



EU-SILC data collection during the pandemic

EUROSTAT

Agata Kaczmarek-Firth

Outline

- 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 the impact of COVID-19 on income and living conditions in the European countries that are introduced in 2020 (only by a few countries) and in 2021

Impact of pandemic on data collection

- During March 2020, Eurostat launched a survey on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on EU-SILC data collection
- In October 2020, Eurostat launched a second survey to review the outcomes of the changes to the EU-SILC data collection across the countries

EU-SILC 2020 DATA COLLECTION

1. **FIELDWORK:** 12 countries postponed or extended the fieldwork as compared to initially foreseen. Only 1 country completed the fieldwork before the spring lockdown and 3 countries did it after the spring lockdown.
2. **RESPONSE RATE:** for most countries, no change was noted. In 1 country, it was higher than usual and in 9 it was lower.

The 1st wave response rate was the most affected, lower than usual in 11 countries.

Recommendation: Communication via letter with households helped to increase the response rate, in particular for the 1st wave.

EU-SILC 2020 DATA COLLECTION

3. DATA COLLECTION: most countries adopted ad-hoc measures during the 2020 EU-SILC data collection:

- Change in the fieldwork period (12 countries).
- Change in the mode of data collection (16 countries).
- Other measures reported: changes in the questionnaires, used additionally administrative registers and historical data, changed the reference period for some variables and introduced changes in the sample.

OPTIONAL variables collected in EU-SILC 2020 to measure impact of COVID-19

- HI011 Change in income compared to previous year
- HI012 Did the change happen as an impact of COVID-19
- HI020 Reason for increase in income
- HI030 Reason for decrease in income

Additional OPTIONAL variables collected in EU-SILC 2021 to measure the impact of COVID-19

❑ Changes in income

- HI012: Change in income as an impact of COVID-19

22 countries agreed to collect

❑ Benefits

- HY150 Financial support from the COVID-19 related support schemes
- HY155 Amount received as financial support from the COVID-19 related support schemes

20 countries agreed to collect, one undecided

❑ Education

- HD225: Distance learning courses/school during COVID-19 restrictions

19 countries agreed to collect

Additional OPTIONAL variables collected in EU-SILC 2021 to measure the impact of COVID-19

□ Work

- PL220: Working from home during pandemic

19 countries agreed to collect

□ Health and mental health

- PH051: Unmet need for medical examination or treatment due COVID-19 crisis

18 countries agreed to collect

- PH071: Unmet need for dental examination or treatment due COVID-19 crisis

18 countries agreed to collect

- PMH010: Mental health affected by COVID-19 crisis

15 countries agreed to collect, 2 countries undecided

Thank you!

In case of questions please write to:
Agata.KACZMAREK-FIRTH@ec.europa.eu

Useful information

- Guidance on the 2020 EU-SILC data collection (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/10186/10693286/EU-SILC_guidance.pdf)