

Second Meeting of the 2011/2012 Bureau  
Geneva, Switzerland, 2-3 November 2011

**For discussion and  
recommendations**

Item 2(c) of the Provisional  
Agenda

## **INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES AND EFFORTS RELATING TO HOUSEHOLD SURVEY METHODS**

### **Note prepared by Eurostat**

1. Eurostat welcomes the in-depth review on household survey methods.
2. This note adds to the chapter IV on international initiatives and efforts relating to household survey methods of the 'In-depth review of Household survey methods in different countries' prepared by Statistics Canada.
3. At European level, there are currently nine social surveys for which micro-data files are or will be collected in the near future by Eurostat. These surveys can be classified into three groups.

#### **I. REGULAR ANNUAL (OR EVEN QUARTERLY) SOCIAL SURVEYS**

4. Three regular surveys for which data are transmitted to Eurostat annually (or even quarterly) based on framework European Parliament (EP) and Council regulations:
  - The EU-LFS (European Labour Force Survey) is a continuous survey with a quarterly sample size of around 1.8 million individuals which is conducted in the 27 Member States of the EU, in 3 EFTA countries (Norway, Iceland, Switzerland), and in candidate countries;
  - The EU-SILC survey (Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) covers the 27 EU Member States plus Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. This annual survey is based on a sample size of around 513,000 interviews of individuals aged 16 and above and includes both a cross-sectional and a longitudinal component;
  - The ICT survey (Information and Communication Technologies survey) is an annual survey with a sample size for the EU as a whole, plus NO and IS of around 230,000 individuals aged 16-74.

#### **II. REGULAR 5-YEARLY SOCIAL SURVEYS**

5. In addition to these three regular annual surveys, two regular comprehensive social surveys - the AES (Adult Education Survey) and the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) are implemented on a five-year basis.

### III. OTHER SOCIAL SURVEYS

6. Other household/individual surveys in the social field have been carried out at national level for many years:

- The HBS (Household Budget Survey) data are collected by Eurostat every five years;
- TUS (Time Use Survey) for which micro-data are collected by NSIs, but not yet by Eurostat.

7. These two EU data collections are very different by nature: they require data collection through diary. Unlike the surveys above these are not compulsory in the EU.

8. Finally, two other surveys, EHSIS (European Health and Social Integration Survey) and SASU (EU Victimization Survey) will be implemented for the first time respectively in 2012 and 2013 but repetition is not planned for the time being.

### IV. STREAMLINING SOCIAL SURVEYS

9. Eurostat has been working on a modernisation strategy for social statistics since 2009, and the adoption of Communication 404 from the Commission to the European Parliament and Council on the production method of statistics: a vision for the next decade. A key pillar in this exercise is the streamlining of all social surveys.

10. To get detailed information on the Eurostat activities, dedicated sections for the different sectoral domains can be easily accessed:

- Labour market:  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/labour\\_market/introduction](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/labour_market/introduction)
- Income and living conditions:  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/income\\_social\\_inclusion\\_living\\_conditions/introduction](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/income_social_inclusion_living_conditions/introduction)
- Education and training:  
<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/education/introduction>
- Health:  
<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/health/introduction>
- Household Budget Surveys:  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/household\\_budget\\_surveys/introduction](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/household_budget_surveys/introduction)

11. In addition, for the labour market, there are two main reference publications available on Eurostat web site, namely:

- Labour force survey in the EU, candidate and EFTA countries - Main characteristics of national surveys, 2009:  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-RA-11-010/EN/KS-RA-11-010-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-RA-11-010/EN/KS-RA-11-010-EN.PDF)
- Task force on the quality of the Labour Force Survey - Final report:  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-RA-09-020/EN/KS-RA-09-020-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-RA-09-020/EN/KS-RA-09-020-EN.PDF)