

“ESTIMATION PROCESS OF FINNISH EU-SILC”: SUMMARY

The presentation concentrates on the estimation process of Finnish EU-SILC, emphasising the special characteristics due to the sampling design, rotation and calibration. The first speciality is the **cross-sectional data based on two waves** (not four, as in many other countries). This is due to the reason that the Finnish EU-SILC is conducted in the framework of Income Distribution Survey of Finland (IDS), sharing the same sampling design and weighting system. The aim is to have parallel estimation figures when calculating from both sources. The waves 3 and 4 of the SILC longitudinal study include only the EU-SILC content, not the IDS questions.

The **master sample selection** for the need of some household-based surveys (including IDS/EU-SILC) is another speciality not very usual in other countries. This sample is further processed in order to create dwelling units around the persons with some additional useful characteristics created, e.g. specific socio-economic & income classification of the dwelling unit. The master sample is utilised in order to create the dwelling unit distributions later used in the calibration of the final data. The new IDS/EU-SILC sample is selected from the master sample (two-phase sampling) following the foregoing classification as the stratification. Two-phase design weights with stratification before the second phase are easy to create, but the sampling design as a whole is more complex to be defined in the standard error software for sample surveys.

The **allocation for strata** emphasises well-earning households, farmers and entrepreneurs. Traditionally the IDS has been mostly focused on the income indicators, and a fair share of sample in these groups is essential for that purpose. On the other hand, the allocation has some negative impact on the efficiency of the estimators of the poverty indicators. The weighting process takes into account the sampling design and the non-response effect before the calibration is conducted. Furthermore, the **integrative calibration** (both household and person levels, separately for different waves) includes distributions on household size, province, type of municipality, gender & age classes based on the population and 15 different income variables. These actions have different consequences on the efficiency of estimation, depending on what kind of parameters are studied, e.g. the design effect of the estimator of the gini coefficient is much better than the design effect for the indicator “at risk of poverty rate after social transfers”.