User oriented quality report

Statistics on income and Living Conditions, year 2013

The Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) is part of a European Statistical Programme to which all Member States participate and which replaced in 2003 the European Household Panel Survey with a perspective to improve the quality of statistical data concerning poverty and social exclusion.

The basic aim of the survey is to study both at National and European level the households' living conditions mainly in relation to their income. This survey is the basic source for comparable statistics on income distribution and social exclusion at European level. The use of commonly accepted questionnaires, primary target variables and concepts – definitions ensures data comparability.

The survey is being conducted by ELSTAT. upon the decision of the Ministry of Economy and Finance and it is in compliance with the Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC).

The survey is a simple rotational design survey, which was selected as the most suitable for both cross- sectional and longitudinal components of the survey. The final sampling unit is the household. The sampling units are the households and their members.

The sample for any year consists of 4 replications which have been in the survey for 1-4 years. With the exception of the first three years of survey, any particular replication remains in the survey for 4 years. Each year, one of the 4 replications from the previous year is dropped out and a new one is added. In order to have a complete sample the first year of survey the four panels began simultaneously. For the EU-SILC longitudinal component the persons who were selected initially are interviewed for a period of four years, equal to the duration of each panel.

EU-SILC survey is based on a two-stage stratified sampling of households from a sampling frame, which has been created on the basis of the results of the 2001 Population Census and covers completely the reference population.

There are two levels of area stratification in the sampling design:

i. The first level is the geographical stratification based on the division of the entire country into thirteen (13) standard administrative regions corresponding to the European NUTS II level. The two major city agglomerations of Greater Athens area and Greater Thessaloniki area constitute two separate major geographical strata.

ii. The second level of stratification entails grouping municipalities and communes within each NUTS II Regions by degree of urbanization. i.e., according to their population size. The scaling of urbanization was designed in four groups:

- \>= 30,000 inhabitants
- 5,000 – 29,999 inhabitants
- 1,000 – 4,999 inhabitants
-     0 – 999 inhabitants.

The multi-stage stratified sampling method was applied with stratification variables (a) the Region (NUTS 2) and (b) the degree of urbanization. The former Greater Athens Area was divided into 31 strata of about equal size (equal number of households) on the basis of the lists of city blocks of the Municipalities that constitute it and taking into consideration socio-economic criteria. Similarly, the former Greater Thessaloniki Area was divided into 9 equally sized strata. The two Major City Agglomerations account for the 40% of total population and for even larger percentages for specific socio-economic variables.

The sample for the year 2013 amounted to 8,916 households (sampling fraction 0.21% of the estimated total number of households in the country). The non-response rate was 14.83% (1,322 households refused, absent or unable to communicate due to illness etc).

More information (tables, charts, methodology) on the Survey on Income and Living Conditions can be found on the website of the Hellenic Statistical Authority, http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A0802 the link "Statistical Themes> Income and Living Conditions."