Net-SILC3 International Best Practice Workshop

Assessing and improving the validity and comparability of the EU-SILC income, own consumption, health and housing variables

Session 3: Non-income components: housing and health variables (abstracts of all session papers)

Chair: Panos Tsakloglou (Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece)

Reaction and wrap-up: Emilio Di Meglio (European Commission, Eurostat)

- Ross Bowen and Callum Clark (Statistics UK): *Net-SILC3 main findings and recommendations on the validity and comparability of EU-SILC housing variables*

- Rana Charafeddine and Stefaan Demarest (Scientific Institute of Public Health, Belgium): *Net-SILC3 main findings and recommendations on the validity and comparability of EU-SILC health variables*

- Ross Bowen and Callum Clark (Statistics UK): *Net-SILC3 main findings and recommendations on the validity and comparability of EU-SILC housing variables*

  Housing conditions and availability have a direct impact on a person's well-being and overall standard of living, with problems ranging from the lack of available, appropriate housing and homelessness to overcrowding, poor amenities and a broad range of environmental factors such as noise, pollution and anti-social environments. In this paper, we consider the availability and quality of housing variables in the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC), both in the existing core survey and the 2012 ad-hoc module on housing conditions, with a particular focus on those variables which Eurostat have proposed to include in the future capture of EU-SILC. The variables have been assessed in terms of validity and comparability with other housing surveys carried out in some Member States, drawing from data provided in a round of consultations with National Statistics Institutes. Suggestions are made on additional variables to collect in order to ensure that SILC best captures not only the state of housing within a population, but its impact on local societies.

- Rana Charafeddine and Stefaan Demarest (Scientific Institute of Public Health, Belgium): *Net-SILC3 main findings and recommendations on the validity and comparability of EU-SILC health variables*

  This paper aims at assessing the validity and comparability of the health variables included in EU-SILC (EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions), while accounting for both the input and output sides of the survey. On the input side, an analysis was undertaken to assess the content of the EU-SILC rolling health module and to evaluate to which extent Member States have followed the model questionnaire in relation to a number of factors such as the order or the wording of the questions. In addition, the EU-SILC model questionnaire was compared with the EHIS (European Health Interview Survey) model questionnaire in order to provide information about the complementarity of these two data sources. On the output side, a validation analysis was undertaken to take advantage of the availability of the Minimum European Health Module (MEHM) variables, simultaneously in the EU-SILC 2008 and EHIS 2008 instruments. In this context, the estimates for 4 indicators (bad self-perceived health, longstanding illness or health problem, global activity limitations, and having unmet medical needs) were compared between the EU-SILC and EHIS for 16 Member States. Based on these analyses, recommendations were provided for enhancing the comparability of the EU-SILC health variables.