Euro-SDMX metadata structure (ESMS)

Country: Greece

Survey Name: Survey on Income and Living Conditions 2010

Eurostat metadata

Reference metadata

1. Contact (details)

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2. Metadata update	Top
2.1. Metadata last certified	
2.2. Metadata last posted	
2.3. Metadata last update	

3. Statistical presentation

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3.1. Data description

The survey on "income and living conditions" covers four topics: main indicators, income distribution and monetary poverty, living conditions, material deprivation and childcare arrangements indicators, which are again structured into collections of indicators on specific topics.

The collection "main indicators" houses those indicators provided under the Open Method of Coordination in the area of combating poverty and social exclusion. This group of indicators houses the following three collections: the overarching portfolio of indicators, the social inclusion portfolio and the pensions portfolio.

The collection "income distribution and monetary poverty" houses collections of indicators relating to poverty risk, poverty risk of working individuals, income of people at risk of poverty as well as the distribution of income.

The collection "living conditions" hosts indicators relating to characteristics and living conditions of households, characteristics of the population according to different breakdowns, health and labour conditions as well as housing conditions.

The collection "intrahousehold sharing of resources" covers indicators relating to the management of the sources of the household.

The collection "childcare arrangements indicators" houses childcare related indicators.

3.2. Classification system

The EU-SILC results are produced in accordance with the relevant international classification systems. The main classifications used are: ISCED 1997 for the level of education, ISCO 88 (COM) for occupation and NACE (Rev.1.1 and Rev. 2 from 2008) for economic activity.

3.3. Sector coverage

Not applicable

3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions

Income:

The total disposable income of a household is calculated by adding together the personal income received by all of household members plus income received at household level. Missing income information in individual questionnaires is imputed.

Disposable household income includes:

- all income from work (employee wages and self-employment earnings)

- private income from investment and property

- transfers between households

- all social transfers received in cash including old-age pensions

Note: Some of the income components are mandatory only from 2007: Imputed rent, Interest paid on mortgage, Value of goods from own consumption, Employer's social insurance contributions. From the 2007 year on, all countries have to supply gross income information.

Equivalence scale:

To take into account the impact of differences in household size and composition, the total disposable household income is "equivalised". The equivalised income attributed to each member of the household is calculated by dividing the total disposable income of the household by the equivalisation factor. Equivalisation factors can be determined in various ways. Eurostat applies an equivalisation factor calculated according to the OECD-modified scale first proposed in 1994 - which gives a weight of 1.0 to the first person aged 14 or more, a weight of 0.5 to other persons aged 14 or more and a weight of 0.3 to persons aged 0-13.

Household definition:

A 'private household' means "a person living alone or a group of people who live together in the same private dwelling and share expenditures, including the joint provision of the essentials of living". EU-SILC implementing regulation number 1983/2003 on updated definitions, defines households in terms of sharing household expenses and (for non-permanent members) in terms of duration of stay and (for temporarily absent members) in terms of duration of absence.

Household type:

A common classification was developed by Eurostat for use in data collection surveys including ECHP, LFS, HBS and EU-SILC as well as the subsequent presentation of indicators relating to income, housing, education, healthcare, etc. Rather than focussing on "couples" and/or "families", the classification is constructed by reference to the numbers of adult members, their age and gender, and the numbers of dependent children living with them. This is reproduced below:

Type of household
Total
All households without dependent children
Single person household
One adult male
One adult female
One adult older than 65 years
One adult aged between 0 and 64 years
Two adults, no dependent children, younger than 65 years
Two adults, no dependent children, at least one aged 65 years and over
Three or more adults, no dependent children
All households with dependent children
Single parent with a least one dependent child
Two adults with one dependent child
Two adults with two dependent children

Two adults with two dependent children
Two adults with three or more dependent children
Three or more adults with dependent children

Dependent children were previously defined as all persons aged less than 16, plus those economically inactive persons aged 16-24 living with at least one of their parents. Now a slightly different definition has been adopted: All persons aged less then 18 are considered as dependent children, plus those economically inactive persons aged 18-24 living with at least one of their parents.

Activity status:

Under EU-SILC respondents are asked to declare the number of months of year spent in a list of activity statuses (cross-sectional part). From this information a "calendar of activities" can be constructed.

Note: Separate questions also allow the construction of an "ILO activity status".

Using the calendar of activities, the following classification of most frequent activity status is established:

Activity and/or professional status
Employee (full-time)
Employee (part-time)
Self-employed (full-time)
Self-employed (part-time)
Unemployed
Pupil, student, further training, unpaid work experience
In retirement or in early retirement or has given up business
Permanently disabled and/or unfit to work
Soldier
Domestic tasks
Other inactive

For the 'in work poverty risk indicators', an individual is considered as having a particular activity status if he/she has spent time during the reference year in that status.

For the pensions indicator 'aggregate replacement ratio' only persons who have spent the total reported time in the relevant activity status are considered.

Education level:

Under EU-SILC, the attainment levels of individuals are classified according to the ‘International Standard Classification of Education' version of 1997.

Level 0 Pre-primary education.

Level 1 Primary education.

Level 2 Lower secondary education.

Level 3 (Upper) secondary education.

Level 4 Post-secondary non-tertiary education.

Level 5 First stage of tertiary education.

Level 6 Second stage of tertiary education.

Occupation:

Under EU-SILC, the occupational status of individuals is classified according to the ‘International Standard Classification of Occupations' version of 1988.

3.5. Statistical unit

Households and household members.

3.6. Statistical population

The EU-SILC target population in each country consists of all persons living in private households. Persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded from the target population.

3.7. Reference area

The whole country

3.8. Time coverage

Annual survey

3.9. Base period

Not applicable

4. Unit of measure

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Most indicators are reported as rates. Some are reported in other units (e.g. numbers, monetary units, etc.)

5. Reference period

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In the Survey on Income and Living Conditions EU-SILC the following reference periods are mentioned:

For rent, income taxes and contributions for insurance:

• The current month (rent or imputed rent house)

• The previous calendar year, ie for 2010, the reference year is 2009 (employees and self-employed income, social benefits, pensions, financial assistance to and from third parties, investment income, taxes, etc.)

For employment and unemployment:
• days of the survey (main occupation, marital status)
• 2 weeks after the day of the survey (possibility of work)
• 12 last month, before the day of the survey (job change)

For health:

• 12 last month, before the day of the survey (medical visits to a qualified doctor or dentist).

6. Institutional mandate

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6.1. Legal acts and other agreements

The legal framework concerning the organization and operation of ELSTAT is as follows:

- Law 3832/2010 (Government Gazette No 38, Issue A): "*Hellenic Statistical System Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) as an Independent Authority"*, as amended by article 90 paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Law 3842/2010 (Government Gazette No 58, Issue A): "*Restoration of fiscal justice, confrontation of tax evasion and other provisions*", by article 10 of the Law 3899/2010 (Government Gazette No 212, Issue A): "*Urgent measures for the implementation of the assistance program of the Greek Economy*", by article 45 of the Law 3943/2011 (Government Gazette No 66, Issue A): "*Combating tax evasion, staffing of auditing services and other provisions falling within the competence of the Ministry of Finance*", by article 22 paragraph 1 of the Law 3965/2011 (Government Gazette No 113, Issue A): "*Operations Reform of the Consignment and Loan Fund, Public Debt Management Agency, Public Enterprises and Government bodies, the establishment of the General Secretary of Public Property and other provisions*" and by article 51 of the Law 4021/2011 (Government Gazette No 218, Issue A): "*Enhanced measures for the supervision and restructuring of Credit Institutions – Regulation of issues of financial nature – Ratification of the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) Framework-Agreement and its amendments and other provisions."*

- Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, on the European statistics (Official Journal of the European Union L 87/164).
- Article 14 of the Law 3470/2006 (Government Gazette No 132, Issue A): "*National Export Council, tax regulations and other provisions*".
- Article 3, paragraph 1c, of the Law 3448/2006 (Government Gazette No 57, Issue A): "*For the further use of information coming from the public sector and the settlement of matters falling within the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization*".
- European Statistics Code of Practice, adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee on 24 February 2005 and promulgated in the Commission Recommendation of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical Authorities, after its revision, which was adopted on 28 September 2011 by the European Statistical System Committee.
- Presidential Decree 226/2000 (Government Gazette No 195, Issue A): "*Organization of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece*".
- Articles 4, 8, 9, 10, 12 , 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Law 2392/1996 (Government Gazette No 60, Issue A): "*Access of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece to administrative sources and administrative files, Statistical Confidentiality Committee, settlement of matters concerning the conduct of censuses and statistical works, as well as of matters of the General Secretariat of the*

National Statistical Service of Greece".

Data collection

The ECHP (European Community Household Panel) survey was operated under a gentleman's agreement. Its successor, the EU-SILC (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) instrument, operates under a framework regulation of the Council and the Parliament and a series of Commission implementing regulations. During the transition period, data was also collected under a gentleman's agreement from national sources.

The EU-SILC project was launched in 2003, on the basis of a 'gentlemen's agreement' in six MS (Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, and Austria) as well as in Norway. EU-SILC (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions), now operates under a framework Regulation of the Council and the Parliament (Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003) and a series of Commission implementing Regulations.

- The Framework Regulations (regulation EC 1177/2003 of European parliament and Council adopted on 16 June 2003 and published in the OJ on 3 July 2003
- Regulation EC 1553/2005 of EP and Council adopted on 7 September 2005 and published in the OJ on 30 September 2005
- Regulation EC 1980/2003 on definitions published in the OJ on 21 October 2003
- Regulation EC 1981/2003 on fieldwork aspect and imputation procedures published in the OJ on 21 October 2003
- Regulation EC 1982/2003 on sampling and tracing rules published in the OJ on 21 October 2003
- Regulation EC 1983/2003 on the list of target primary variables published in the OJ on 7 November 2003
- Regulation EC 28/2004 on the content of intermediate and final quality reports published in the OJ on 5 January 2004
- Regulation EC 16/2004 on the list of target secondary variables relating to the intergenerational transmission of poverty published in the OJ on 6 January 2004
- Regulation EC 13/2005 on the list of target secondary variables relating to the social participation published in the OJ on 6 January 2005
- Regulation EC 315/2006 on the list of target secondary variables relating to the housing conditions published in the OJ on 22 February 2006
- Regulation EC 215/2007 on the list of target secondary variables relating to over-indebtedness and financial exclusion published in the OJ on 28 February 2007
- Regulation EC 362/2008 on the list of target secondary variables relating to material deprivation published in the OJ on 14 April 2008
- Regulation EC 646/2009 on the list of target secondary variables relating to intra-household sharing of resources published in the OJ on 23 July 2009
- Regulation EC 481/2010 on the list of target secondary variables relating to intergenerational transmission of disadvantages published in the OJ on 2 June 2010

Indicators

At the Laeken European Council in December 2001, Heads of State and Government endorsed a first set of common statistical indicators of social exclusion and poverty that are subject to a continuing process of refinement by the Indicators Sub-group (ISG) of the Social Protection Committee (SPC). These indicators are an essential element in the Open

Method of Coordination (OMC) to monitor the progress of Member States in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. The European Council adopted in March 2006 a new framework for the social protection and social inclusion process. While EU countries have different policies in the area of social inclusion, pensions, health and long-term care, they have agreed common objectives in this area, as well as common indicators so that they can compare best practices and measure progress. A set of 14 headline indicators is complemented by specific indicators relating to three main areas: poverty and social exclusion, pensions, and health and long-term care. The list of indicators was approved in 2006, and updated for health in 2008 and for material deprivation and housing in 2009.

The Europe 2020 strategy foresees three key priorities for sustainable growth and jobs: knowledge and innovation, green growth - a competitive and sustainable economy, and an inclusive high-employment society. This latter point will be focused on raising employment rates, combating the risks of poverty, promoting active ageing, raising skills.

For more information on policy developments, refer to the European Commission's website:

http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=753&langId=en

6.2. Data sharing

Not applicable

7. Confidentiality

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7.1. Confidentiality - policy

The issues concerning the observance of statistical confidentiality by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) are arranged by articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Law 3832/2010, as amended by article 90 paragraph 8 of Law 3842/2010 and by article 10 of Law 3899/2010, as well as by article 8 of Law 2392/1996, which was brought back into force, in accordance with article 90 paragraph 8 of Law 3842/2010.

Furthermore, ELSTAT disseminates the statistics in compliance with the statistical principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and in particular with the principle of statistical confidentiality.

7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

– ELSTAT protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units that have provided them by the disclosure of individual information directly received for statistical purposes or indirectly supplied from administrative or other sources. ELSTAT takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by ELSTAT if and only if:

  a) these data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS), in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or

  b) the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data.

– The confidential data that are transmitted by ELSS agencies to ELSTAT are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task and appointed by an act of the President of ELSTAT.

– Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the Statistical Confidentiality Committee (SCC) operating in ELSTAT. The responsibilities of this Committee are to recommend on:

- the level of detail at which statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible;
- the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users;
- the granting to researchers access to confidential data for scientific purposes.

8. Release policy

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8.1. Release calendar

There is no release calendar.

8.2. Release calendar access

Not applicable.

8.3. User access

In line with the Community legal framework and the European Statistics Code of Practice ,Eurostat disseminates European statistics on Eurostat's website (see item 10 - 'Dissemination format') respecting professional independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably. The detailed arrangements are governed by the Eurostat protocol on impartial access to Eurostat data for users.

9. Frequency of dissemination

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Annualy

10. Dissemination format

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10.1. News release

Usually, the first press release is being announced at the beginning of December, each year.

10.2. Publications

-

10.3. On-line database

-

10.4. Micro-data access

The EU-SILC microdata are available to users upon request to the appropriate Department of Statistics Information Providers (e-mail: datadissem@statistics.gr) and with the assent of the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality.

10.5. Other

http://dlib.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/

11. Accessibility of documentation	Top

11.1. Documentation on methodology

Basic methodological information on the survey included in the survey instructions that can be found at the ELSTAT. website:

.http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A0802&r_param=SFA10&y_param=MT&mytabs=0/

11.2. Quality documentation

- Regulation EC 28/2004 on the content of intermediate and final quality reports published in the OJ on 5 January 2004
- Comparative EU Quality Reports are available on Circa: http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/eusilc/library?l=/quality_assessment&vm=detailed&sb=Title
- National Quality Reports are available on the ELSTAT website Intermediate quality report and Final quality report and on Circa: http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/eusilc/library?l=/quality_assessment/quality_reports&vm=detailed&sb=Title

12. Quality management	Top

12.1. Quality assurance

The quality of the survey is ensured by the existence of a methodological handbook issued by Eurostat, as well as by the use of a common questionnaire – template in order to improve comparability of results in all member states, and with the application of Code of Good Practice for European Statistics.

More specifically, the EU-SILC survey is based on a framework Regulation (1177/2003) that defines the scope, definitions, time reference, characteristics of the data, data required, sampling, sample sizes, transmission of data, publication, access for scientific purposes, financing, reports and studies. In addition, Eurostat and Member States have developed the technical aspects of the instrument, in particular one Regulation on 'Quality Reports' (28/2004).

12.2. Quality assessment

Assessment of the quality is carried out by the ELSTAT. and Eurostat. The sample size is such, as to ensure high accuracy results. The sample size represents the reference research population and all necessary measures are taken in order to accomplish the appropriate checks and minimize measurement errors in data collection. The data are accompanied by quality reports analyzing the accuracy, consistency and comparability of data.

13. Relevance	Top

13.1. User needs

EU-SILC the main user is Eurostat: Other users are:

- Institutional users like other Commission services, other European institutions (such as the ECB), national administrations (mainly those in charge of the monitoring of social protection and social inclusion, or other international organisations;
- Statistical users in Eurostat or in Member States National Statistical Institutes to feed sectoral or transversal publications such as the Annual Progress Report on the Lisbon Strategy (structural indicators), the Sustainable Development Strategy monitoring report, the Eurostat yearbook and various pocketbooks, among other reports;

- Researchers having access to microdata; and
- End users - including the media - interested in living conditions and social cohesion in the EU.

13.2. User satisfaction

Department of Statistical Information Transmission conducts a survey on users' satisfaction.
http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/library_news_letter.pdf

13.3. Completeness

The completeness of data and breakdowns are considered as very satisfactory based on the needs set from Eurostat's Regulations.

14. Accuracy and reliability

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14.1. Overall accuracy

The fact that only a particular sample is surveyed rather than the entire population results in the existence of sampling and non – sampling errors.

14.2. Sampling error

Standard errors of key indicators are commonly used as a measure of the reliability of data collected through sample survey. EU-SILC was designed to provide measure of at-risk-of-poverty rate with an absolute precision of about one point. The sample sizes were defined taking into account this accuracy requirement. For further information please consult the national and EU quality reports:
http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/eusilc/library?l=/quality_assessment&vm=detailed&sb=Title

14.3. Non-sampling error

The term 'non-sampling error' is a generic one that encompasses any errors other than sampling errors. The non-sampling errors discussed in this section are: coverage errors, measurement and processing errors, and non-response errors.

Coverage errors

Coverage errors are caused by the imperfections of a sampling frame for the target population of the survey.

In EU-SILC was 61/8626=0.71% (61 dwellings were either empty or secondary or professional use, etc.).

A systematic source of coverage problems is the time lag between the reference date for the selection of the sample and the fieldwork period, which should be made the shortest.

Measurement and processing errors

Generally, measurement errors arise from the questionnaire, the interviewer, the interviewee and the data collection method used.

It is vital in a survey like EU-SILC, which collects a multitude of complex income components, that the questionnaire is constructed so that the interviewee can provide as quickly as possible all the correct information. It appears that most of the countries took care in designing the questionnaire. In particular, experiences from pilot surveys and/or former EU-SILC waves were used in order to optimize the data collection process. The questionnaires were also tested in order to identify potential sources of problems.

Due to the complexity and the sensitivity of the survey, the interviewees could not or did not want to give information about all their incomes. For instance, capital of self-employment income may have been under-reported. Besides, EU-SILC collects non-monetary income components (imputed rent, income from private use of company car...) that could have an unfamiliar terminology to some people. The risk of confusion on the information to report is then higher than with more conventional monetary income components.

Non-response errors

All surveys have to deal with non-response, i.e. information missing for some of the sample units. Unit non-response happens when no interview can be obtained, while item non-response does when only some of the items are missing. EU-SILC suffers from these two types of non-response:

- Unit non-response: when a household refuses to cooperate or is away during the fieldwork period. Other reasons can explain unit non-response: the questionnaire is lost; the household is unable to respond because of incapacity or illness... It may also happen that a person in a household refuses to cooperate although the household interview has been accepted ('individual' non-response).
- Item non-response: typically happens to questions the interviewee does not answer because he considers them personal or not easily understandable.

In the EU SILC survey year 2010, the percentage of non-response was 15.84% (1366 households refused, absent or unable to communicate due to illness, etc.).

15. Timeliness and punctuality

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15.1. Timeliness

EU-SILC cross-sectional data are available in the form of tables 15 months after the end of the data collection period.

15.2. Punctuality

The data are produced and disseminated on a predetermined date.

16. Comparability

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16.1. Comparability - geographical

In all geographic regions of the country and in EU countries apply common definitions of variables and methods of data production, therefore, no geographical comparability problem exists.

16.2. Comparability - over time

From 2002, onwards, the data are comparable as common definitions and methods of data production are applied, therefore no problem on comparability over time exists.

17. Coherence

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17.1. Coherence - cross domain

No statistically significant differences are observed among the same variables, published by ELSTAT. and other surveys conducted by ELSTAT. such as the Household Budget Survey and Labour Force Survey.

17.2. Coherence - internal

The common variables of the survey with those of other surveys (EU-SILC, HBS) do not present statistically significant differences.

18. Cost and burden

Top

EU-SILC was designed to keep respondent burden controlled so to avoid to high non-response rate and to ensure good quality of the information collected. The target is to limit the total length of interviewing household in average below 60 minutes.

19. Data revision

Top

19.1. Data revision - policy

The revision policy may relate to the survey data and the survey itself, i.e. the questionnaire, the sample, etc., and takes into account users' needs in additional statistical information

19.2. Data revision - practice

After identifying the users' needs (e.g. Eurostat's) questionnaires are, whenever needed, redesigned with care not to danger comparability over time and at European level.

Review of data is being made after the application of checks by ELSTAT and by Eurostat, and after correcting any inconsistencies that may exist in the data, both cross-sectionally and longitudinally

Revisions of previously released EU-SILC data may happen in case major errors are identified in the data delivered or in their processing.

20. Statistical processing

Top

20.1. Source data

The survey is a sampling one. The two stage stratified sampling method is adopted for the survey. The primary research unit is the surface (one or more unified blocks or settlement) and secondary research unit is the household.
The sample for the year 2010 consists of 8,626 households (sample fraction 0.21% of the estimated total number of households in the country).

20.2. Frequency of data collection

Annually

20.3. Data collection

The method of data collection is the Paper-Assisted Personal Interview (PAPI).

20.4. Data validation

Data validation is being done by conducting qualitative and quantitative tests based on:

- Longitudinal checks on raw data (with data of previous years)
- Comparisons key variables with variables / data of other statistical sources
- Calculation of sampling errors, also used as a criterion for the final validation of data

20.5. Data compilation

Estimates at aggregate level (e.g. EU-27) are calculated as the population-weighted arithmetic average of individual national figures.

20.6. Adjustment

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21. Comment

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