

User oriented quality report

2014 Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Survey

The Survey on Income and Living Conditions (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. The data derived are used in order to study income inequalities, living conditions, poverty and social exclusion, as well as other similar phenomena. The use of commonly accepted questionnaires, primary target variables and concepts - definitions ensures data comparability at European level.

The survey is being conducted by ELSTAT upon the decision of the President of ELSTAT 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 panels which have been in the survey for 1-4 years. With the exception of the first three years of survey, any particular panel remains in the survey for 4 years. Each year, one of the 4 panels from the previous year is dropped out and a new one is added. In order to achieve a complete sample, in 2003, which was the first year of the survey, the four panels began simultaneously. For the EU-SILC longitudinal component, the persons who are initially selected are interviewed for a period of four years, equal to the duration of each panel.

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 2011 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:

- $\geq 30,000$ 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 initial sample for the year 2014 amounted to 10,659 households (sampling fraction 0.21% of the estimated total number of households in the country). The non-response rate was 19.12% (2,039 households refused, absent or unable to communicate due to illness etc). In 2014, the survey was conducted on a final sample of 8,620 households and on 21,230 members of those households, 18,289 of them are aged 16 years and over. The average is calculated at 2.5 members per household.

The following table presents the coefficients of variance (%) for the main indicators of the survey.

		AROPE	AT-RISK-OF- POVERTY RATE	SEVERE MATERIAL DEPRIVATION	VERY LOW WORK INTENSITY (persons aged 18- 59 years old)
Sex	Total	2,2	3,2	3,7	3,6
	Male	2,5	3,6	3,9	4,2
	Female	2,3	3,4	3,8	3,7
Age	0-17	4,2	5,5	5,8	
	18-64	2,2	3,4	3,9	
	65+	4,5	5,5	6,3	

More information (tables, charts, methodology) on the Survey on Income and Living Conditions can be found on the website of the Hellenic Statistical Authority, www.statistics.gr in the section "Statistical Themes → Household Income and Expenditure → Income and Living Conditions."