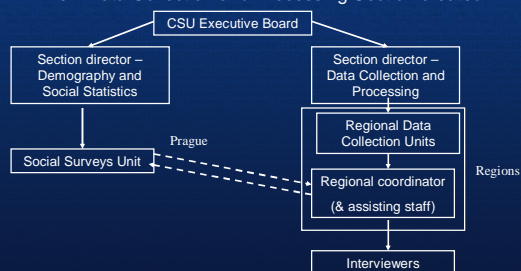
## Institutional reform and SILC

- Shift from individual survey oriented towards process oriented organization
- Integration of data collections (surveys, price statistics)
- Universal interviewer's / data collection network



## Institutional reform and SILC

- New Data Collection and Processing Section created



## Institutional reform and SILC

- Survey project based organization (current)
  - Most of the tasks concentrated in one team within the same unit
  - Coordination of survey process stages, multiple expertise, good shared knowledge of all phases of the survey
- Process based organization
  - Units specialising on specific tasks, for all surveys
  - Better coordination across surveys
  - Sharing of expertise on specific tasks
  - Easier standardisation of tasks across surveys
  - More efficient use of capacities and experience of the staff
  - Necessary development, considering the growing number of surveys of CSU foreseen for the future



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## Institutional reform and SILC

- SILC – major challenge for the next two years
  - Integration with other surveys and fieldwork tasks
  - Shift to CAPI (which is already used for LFS)



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