

2018 Net-SILC3 International Conference

Comparative EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions

Session 3: Housing (abstracts of all session papers)

Chair: Emilio Di Meglio (European Commission, Eurostat)

Discussant: Kristof Heylen (KULeuven University, Belgium)

- Callum Clark and Ross Bowen (Statistics UK): *Improving our knowledge of housing conditions at EU level (measurement issues)*
- Ida Borg (University of Stockholm, Sweden) and Anne-Catherine Guio (LISER, Luxembourg): *Improving our knowledge of housing conditions at EU level (analytical issues)*

- Callum Clark and Ross Bowen (Statistics UK): *Improving our knowledge of housing conditions at EU level (measurement issues)*
In this paper we review literature relevant to the EU-SILC indicators in the areas of overcrowding, cost overburden, severe housing deprivation, fuel poverty and homelessness. Based on these discussions, the merits of various indicators and their applicability to EU-SILC are assessed. Building on the findings of work package 1.6b of the NET-SILC3 project, we also discuss whether new potential indicators might be adapted to EU-SILC, and if so how this might best be achieved.

- Ida Borg (University of Stockholm, Sweden) and Anne-Catherine Guio (LISER, Luxembourg): *Improving our knowledge of housing conditions at EU level (analytical issues)*
In the portfolio of EU agreed indicators in the field of social inclusion, three indicators focus on housing. Different aspects are measured: overcrowding, severe housing deprivation and housing cost overburden. The aim of this paper is to study the variations between EU countries in these indicators and to examine to what extent these between-country differences can be explained by measurable factors, either at the individual level or at the country level. Using a multilevel framework, the explanatory power of both micro-level determinants (low income, household type, tenure status, education, joblessness etc.) or of macro-level factors, such as national income, structure of housing market, welfare system, etc. are tested. Our results confirm our main hypotheses: the household/individual factors related to permanent income, high costs/needs and household size/type influence the risk of facing each housing problems as expected. The only exception is the EU housing cost overburden measure for which some risk factors go in an unexpected direction. At the macro level, our results confirm our hypothesis that countries with higher share of outright owners suffer from more severe housing deprivation than other countries. Our results also shed new light on the impact of national wealth on housing deprivation. Despite a clear negative relationship between macro-economic affluence and housing deprivation, GDP or median income does not significantly impact on housing deprivation once differences in micro-drivers, notably household income are taken into account. Transfers in kind and adequacy of cash transfers also play a role at the macro-level.