

ANNEX I

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
 CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

12 November 2020

UNECE Expert Meeting on Measuring Poverty and Inequality (online format), 2- 4 December 2020

ABSTRACT

Title	<i>EU-SILC data collection during COVID-2019</i>
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Topic	<i>Data collection on poverty during the pandemic</i>

The aim of this paper would be to provide information on:

- EU-SILC (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) data collection during the COVID pandemic- issues, measures and best practices
- Information on voluntary modules to measure impact of COVID-19 on income and living conditions in the European countries that are introduced in 2020 (only by few countries) and in 2021. Results will most probably not be available at the time of the presentation.

In most countries, the lockdown related to COVID-19 was announced in the middle of March 2020. During March, Eurostat carried out among statistical offices in the Member States and EFTA countries a survey on impact of COVID-19 pandemic on EU-SILC data collection.

It was reported that lockdown was affecting ongoing EU-SILC fieldwork in most of the countries. In particular as the Statistical offices were not able to conduct face-to-face interviews (PAPI, CAPI) with households. In April, Eurostat has issued recommendations in order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 crises on the EU-SILC data collection, including moving to more innovative tools of data collection (CATI or CAWI). Moreover, recognising the need for data on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on living conditions, in particular on vulnerable groups, Eurostat recommended including on voluntary basis four variables on 'Change in income compared to previous year' and its main reason. Furthermore, Eurostat recommended, when new benefits have been introduced nationally to reduce the negative impact of COVID-19, that countries consult Eurostat in order to ensure that the classification of benefits is harmonised and comparable across countries. Finally, Eurostat, together with the countries, planned to investigate the possibility to add a small voluntary module on the impact of COVID-19 in 2021 EU-SILC data collection.

In October 2020, Eurostat launched a second survey to review the outcomes of the changes in the EU-SILC data collection across the countries.

Currently, the preparation of a small module in SILC 2021 on the impact of COVID-19 is ongoing. Initial plans are to collect information on:

- benefits,
- work arrangements,
- ability of children in school age to participate in lessons online,
- health.

In order to facilitate use of EU-SILC 2020, data Eurostat will prepare metadata (with information on dates of data collection vs. date of lockdown etc.).