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Task Force on Core Social Variables

Final report

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Contents

Preface

Social statistics have experienced a rapid evolution in the last two decades at European level. Driven by EU policy needs, their scope has been enlarged several times, leading to more and more activity: labour market, living conditions, movement of people, social protection, education, health, safety, crime, etc.

This evolution has increasingly highlighted the need for a higher degree of integration of the concepts and definitions used across statistical instruments. Consequently, work began in 1996 in order to define in a similar way statistical concepts present in various different surveys.

With the adoption of this report, a major step forward is taken: a limited number of core statistical variables are proposed for systematic introduction in all the EU social surveys. The objective is twofold:

- to allow for better identification of specified populations across all the surveys, and a better description of those groups,
- to allow for socio-economic analysis based on the main structural variables.

The ease of implementation was central to the work of the task force: whilst reserving for the specialised surveys the detailed definitions and variables (ILO employment status for the Labour Force survey, income for the survey on income and living conditions for instance), lighter version of these definitions have been chosen for integration in all the surveys (self-declared labour status and self reported net monthly income of the household, in the same example).

The trend towards better availability at Eurostat of micro-data is also an element that would reinforce the utility of these core social variables.

It is intended that his report will evolve in the future, in particular by integrating the work done in the EU-SILC methodology task force concerning the measurement of income and with the expected output from the task force on socio economic classification created by the DSS.

It gives me great pleasure to thank the task-force participants for their much appreciated contributions: Martin Zeleny (CZ); Daniel Ritz and Thomas Koerner (DE); Merle Paats and Mari Toomse (EE); Antonio Argueso, Mar Blanco Frias, Ana Isabel Sanchez-Luengo and Paloma Seoane (ES); Cédric Landre (FR); Sante Orsini (IT) and Markku Lindqvist (FI).

The colleagues from Eurostat who followed and complemented the work of the task force were: Anne Herm (F1-Demographic and migration statistics); Sylvain Jouhette (F2 – Labour market statistics); Paloma Seoane, Jean-Marc Museux and Ian Dennis (F3 – Living conditions and social protection statistics); Marta Beck-Domzalska and Jean-Louis Mercy (F4 – Education, science and culture statistics); Lucian Agafitei (F5 – Health and food safety statistics) and Christophe Demunter (F6 – Information society and tourism statistics).

Luxembourg, April 2007
Michel Glaude, Director

Executive Summary

This document is the final report of the task force on core social variables, created by the Directors of Social Statistics in September 2005.

In response to its mandate, the task force recommends the following list of core social variable to be included in the relevant survey:

Demographic information

- Sex
- Age in completed years
- Country of birth
- Country of citizenship at time of data collection
- Legal marital status
- De facto marital status (consensual union)
- Household composition

Geographic information

- Country of residence
- Region of residence
- Degree of urbanisation

Socio-economic information

- Self-declared labour status
- Status in employment
- Occupation in employment
- Economic sector in employment
- Highest level of education completed
- Net monthly income of the household

The task force recommends as well definitions for the variables, bearing in mind key principles of relevance, simplicity, ease of implementation, feasibility, avoidance of burden, output harmonisation, use of tested definition and international comparability.

The task force also made recommendations concerning the implementation of these variables in the following surveys:

- Labour Force Survey (LFS)
- Survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC)
- Household budget survey (HBS)
- Adult education survey (AES)
- ICT usage in households and by individual (ICT)
- Health interview survey (EHIS)
- Time use survey (TUS)
- Census
- Structure of earning survey (SES)

Background

1

1 – Background

The work on harmonisation of social statistics started with the London Workshop November 1996, and was followed by three Task Force Meetings 1997-1999, and the Working Group meeting in Luxembourg 2-3 May 2000 (see DOC. E0/HARM/21/2000). Harmonisation has been a topic in several Mondorf and Siena meetings, where representatives of the NSIs in the Member States and Eurostat have had the opportunity to discuss the theoretical background and practical implications of this work, and give guidelines for the further work (see DOC E0/HARM/23 and 26/2000*)*.

At its 2000 meeting, the DSS welcomed the final document (Doc. E0/00/DSS/2/6) presenting four core units, followed by 13 core variables (plus 3 under development), and ending with 4 core classifications (plus 2 under development), together with their definition and explanatory notes. The document intended to propose that, whenever used in a survey, the variables/units/classifications should be implemented in accordance with its recommendations.

With a view to better exploit and disseminate the statistical data already produced, essentially when the microdata are transmitted to Eurostat, it is now proposed to go one step further in the harmonisation.

The proposal is to introduce systematically a set of core harmonised variables in each social survey (or data gathering through registers) involving transmission of microdata to Eurostat. This will be done in order to be able to produce statistics which are comparable across countries and across domains for different subpopulations of interest.

These subpopulations will be defined by specific grouping of modalities of the common core variables that will allow (subject to sample size) to produce information about for example “young graduates”, “urban single parent family”, “older people at risk of poverty”, etc. on the range of topic covered by the European surveys: employment, income and living conditions, education, and the other topics possibly covered in the future.

Furthermore, the systematic inclusion of these core variables in every survey or register based data collection will deepen the households or individuals analysis by taking into consideration the interactions between a limited number of socio-demographic variables. By systematically opening the possibility of using simple multivariate techniques, we would allow a much better analysis and exploitation of the available EU statistics.

This proposal has already been presented at the Strategic Development Group (SDG) of the DSS on 21 April 2005 and at the DSS meeting on 28-29 September 2005.

The minutes of the DSS meetings reported:

> *“In general, the DSS supported strongly the interest of defining and implementing a limited set of core variables in all surveys. The question was seen as important. A number of topics were identified as needing to be further analysed, in particular a reflection on the legal and financial implications of the proposal, and specific difficulties with some variables proposed, essentially the income. It has been made clear as well that the inclusion of the core variables in all the surveys is done for analytical purposes, as background variables and not to measure the phenomenon. In other words, no figures for income for instance would be calculated from the adult education survey. It was underlined as well that the work should be framed in the context of output harmonisation and that some variables should be added in order to be able to construct a socio economic classification. It was concluded that a task force on the topic is created, with the mandate of further analysing the list of variables, their definitions and of developing an implementing plan. (…) The task force should present its report at the next DSS meeting.”*

Consequently, a task force has been created, with the participation of DE, IT, CZ, EE, ES, FR and FI delegates. The mandate was the following:

"The TF CV is asked to make proposals in order to

- *Define the list of variables to be implemented in each EU social survey*
- *To agree on definitions for each variable. In some cases, two definitions might be relevant: a precise and detailed definition and a lighter version.*
- *To recommend, domain by domain, the relevant statistical unit*
- *To define an implementation calendar, together with an analysis of the legal and financial implications*

It is expected that each member of the TF CV will play an active role, with the support of Eurostat, and will have to prepare the work of the TF with appropriate written proposals.

The task force is invited to present its report on the DSS meeting in September 2006."

The task force presented its report at the 18-19 September 2006 DSS meeting. At this occasion, the DSS

- Endorsed the report of the task force on core social variables (subject to the next comments), and thanked the TF members for their work,
- Agreed on the proposed list of variables,
- Broadly agreed with the definitions proposed, details of definitions need to be further tested.
- Agreed on the principle that all core variable should be introduce in all EU social surveys subject to detailed discussions that should take place in the relevant working groups, having in mind the objective of including all core variables in all surveys by 2010,
- Noted that income cannot at this stage be included in the LFS and confirmed that the introduction of core variables in the ICT household survey cannot be done at the expense of the substance variables of this survey: when core variables would be collected, it should be in addition to the substance variables,
- Will transmit their written comments on the report by 20 October 2006
- Asked Eurostat to provide a consolidated version of the report at the next SDG meeting, with the help of the TF if needed,
- Mandated the SDG for taking actions concerning the next steps in the work,
- Welcome the proposal to further continue methodological developments and tests on a revised version of the self declared labour status and on the income variable (in the context of the EU-SILC methodological task force),
- Dissolved the task force, as soon as the consolidated manual will be issued,
- Created a new task force on socio economic classification.

The present version of the report is the result of the detailed comments provided by Member-States after the DSS meeting and has been presented at the SDG meeting on 2 February 2007. The SDG welcomed the very good work carried out by the TF, the core variables being very strong steps for a better analysis of specific population and for multivariate analysis.

Next steps:

In line with the recommendations of the DSS, the SILC methodological task force will discuss and make proposal for the variable "net monthly income of the household" on the basis of tests made on the SILC variable. It is therefore proposed to wait for these recommendations before amending the task force report. For this reason, the text concerning this variable remains unchanged with an appropriate comment.

Furthermore, Eurostat has created a task force dealing with socio economic classifications with the intention of incorporating its conclusions in the context of the core variables.

TF guiding principles and work

2

2 – TF GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND WORK

The Task force met three times. The first meeting (23/2/06) was dedicated to the selection of the variables and issues to consider for their definitions. The second meeting (20-21/4/06), based on input from each member on the definition saw significant progresses in the definitions and discussion about socio economic classification and implementation aspects. The third meeting (22/6/06) concluded the work, on the definition side and on the implementation recommendations.

Users (DG EMPL) were represented at the second meeting and made a significant contribution, in term of relevance of variables.

The guiding principles of the work of the task force were the following:

- **Relevance** and potential real use of the information collected through the core variables. The variables list and the definitions have been looked at from their relevance for analytical purposes in the EU policy context.
- **Simplicity** of the definitions that are immediately understandable by users and can easily be self reported by respondent or derived from existing sources.
- **Ease of implementation** in the different surveys: a vast majority of variables is already collected in the existing surveys: *the work concentrated therefore on better harmonisation across the surveys*
- **Feasibility** in the implementation proposal, made gradually at the occasion of renewal or natural evolution of the survey
- Special care has been taken as well in order not to increase the **burden**, and sometimes simplified variables compared to the current situation have been proposed
- **Output harmonisation** that would allow for the collection of information in existing administrative sources or registers
- Use of **existing tested definitions**
- Use of **international standards** in the definition, in particular as regards the Census recommendations and the demographic variables

Selection of the core variables

3

3 – Selection of the core variables

Based on the work undertaken by the task force on harmonisation of core social variables and the preliminary list presented at the DSS meeting in September 2005, the task force on core variables has carefully considered the list of variables, intending to realise a appropriate balance between their relevance and the feasibility of their implementation, with the help of users.

Compared to the list proposed at the DSS, some modifications are recommended. In particular, it is now proposed to add an additional variable of the economic activity of the local unit where the respondent is employed. The reasons are that this information allows a better characterisation of the employment, specially when combined with occupation and status in employment, and that this information is already collected in a majority of surveys. Two additional dimensions have been introduced in the variables on self declared labour status and status in employment that allow for the discrimination of part time and full time work and on limited or unlimited duration of the employment contract. Such information is seen as a sufficient proxy for a better understanding of the quality of the work, and is also already collected in a majority of surveys.

A special mention on the labour status during a reference week has to be made. The inclusion of the International Labour Office concept was recognised as inadequate due to the large number of questions needed and obvious burden on respondents for a too high degree of precision. However, the task force agreed that there was space for improvements of the self-declared status as concerns unemployed persons and the criteria of active search for work (see appendix 4). As a consequence, the variable "labour status during a reference week" has been withdrawn from the list of core variables. The task force recommends to Eurostat to better explore the possibilities of improving the self-declared labour status.

The DSS recommended that the work of the task force encompasses the question of the socio economic classification. In this respect, the TF examined the work of the research consortium working on ESEC (European socio economic classification). ESeC is the deductive matrix based on existing variables which makes it theoretically easy to implement at EU level (no additional data collection). Several issues should however be listed for use in EU social surveys such as the need for further validation studies on both the theoretical approach and datasets larger than those usually available to researchers. The quality and comparability of ISCO data will also need to be tackled.

The task force concluded on the importance of having a good harmonised socio economic classification, reflecting the variety of the situation in the EU countries. The work done on ESEC is very interesting and promising. In its current development, it would require the collection of additional information for its full implementation (level of responsibility, mainly). The task force recommends that the work is continued, in the context of the European social statistics. The DSS might consider following more closely this work having in mind the development of an harmonised EU socio economic classification, sufficiently tested on EU data set and easy to implement. At this stage of development, the task force considers premature to include a socio economic classification in the list of core variables.

The final list of core variables retained by the task force is the following:

Demographic information

- Sex
- Age in completed years
- Country of birth
- Country of citizenship at time of data collection
- Legal marital status
- De facto marital status (consensual union)
- Household composition

Geographic information

- Country of residence
- Region of residence
- Degree of urbanisation

Socio-economic information

- Self-declared labour status
- Status in employment
- Occupation in employment
- Economic sector in employment
- Highest level of education completed
- Net monthly income of the household

Summary of the definition of core variables

4

4 – Summary of the definition of core variables

The short definitions presented hereafter are voluntarily elementary, presented in an output harmonised format and are most of the time self explanatory. These definitions are the results of careful consideration of alternatives by the task force. Therefore, the main reasons for choosing these particular definitions are also mentioned.

The short definitions are complemented in appendix 1 with additional information intended to give precise statistical definition needed be the statistician in adapting the concept to the context of his specific survey or by the enumerator to code adequately the answer of the respondent. More details are also given in the appendix on filters, rationale for the variable, specific issues and further possible development. Finally, the appendix suggests some recommended good practices in field work and data processing.

Sex

This core variable refers to the biological sex of the person and is a standard one in survey and administrative data. According to WHO, “sex” refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women while “gender” refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women. Following this description, WHO considers that “male” and “female” are sex categories, while “masculine” and “feminine” are gender categories[1].

Proposed coding

codes	*Labels*
1	Male
2	Female

The importance of this variable derives from the need for adequate information on the situation of women and men in all policy areas. By studying the gender differences and inequalities it is possible to understand them, and on this basis, make plans, formulate and monitor policies in all spheres of society. Hence, the importance of the variable “sex” which being cross classified with other characteristics of the population provides the basis for evaluating progress towards the complete elimination of still existing gender-based stereotypes.

Age in completed years

Age in completed years is the age expressed as the number of birthday anniversaries passed on the date of reference, i.e. the age at last birthday.

Proposed coding

codes	*Labels*
The 3 digits of age in completed years	Age in completed years

[1] WHO website: http://www.who.int/gender/whatisgender/en/

"Age" is a basic parameter in survey data analysis since the differences between the population groups constructed on it are relevant in developing many EU and national public policies and programmes. Also, existing information on the situation of specific age groups (elderly or young people) has important implications for the policies and programmes that are targeted towards these categories of population.

Country of birth

Country of birth is the country where a person was born, namely the country of usual residence of mother at the time of the birth.

Proposed coding

codes	*Labels*
1	Native-born
2	Foreign-born
2.1	Born in another EU Member State
2.2	Born in non-EU country

This definition is in accordance with the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistical Office of European Communities, 2006).

According to the collected information native-born and foreign-born population must be distinguished and among the later persons born in other EU Member State and persons born in non-EU country.

Information on country of birth should be obtained in accordance with the national boundaries existing at the time of data collection. Country of birth of the person who was born "by accident " at the time of mother's short-term visit in another country than mother's usual residence, is the country where mother had her place of usual residence. Country of birth of the person, who was born in a locality that currently belongs to the territory of another country than at the time of birth, is that where the locality situates at the time of data collection.

Country of citizenship at time of data collection

Citizenship is defined as the particular legal bond between an individual and his/her State, acquired by birth or naturalisation, whether by declaration, option, marriage or other means according to the national legislation. The information sought is the country of current citizenship of the person concerned.

Proposed coding

codes	*Labels*
1	Nationals
2	Non-nationals
2.1	Nationals of other EU Member States
2.2	Nationals of non EU countries

This definition is in accordance with the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistical Office of European Communities, 2006).

Person has citizenship of a country in which he/she has the legal right to be a citizen, e.g. have been issued a citizen's passport or other citizen's document or having right to be issued such documents. Adult person who never had this kind of document will be considered citizen of country by his/her opinion he/she has the legal right to be a citizen.

In the case of dual or multiple citizenship, the following approach should be used : If person has citizenship of the country of usual residence, will normally be recorded in the survey with the first priority. If no citizenship is that of the country of residence, another EU MS citizenship has priority. In other cases person may choose which country of citizenship will be recorded in survey.

It is important to record the country of citizenship and not just the citizenship of a person in terms of an adjective (for example, Chinese, German, British and so forth) in order to avoid confusion between ethnic background and citizenship.

Legal marital status

Legal marital status is defined as the (legal) conjugal status of each individual in relation to the marriage laws (or customs) of the country (i.e. *de jure* status).

Proposed coding

codes	***Labels***
1	Unmarried (i.e. never married)
2	Married (including registered partnership)
3	Widowed and not remarried (including widowed from registered partnership)
4	Divorced and not remarried (including legally separated and dissolved registered partnership)

All individuals in survey will be classified as unmarried (never married), married, widowed and not remarried or divorced and not remarried.

This definition is in accordance with the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistical Office of European Communities, 2006).

Information on the legal marital status of each person should be collected at least for persons aged 15 and over. However, since the minimum legal age and the customary age for marriage varies between countries, and since the population may also include young persons who have been married in other countries with lower minimum ages, it could be useful to collect the data for all persons.

De facto marital status (consensual union)

De facto marital status is defined as the marital status of each individual in terms of his or her actual living arrangements within the household.

Proposed coding

codes	*Labels*
1	Person living in a consensual union
2	Person not living in a consensual union

De facto marital status is used for identifying persons living in consensual union. Two persons are taken to be partners in a consensual union when they have usual residence in the same household, are not married to each other, and have a marriage-like relationship to each other.

Distinction will be made between persons living in consensual union and persons not living in consensual union.

This definition is in accordance with the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistical Office of European Communities, 2006).

Information on the *de facto* marital status should be collected for the same age groups as for the legal marital status.

Person who lives with another partner than his/her legal husband/wife is considered living in consensual union.
Person who lives with partner with whom he/she is legally married is not living in consensual union.

For the information on married person's *de facto* marital status according their actual living arrangements within the household (living alone and living with husband/wife), the household matrix data may be used.

Household composition

The aim of the core variable on household composition is to collect information about the size and composition of the private household to which the respondent belongs, on the relationships between household members and on the economic activity status of household members of working age. The social situation of an individual is at least in part a reflection of their household arrangements. It can be extremely useful to have information on the dynamics of household structure.

The place of usual residence is recommended to use as the basis of the household membership. The existence of shared expenses in the household (including benefiting from expenses as well as contributing to expenses) shall be used to determine who is regarded as household members.

Private households will be classified by the total number of household members. In addition a household type breakdown is applied for all households. Information is also sought on the economic activity status of household members of working age.

The concept of a private household is known as the housekeeping concept. In case of register-based survey a different concept of the private household, namely, the household-dwelling concept, may be used. In view of international comparability it is recommended that countries that use the 'housekeeping' concept, if possible, make an estimate of the number of private households according to the 'household-dwelling' concept, and break this number down by household size.

The term “couple” includes married couples, registered couples, and couples who live in a consensual union.

“Child” refers to a blood, step- or adopted son or daughter (regardless of age and marital status) who has usual residence in the household of at least one of the parents, and who has no partner or own child(ren) in the same household.

Proposed coding

#1 Household size (see the variable “age in completed year” for the definition of age)

Labels
Total number of persons in household
Number of persons aged less than or equal to 4
Number of persons aged from 5 to 13*
Number of persons aged from 14 to 15*
Number of persons aged from 16 to 24 of which, number of students
Number of persons aged from 25 to 64
Number of persons aged more than or equal to 65

* Information on the numbers of persons aged above/below 14 is required in order to apply the standard (OECD-modified) equivalence scale to adjust values collected for the separate core variable “total household net monthly income”.

#2 Household type

Codes	***Labels***
1	One-person households
2	Multi-person households
2.1.	Lone parent with child(ren) aged less than 25
2.2.	Couple without child(ren) aged less than 25
2.3.	Couple with child(ren) aged less than 25
2.4.	Couple or lone parent with child(ren) aged less than 25 and other persons living in household
2.5	Other type of household

* Category “other persons” includes all other persons in household who are not children of the couple or lone parent or partner in that couple.
** Category “Other type of household” includes all other households without parent-child relationship.

#3 Economical activity (see the variable “self-declared labour status” for the definition of economic activity)

Labels
Number of persons aged 16-64 in household who are at work
Number of persons aged 16-64 in household who are unemployed or are economically inactive

Country of residence

The respondent's *country of usual residence* is to be considered as a basic and obvious variable, especially of the context of country-comparison within the European Statistical System. The information is complementary to the variables *country of birth* and *country of citizenship*.

Proposed coding

The coding is based on NUTS, at the most aggregated level (country level).

Region of residence

This variable indicates the region where the individual/household is living (place of usual residence).

The level of detail may need to be different from on survey to another, due to possible limitations in sample size. Where possible, the data collection should aim at 2-digit level of NUTS (i.e. 253 regions in the EU25).

Regional information is important in the context of social statistics for a number of reasons. First, major differences in living standards exist between regions within a country – even in smaller countries (e.g. capital region versus more rural areas). Second, many policies designed to address social exclusion and poverty, particularly those that address infrastructural deficits, are best implemented at regional level. Third the labour market can differ a lot between regions within the same country, etc.

Proposed coding

The codes listed in the NUTS classification shall be used for this Core Variables ; these codes can be found on the classification server Ramon.

Degree of urbanisation

This core variable refers to the type of locality the individual/household is living in, namely whether an urban or a rural area (or a borderline case).

There are important differences in the form that social exclusion takes between urban and rural areas. For instance, housing costs tend to be higher in urban areas, while access to essential services and opportunities for social and cultural participation may be more restricted in rural areas. Problems with vandalism and crime also tend to be more prevalent in urban areas. Labour market, occupation tends also to be different in rural and urban areas. Access to broadband or mobile telecommunication networks can be problematic in more remote rural areas.

A measure of the extent of urbanisation of the area is important, therefore, as an explanatory variable in analyses of social statistics.

The proposed three-categories breakdown is currently already applied in the Labour Force Survey, EU-SILC and the survey on ICT usage.

Proposed coding

Codes	*Labels*
1	Densely-populated area
2	Intermediate populated area
3	Thinly populated area

Self-declared labour status

The variable provides information on the normal or current 'main' labour status as perceived by the respondent. It covers employment (breakdown full time/part time), unemployment and various reasons for inactivity.

Proposed coding

Codes	*Labels*
10	Carries out a job or profession, including unpaid work for a family business or holding, including an apprenticeship or paid traineeship, etc.
11	*Full time*
12	*Part time*
20	Unemployed
31	Pupil, student, further training, unpaid work experience
32	In retirement or early retirement or has given up business
33	Permanently disabled
34	In compulsory military or community service
35	Fulfilling domestic tasks
36	Other inactive person

The person's main economic situation permits an important classification of the regular nature of the work or the main reason for not working as opposed the situation in one specific reference week as in the LFS. For those outside the labour force at present, the nature of their present activity has an important bearing on their likely future labour market participation. People who are retired or unable to work because of disability, for instance, are less likely to respond to an increase in demand for labour than are students or those engaged in home duties.

The self-declared economic situation is also the only practical definition to use in examining labour transitions, as it could be done in a panel survey or using a similar variable for the situation one year before. In contrast to the ILO definition[2], which requires a series of items, this variable is typically based on a single item in surveys.

[2] Based on the International Labour Organisation guidelines, employed persons are defined as persons aged 15 years and over who during the reference week did any work for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour, or were not at work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of, e.g., illness, holidays, industrial dispute and education or training. Unemployed persons comprise persons aged 15 to 74 who were without work during the reference week, were currently available for work and were either actively seeking work or who found a job to start within the next three months.

The main discussions around this variable concerned:

- the need for two variables on labour status (self-declared versus ILO concept): It was recognised that the high objectivity and comparability of the ILO status can not overcome its inadequate number of questions and obvious burden on respondents for a too high degree of precision. However, the task force agreed that there was space for improvements of the self-declared status as concerns unemployed persons and the criteria of active search for work. A preliminary analysis on the LFS data shows large discrepancies in many countries between the self-declared and the ILO definition of unemployment. Appendix 4 gives further details on these aspects.

- the inclusion of the distinction full-time / part time: although it implies an slight increase in burden for respondents, this dimension can bring additional information either in terms of time available along with the household data for child or dependant care or in terms of possible lower labour integration and wage.

- the categories of inactivity: some of them represent only a limited percentage of the population. They still need to be covered for the interviews since some respondents would find it difficult to classify themselves in other categories.

Status in employment

The variable collects the professional status of employed persons (employees or self-employed) with a breakdown for employees with permanent or temporary contracts.

Proposed coding

Codes	***Labels***
10	Self-employed
20	Employee
21	*with a permanent job or work contract of unlimited duration*
22	*with temporary job/work contract of limited duration*

Status in employment is associated with life chances in a number of important ways. People who are self-employed benefit directly from the level of profit made by the business or enterprise. On the other hand, they are generally more exposed than employees to economic risk, in that their remuneration is tied more directly to the level of profit. Status in employment is also needed for the proposed European Socio-Economic Classification (see appendix 3).

The basic distinction is that between employees and the self-employed. The main discussions around this variable concerned the additional dimension permanent / temporary contract. Despite the supplementary burden, persons with temporary contracts constitute a numerous and growing group among employees (around 15% of employees) but are more exposed to economic risks.

The definition and technical issues were revised to be in line with the recent suggestions of the recent task force on ‘LFS explanatory notes’.

Occupation in employment

This variable provides information on the occupation in the main job.

Proposed coding

codes	*Labels*
36 positions	According to ISCO 88 (COM)

The basis for the classification in the ISCO-88 scheme is the nature of the job itself and the level of skill required. It is generally recognised that the type of work performed can have a great influence on the living conditions of the individual and household. Hence, "social stratification" and "social mobility" researchers pay attention to the type of job as a central element in studies of inequalities of opportunities and results, and their reproduction over life cycles and generations.

The classification used is the ISCO-COM (88). A new ISCO is in discussion at UN level, for implementation probably in 2010 at EU level. No specific ISCO(COM) is foreseen for this new classification.

For the proposed European Socio-Economic Classification (see appendix 3), the ISCO-88 (COM) would be needed with at least the two-digit level of detail.

The main discussions around this variable concerned:

- The ISCO level recommended
  Two digits is the requirement achievable for all surveys: the implementation of the collection at one digit level would not provide sufficient quality (level 1 is not appropriate for a direct collection). Level 2 is already implemented in most surveys and would constitute the level required for interviews. For register based data, ISCO is often coded at even more precise level.
  A shorter coding list could be studied in the case of reduced breakdowns (manual/non manual, skilled/unskilled) prove to be of better quality in such surveys. However, the needs for more details in certain categories will need to be checked for implementation of the classification ESeC (European Socio-economic Classification).

- Quality of ISCO
  There is not yet complete information at Eurostat on the way ISCO is collected or derived in each country and survey. Due to the numerous comparability issues for certain ISCO categories across countries, specific actions should be launched at EU level to ensure comparable ISCO data. This should be done in parallel to the implementation of the 2008 ISCO version.

- Coverage of the variable: persons not currently working (last job)
  The task force agreed that the burden on respondents to cover persons not currently working would be too high although it is relevant for certain surveys like the LFS, EU-SILC or the EHIS. It would be needed for the full version of the classification 'ESEC': persons not long-term unemployed are defined according to their previous job in the ESeC.

Economic sector in employment

This core variable is defined as the economic activity of the local unit where the respondent is employed (incl. self-employed). The economic activity of the enterprise can serve as a proxy where information at local unit cannot be collected or is not available.

The scope is limited to persons currently in employment, excluding persons seeking a job.

The activity sector in which people are employed is a key descriptor for labour market analysis (including issues linked to skills, mobility of workers, quality of the job, etc.) and together with the occupation (ISCO) and the type of contract is very useful to describe the socio economic status of individuals.

The discussions on the coding scheme have not yet been closed in this Final Report as the outcome depends on the revision of NACE and the ensuing regroupings. Using NACE Rev.1 as a reference point, the coding would consist of six broad categories.

Proposed coding (not final)

Codes	*Labels*
1	Agriculture, hunting and forestry; fishing and operation of fish hatcheries and fish farms
2	Industry, including energy
3	Construction
4	Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods, hotels and restaurants; transport and communications
5	Financial, real-estate, renting and business activities
6	Other service activities

Highest level of education completed

This variable provides information about educational level successfully completed by a person.

The level of education is a critical factor for the knowledge economy and society and the importance of educational level of people for their social position is largely recognised.

Importance of the variable was not questioned but the level of detail of the classification used: ISCED-97, was discussed.

Proposed coding

Codes	*Labels*
0	No formal education or below ISCED1
1	ISCED 1 - primary education
2	ISCED 2 - lower secondary education
3	ISCED 3 - upper secondary education

4	ISCED 4 - post secondary education but not tertiary
5	ISCED 5 - tertiary education, first stage
6	ISCED 6 - tertiary education, second stage

Because of implementation constraints in some surveys and countries, the proposed coding is the simplest one. It allows easy aggregation of these groups into three levels frequently used in data dissemination: low, medium and high educational level. Nevertheless it is strongly recommended, particularly in the surveys including several variables on education, to follow the coding used in the EU-LFS (see appendix 1).

The NEACs (National Educational Attainment Classifications) provide the first information from individual about his/her educational attainment according to the specific national situation. They are a basis for recoding of national levels to the ISCED. These classifications used since many years in the EU-LFS should be considered as a model for other surveys.

Net monthly income of the household

The current definition and comments for this variable are still provisional, pending the recommendations of the EU-SILC methodological task-force.

The aim of the core variable on income is to obtain a proxy of the economic well-being of the respondent. The standard of living of a person not only depends on the income of this person but also on the income received by the rest of the people living with him/her.

Household income: The income of all persons who are currently members of the household at the date of the interview as well as the income received by the household as a whole are to be taken into account.

Monthly income: To facilitate data collection, a monthly reference period is recommended here despite the fact that annual income is the more commonly adopted reference period.

Net income: Net income means amounts as the household receives them, which is normally after deduction of tax and contributions to social insurance and pensions, and thus represents the amount available for consumption expenditure.

Income components: In calculating the total net monthly income of the household, the following income components should be included:

(a) Income from work:

– Wages and salary earnings (including bonuses regularly paid at the time of each payment – such as regular overtime hours, bonuses for team, night or weekend work, tips and commissions) for the most recent month before the interview (or the monthly average for a recent period if this is easier to collect or estimate); net of amounts deducted at source for tax and contributions to social insurance and pensions;
– For income from self-employment, the respondents can be asked for an estimate of their (usual) monthly disposable income, taking into account drawings from their own business. Alternatively, monthly trading profit estimates could be supplied, together with an estimate for income tax payable. Negative income (eg. trading losses) should be treated as zero amounts.

PLUS

(b) Income from social benefits (unemployment benefits, old age and survivors' benefits, sickness and disability benefits, family/children related allowances, social exclusion allowances not classified elsewhere, housing allowances and education-related allowances). It should refer to the last monthly payment received before the interview (or the monthly average for a recent period if this is easier to collect or estimate); net of any amounts deducted at source for tax and contributions to social insurance and pensions.

For practical reasons, the following income components should NOT be included: Income from capital and investments (property, assets, savings, stocks, shares, etc); Imputed rent for owner-occupied accommodation; Value of goods produced for own consumption; Income transfers from other households (for example alimony payments); Employment bonuses that are not paid at each pay period (for instance annual profit shares); End-of-year adjustment(s) for under-/over-deduction of tax and contributions to social insurance and pensions.

Equivalised income: During data processing, the target income variable is to be corrected for the household composition (dividing the income by an equivalence scale that weights different members within the same household with different weights according to their ages).

The OECD modified scale is proposed (giving a weight of 1.0 to the first member of the household aged 14 or more, 0.5 to each additional member aged 14 or more and 0.3 to each member aged less than 14 years old).

The proposed definitions and methods have to be tested, in particular the feasibility and the appropriate ways of transforming classes into imputed amounts, the possibilities for presenting variables or moving ranges according to the composition of the household, the effect on the measurement error or the resulting item non response. These tests would be run on the occasion of the next implementation of the following surveys or pilots: HBS, EHIS and ICT. After these test a revised methodology would be proposed.

Initial period: During an initial period after the definition is stabilised countries which choose to do so may supply Eurostat with tables of unequivalised and equivalised household total net monthly income classified by decile, without transmitting the actual collected data on income values and on household composition. After this initial period, countries will supply the collected values.

Both during the initial period and afterwards, the core variable data on incomes will remain classification values only, and only for Eurostat internal use: EU-SILC will remain the reference source of data on income at EU level.

Proposed coding

codes	***Labels***
└└└└└└└	Net monthly income of the household (value in national currency)

codes	***Labels***
Decile 1-10 cut-off points	Unequivalised household total net monthly income (value in national currency)
Decile 1-10 cut-off points	Equivalised household total net monthly income per capita (value in national currency)

Relevant statistical unit

5

5 – Relevant statistical unit[3]

The relevant unit of analysis for the proposed core variables is the individual. This is true also for the core variables on "household composition" of the household to which the individual respondent belongs and "net monthly income of the household" to which the individual respondent belongs – even if the level at which information is collected is the household, and we are broadening the field of interest away from purely individual characteristics of the respondent. There is however no reasons to change the specific statistical unit of each survey. Similarly, the interview of each member of the household is not intended.

Since the resident population is the scope of all social surveys apart from the Structure of Earnings Survey, the task force recommends the use of a common definition as described in the European System of Accounts (ESA95) and in the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing . Both define the resident population as persons who are staying, or intend to stay, on the economic territory of a country for a period of one year or more (see appendix 5).

In order to simplify the definitions, the same threshold of one year of staying or intention to stay in a household is proposed. It is however clear that resident population and households are separate concepts, identified at different stages of the survey.

[3] The question on the coverage of institutional households is outside the scope of this report.

Implementation

6

6 – Implementation

The implementation possibilities have been considered for the following existing data collection instruments at EU-level:

- Labour Force Survey (LFS)
- Survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC)
- Household budget survey (HBS)
- Adult education survey (AES)
- ICT usage in households and by individual (ICT)
- European health interview survey (EHIS)
- Time use survey (TUS)
- Census
- Structure of earnings survey (SES)

The two last surveys deserve particular explanations, due to their limited possibilities for implementing the core variables.

The census follows the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Statistical Office of European Communities, 2006) that are beyond the sole control of the ESS, therefore the recommendations of the task force cannot directly apply to the census. In a majority of cases, the definitions proposed are derived from these recommendations or are compatible with them. The variables recommended by the task force can be derived from the census recommended practices.

The SES is an enterprise survey. Some information needed for the core variable are not available at the enterprises level. It would even sometimes in some countries be illegal for a company to keep records of this information, for reasons of protection of the privacy of the employees. The task force recommends therefore not an extension of the data collected by the SES, but only a better harmonisation.

<u>Overall, the TF considers that the implementation is usually more a question of harmonisation of variables already existing in the surveys than the addition of supplementary variables.</u> One noticeable exception to this is the ICT survey, in which several new variables would have to be introduced.

The task force proposes gradual evolutions, and not immediate systematic changes in the surveys. When these surveys are based on regulations, it is proposed to proceed through gentlemen's agreements at the beginning of the implementation and to adapt the legislation at the occasion of its next revision, rather than an immediate updating. The task force proposes as well that potential financial implications and possible Community funding are discussed at the relevant working group meeting.

Concerning the proposed income variable, the task force sees its implementation as feasible, provided some precautions are taken. Several issues should be considered:

- The relevance for comparative purposes of information on total household income without an adjustment and income equivalised for differences in the size and composition of households
- The relevance of specifying the concept of gross or net income, provided that the same concept is used systematically in one country
- The aim of having information on the precise amount, whether extracted from administrative sources, directly asked or estimated on the basis of a self ranking into national deciles.

- The need to have harmonised techniques of estimation in case the amount cannot be collected
- The need to test the TF recommendation on real scale surveys
- The difficulties seen by some Member States in transmitting directly to Eurostat an income amount that could potentially be misused and create difficulties. The need to preserve the actual value from misuse also if the data sets are used for scientific purposes.
- The particular situation of the LFS, in which the wages will be most probably introduced in 2009

The task force therefore recommend for the implementation of the income variable:

- The realisation of tests on collecting and estimating the total amount at the occasion of the next implementation of the following surveys or pilots: HBS, EHIS and ICT.
- The proposal by Eurostat of a common estimation method to impute missing values.
- The establishment of a gradual extension of the transmission of data to Eurostat that is proposed to start with the transmission of both total and equivalised income expressed in deciles and after some years of implementation, the transmission of actual values.

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Most of the core variables proposed are already implemented in the LFS with the following exceptions:

- The variable 'self-declared status' is surveyed on an optional basis. In 2005, all countries but Germany and the United Kingdom provide the data to Eurostat.

- The variable 'household income' is not feasible in the LFS. Although it would be useful for household analyses, the introduction of a variable on individual wages deciles for employees is considered as a more important dimension for the use of the LFS in labour market developments.

It should be noticed that the filter of all core employment variables will be slightly different for the LFS: all the information is indeed derived from the information during the reference week as opposed to the self-declared status. The discrepancies are however relatively minor (see appendix 4).

Survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC)

Annual data collection under EU-SILC is governed by a Framework Regulation of the European Council and the Parliament (no. 1177/2003 amended by no. 1553/2005) and by a series of implementing Commission Regulations.

All of the proposed core variables are considered to be directly relevant to the aims of EU-SILC (the delivery of reference information at EU level on income, poverty and social exclusion). All of them are feasible from the instrument as it is currently designed. Except as indicated below they are already implemented.

Issues and developments:

- EU-SILC currently collects information on country of birth as at the date of birth, rather than as determined at the time of data collection (which is the recommendation for the core variable) – which may be problematic where borders have changed. A standardised coding set out in regulation 1983/2003 is used, rather than the recommended three-digit codign of the UNSD Area Codes derived from the ISO 3166 classification. This issue will be raised at an EU-SILC methodology task force in due course.

- EU-SILC collects information on self-declared activity status together with additional questions to approximate the ILO status. To distinguish full-time/part-time work, two variables are collected (number of hours worked in main/second job).

- EU-SILC collects information on status in employment (wage/salary employee or independent self-employed) which can be combined with the type of contract variable (permanent/temporary).

- EU-SILC collects detailed and exhaustive information about annual income. It does not seem appropriate to ask for additional information on net monthly income. Therefore, EU-SILC will implement the core variable by considering 1/12 of the collected annual income (with the exclusion of the following components: Interest, dividends, profit from capital investment (HY090); Imputed rent (HY030); Regular inter household cash transfer received (HY080), Value of goods produced for own consumption (PY070) and if relevant, appropriate correction (imputation) for conversion of gross into net) The reference period will remain different - but this should not be a major problem for classification into deciles. The classification should be based on existing target income variables in EU-SILC. As a further evolution, EU-SILC may consider the introduction of a net monthly income variable.

- In EU-SILC, persons temporary absent from the household dwelling for more then six months not considering his address as being the household dwelling are not considered as members of the household. Resident population is however defined in the core variables as a stay of one year or more, following the national account principles and the census recommendations. This contradiction migth have consequences when comparing individuals counts enumerated from household and resident individuals.

  However, EU-SILC is the most advanced survey tool regarding household definition and implementation. The economical concept at the basis of the definition is uniquely mastered in SILC seems to be a more critical for household composition than length of residence. Furthermore, changing the EU-SILC definition of household membership might have important consequence as regard its organisation as a panel. Such a change could not take place in the short and medium term. The impact on the data of such a change would also probably be limited. For all these reasons, it is proposed not to change household definition is EU-SILC. It is recommended as well that Eurostat performs an analysis of the impact on the data of a change in SILC.

Household budget survey (HBS)

The periodic (quinquennial) collection and transmission of ex post harmonized data to Eurostat is undertaken on a gentleman's agreement basis.

Microdata transmission content and formats for the reference year 2005 were agreed at the May 2006 meeting of the Eurostat working party on Income and Living Conditions statistics.

All of the proposed core variables are considered to be directly relevant to the aims of the HBS (the delivery of comparable information at EU level on consumer expenditure and consumer behaviour). All of them are feasible from the instrument as it is currently designed.

Issues and developments:

- HBS does not currently collect information on the following core variables:
  - … Country of birth;
  - … Country of citizenship;
  - … Economic sector in employment.

- HBS currently collect information on the following core variables, but with less than full compliance :
  - … Age in completed years (does not currently collect date of birth);
  - … Legal marital status but mixes *de jure* situation and *de facto* situation;
  - … Household type and household activity status according to slightly different definitions;
  - … Region of residence (which allows derivation of country of residence) but only at NUTS level 1, rather than at level 2;
  - … Highest level of educational attainment, aggregating ISCED97 1-digit categories by combining levels 1 and 2 ('low'), levels 3 and 4 ('intermediate') and levels 5 and 6 ('high');
  - … Current self-declared activity status can be complemented with information about usual activity status (but without breakdown full-time/part-time).

- For the core variable on income,
  - … HBS currently collects information on household composition by age and can derive information needed to establish the OECD-modified equivalence scale.
  - … HBS does not currently collect income information in accordance with the core variable recommendation. Instead, one variable collects information on annual monetary net income of the household (total from all sources) and another variable records annual total net income of the household (including non monetary components). This is complemented with information on main source of the household's income.

Adult education survey (AES)

The AES survey is conducted now (wave 2006) for the first time. A legal act is foreseen before the next survey (around 2010). In this first survey, three of proposed core variables are not collected at all - marital status and consensual union (considered not very relevant), and household income. The first ones could be probably included without difficulty.

Because of the size of sample recommended, information at regional level will be not reliable (but it will be possible that in some countries the sample can be larger and this variable will be included).

For age, only year of birth is asked (but a month could be possibly added as well). Concerning household size, information on the number of persons living in the same household, by 6 age-groups (in which 4 concerning children and teenagers), is collected. Some modifications should be done for implementation of the proposed age-groups. Variable "household type" must be added.

Labour status is self-declared, occupation and economic activity are asked at 2-digits ISCO and NACE level. Information on full- and part-time work is collected, as well as on permanent/temporary job. Highest level of education completed is collected in the same way like in the EU-LFS.

With respect to income, as the AES survey is concentrated on individual, only income of the person is asked: based on the monthly (take home) pay from main job, by 5 quintiles.

ICT usage in households and by individual (ICT)

As of the reference year 2006, the Community survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals has a legal basis. The framework Regulation 808/2004 was adopted in 2004, foreseeing annual implementing measures. The most recent Commission Regulation implementing Reg 808/2004 was published in July 2006 (*Commission Regulation (EC) No 1031/2006 of 4 July 2006 implementing Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on the information society*, OJ L 186, 7.7.2006, p. 11) and lays down the contents and arrangements for the reference year 2007 (data collection in 2007, results available end of 2007).

A first draft of the questionnaire for year N is discussed in the Working Group on Information Society Statistics in its meeting during Autumn N-2, while the questionnaire is finalised and agreed upon during the Spring N-1 Working Group meeting. In practice, with regards to the 2008 survey, this means the discussions start in October 2006 and need to be finalised in February 2007.

If accepted by the ISS WG, the core variables could be implemented already for the reference year 2008.

Currently, the ICT usage survey is not complying with the proposed list of core variables.

Very good compliance:
- Sex
- Age
- Country of residence
- Degree of urbanisation
- Educational attainment (but currently only 3 categories, could easily be adapted)

Collected, but not compatible with the Core Variables:
- Household type (only ‘number of HH members’ and ‘number of HH members under 16’ are collected)
- Region (only breakdown in ‘Objective 1 region’ or ‘non Objective 1 region’)
- Income (net monthly household income using quartiles, not-corrected ; optional variable)
- Occupation (only broken down by ‘non-manual’ versus ‘manual workers’ and ‘ICT jobs’ versus ‘non-ICT jobs’ – usually recoded from ISCO codes)
- Self-declared labour status (currently only four categories, merged variant of the LFS question)

Not collected:
- Country of birth
- Country of citizenship
- Marital status
- Consensual union
- Status in employment
- Type of contract (full time *vs.* part time)
- Type of contract (fixed duration *vs.* temporary contract)
- Economic sector of employment

European health interview survey (EHIS)

Eurostat will implement in 2007/08, the harmonised European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) that will be carried out afterwards every 5 years. Its first round will be carried out on a gentlemen agreement but for the following rounds, a legal act is foreseen. The survey consists of 4 modules (on health status, health care, health determinants, and background variables) that may be grouped in one separate national survey or they may be included in existing national surveys (i.e. national health interview survey, or other household survey). Their final version will be agreed with the Member States in October 2006. The interim version of the module on background variables already includes most of the core social variables proposed by the Task Force. The currently missing variables (country of birth, country of citizenship, and household type) will be proposed for inclusion. Also, some other variables (legal marital status, self-declared labour status, status in employment) need adaptations to the format proposed by the Task Force.

Time use survey (TUS)

The Time use survey is run approximately each 5 years, based on a gentlemen agreement. The methodology will be reviewed by the end of 2007 for the 2008-2010 round of surveys. Missing variables or not complying definitions will be discussed at this occasion: adaptation of the definitions of age, country of citizenship and full time / part time distinction, inclusion of the variable on country of birth.

Census

One of the key principles of the work of the task force was to be coherent with the census recommendations. The census definitions themselves have been left outside the core variables, as they have their own developments outside the mandate of the task force. Census are not to be seen as one of the surveys where the core variables are to be implemented, but rather a valuable and natural source for coherent definitions to be applied in social surveys.

The CES Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing will be used as the general framework for the European Union census program for the 2011 Population and Housing censuses. One of the objects of these recommendations is to facilitate and improve the comparability of the data in the Europe through the selection of the core set of census topics and the harmonisation of definitions and classifications. Recommendations include core or non-core topics. These topics include same or similar variables compared to those proposed by Task Force Core Variables for social surveys.

All variables proposed by the CES Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing as core variables or non-core variables are relevant to the census and the classifying the variable either as a core or non-core variable express the level of feasibility and importance of implementing the variable in the census. It is highly recommended that countries collect information with respect to core topics. Some topics are referred to as derived topics – those for which information is obtained from other topics, and therefore are not required to be collected separately. Final list of variables required to cover by EU Member States in 2011 censuses will be settled by the Commission Regulation on the 2011 Population and Housing Censuses.

The demographic characteristics of sex, age and marital status are core variables, which are often used to classify or base other information from census to help in the understanding of various issues. It is considered important that information on age and sex will be available for every person for whom census information has been collected. To obtain information on age, it is recommended that information on date of birth is collected. Considering the increases in the numbers of persons living in consensual union it is optional that information on de facto status will be collected in addition to the legal marital status also information. Country of birth and country of citizenship are also core topics according to the recommendations. In all topics related to international borders reference should be made to the boundaries existing at the time of the census.

Census recommendations include both private and institutional households. The place of usual residence it is recommended to use the basis of household membership. Several classifications are proposed for household and family typology based on household or family composition or the person's status in household.

Classification of geographic characteristics is one of the distinguishing features of Censuses of Population and Housing. Data from population censuses may be presented and analysed for a wide variety of geographical units ranging from the country as a whole to individual small localities or city blocks. Census statistics on localities should be tabulated in the way that allows making distinction between urban and rural areas and populations. Therefore localities are classified according to the number of inhabitants. For purposes of international comparison urban areas are defined as localities with a population of 2000 or more.

Place of usual residence is the basic variable in order to identify the population of the territory. Every person should have only one place of usual residence in order to avoid persons either being counted in the usually resident populations of more than one country or not being counted at all. Country of usual residence is the country in which the place of usual residence is located.

Socio- economic information on activity status, labour status and status in employment and occupation are covered by different core or non-core topics of the census. Current activity status is measured in relation to a short reference period (one day or one week) while usual activity status is measured in relation to a long reference period such as a year.

Education attainment is a core topic in census that refers to the highest level successfully completed in the educational system of the country where the education was received.

Census recommendations propose income as a non-core topic. Information can be collected either through a census questionnaire or through the direct use of administrative records.

Structure of earnings survey (SES)

The Structure of Earnings Survey is based on enterprises. Some of the core variables are not available at the enterprises level; country of birth, legal marital status, consensual union, household information, household net income. It would even sometimes in some countries be illegal for a company to keep records of this information, for reasons of protection of the privacy of the employees. As regards geographical information, labour status and status in employment, the SES can not provide exact information for these five core variables since it collects data on resident and non resident employees working in a resident local unit.

The task force recommends therefore not an extension of the data collected by the SES, but only a better harmonisation in the following fields: age, country of citizenships, highest level of education completed.

Conclusion – Next steps

7

7 – Conclusion – Next steps

Subject to the endorsement of this report by the DSS, the next steps are implementation and tests, discussed in the relevant working groups. The task force recommends however that the present report is largely circulated in the MS and comments are collected and consolidated in a methodological manual.

Having considered the legal process for aligning the surveys to the recommendations, the task force considers feasible that all the surveys concerned comply with the recommendation by 2010 at the latest.

The task forces recommends as well that the work on socio economic classification should be followed, in the context of the ESS, and that the DSS and Eurostat should take some initiative in the field, for instance by organising a methodological workshop in the months to come, that would be the basis of the work of a specific task force created by the DSS on the topic. The workshop could be based on international comparison of analysis and validations studies with the existing data sets that contains the required information.

The task force recommends also that Eurostat continues its methodological work in order to improve the quality and comparability of the self-declared labour status.

The task force considers feasible the collection on net monthly income, provided that the definitions are refined through tests in the coming months and years. The data transmission could start for some countries with limited information (deciles) and be gradually extended to the transmission of actual amount.

The task force draw the attention of the DSS that some implementation difficulties of the core variables in the ICT survey cannot be resolved without a strong commitment of the DSS for this implementation. In particular, the addition of new core variables cannot be done at the expense of reduction of ICT variables and questions.

The core variable list and definitions should be reviewed and adapted by Eurostat at regular interval, for instance every five years.

The task force considers that it has achieved its mandate, and should therefore now be dissolved.

Appendices

Detailed definition of core social variables

Appendix 1

Variable: Sex

Short description

Sex of the person

Coding

- Transmission codes

codes	*Labels*
1	Male
2	Female

- Classification used — This variable is a standard one in survey and administrative data.

Definition

- Reporting unit — Individuals
- Filter — None
- Reference period — No reference period
- Concept — Sex of the person

  Sex refers to the biological sex of the person. According to WHO, "sex" refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women while "gender" refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women. Following this description, WHO considers that "male" and "female" are sex categories, while "masculine" and "feminine" are gender categories[4].
- Technical Issues — There are no technical issues linked to this variable.

Rationale

The need for adequate information on the situation of women and men in all policy areas it is generally recognised. By studying the gender differences and inequalities it is possible to understand them, and on this basis, make plans, formulate and monitor policies in all spheres of society. Hence, the importance of the variable "sex" which being cross classified with other characteristics of the population provides the basis for evaluating progress towards the complete elimination of still existing gender-based stereotypes.

Issues and developments

- Coverage of the variable: all persons

4 WHO website: http://www.who.int/gender/whatisgender/en/

Good practices

- Data collection through interviews or registers
  For analysis purposes, it is essential that information on sex is not only filled in, but also accurate as much as possible. If the information on sex is missing from the questionnaire, it should be imputed on the basis of the answers provided to other questions.

Variable: Age in completed years

Short description

Age of the person in completed years at the date of reference

Coding

- Transmission codes

Codes	*Labels*
The 3 digits of age in completed years	Age in completed years

- Classification used: none

Definition

- Reporting unit — Individuals
- Filter — None
- Reference period — Specific to each survey
- Concept — Age of the person in completed years at the date of reference

  Age in completed years is the age expressed as the number of birthday anniversaries passed on the date of reference, i.e. the age at last birthday.
- Technical Issues — There are different possibilities for calculating the age of a person (their use depends on the existing information):
  - information on the exact date of birth (day, month, and year) available. This would be the ideal case from the analytical point of view, as there is no risk of miscalculating the age – although for confidentiality reasons, it is not recommended to disseminate the exact date of birth.
  - information on the year of birth and month of birth available (this is the case of SILC and other surveys).
  - information on the year of birth and the relation of the date of birth to the date of reference available (the LFS case).
  - only the year of birth is available. This situation could lead to differences, since the age reached during the calendar year when the survey is carried out might not be the same with the age completed. Currently, AES and TUS collect only the year of birth.
  - asking directly the respondent for his/her age in completed years is not recommendable, as it might lead to an incorrect answer due to miscalculation or to the respondent's believe that an age rounded to 0 or 5 would suffice.

Rationale

"Age" is a basic parameter in survey data analysis since the differences between the population groups constructed on it are relevant in developing many EU and national public policies and programmes. Also, existing information on the situation of specific age groups (elderly or young people) has important implications for the policies and programmes that are targeted towards these categories of population.

Issues and developments

- Age grouping
  There is no obvious standard age grouping valid for all surveys to be found, as each survey might be interested in different age groups. Age in completed yeras can be grouped according to needs for statistical analysis of each survey.
- Coverage of the variable: all persons

Good practices

- Data collection through interviews or registers
  Collecting the exact date of birth might be considered as good practice.
  Also, it should be avoided as much as possible missing information on age.

Variable: Country of Birth

Short description

Country where a person was born, namely the country of usual residence of mother at the time of the birth, determined at the time of data collection.

Coding

- Transmission codes

Codes	*Labels*
1	Native-born
2	Foreign-born
2.1	Born in another EU Member State
2.2	Born in non-EU country

- Classification used — In the field work, classification of country of birth should be done on the basis of the UN Statistical Division, Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/49/Rev.4/, the classification developed on the basis of ISO 3166. As proposed by the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing three-digit alphabetical codes should be used.

Definition

- Reporting unit — Individuals
- Filter — No filter
- Reference period — At the time of interview or reference date of survey.
- Concept — Country of birth is the country where a person was born, that is the country of usual residence of mother at the time of the birth.
  Native-born — Person born in the country of residence (country of survey/enumeration).
  Foreign-born — Person born in other country than country of residence (country of survey/enumeration).
  Information on country of birth should be obtained in accordance with the national boundaries existing at the time of data collection.

Technical Issues — It is recommended that the questions related to country of birth ask directly country of birth of person or country of usual residence of mother at the time of birth. More aggregated classification according to transmission codes will be used for transmission of data.

Rationale

This item will identify migrants to a country and will permit analyses comparing the circumstances of migrants to native-born residents. In the context of free movement of persons across the EU it is important to be able to examine the relationship between migration and for example social exclusion. Of course, a small sample sizes will not be sufficient for any more than an overview of this issue.

Issues and developments

Classification of countries and areas issued by UN Statistical Division is a basic tool for coding country of birth. However, it may also be evident that the above mentioned classification does not include codes for the countries that became recently independent.

In order to ensure harmonisation of coding of countries Eurostat will improve the list for classification of countries proposing codes as neutral and practical as possible for the newly independent countries.

EU-SILC currently collects data on country of birth as at the date of birth, rather than as determined at the time of data collection. This issue will be raised at a methodological task force in due course.

Good practices

In the situations when country has lost a part of territory or the former country was divided between several new countries and also in cases if there is doubt to which country the place of birth currently belongs, it would be useful to collect from the respondent precise information about the locality of birth (settlement) and not only country of birth. Also the name of the country of birth as it existed at the time of birth may be recorded and adjustments made at the time of data entry. Clear instructions are advisable to interviewers.

Country of birth of parents can be useful supplement for surveys seeking more detailed analysis of integration processes and outcomes of immigrants and their descendants.

Variable: Country of Citizenship at time of data collection

Short description

Citizenship is defined as the particular legal bond between an individual and his/her State, acquired by birth or naturalisation, whether by declaration, option, marriage or other means according to the national legislation.

Coding

- Transmission codes

Codes	*Labels*
1	Nationals
2	Non-nationals
2.1	Nationals of other EU Member States
2.2	Nationals of non EU countries

- Classification used: Classification will be developed on country of citizenship. Information on country of citizenship should be coded, based on classification issued by UN Statistical Division, Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/49/Rev.4/., the classification developed on the basis of ISO 3166. As proposed by the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing three-digit alphabetical codes should be used.

Definition

- Reporting unit: Individuals
- Filter: No filter
- Reference period: At the time of interview or reference date of survey.
- Concept: Citizenship is defined as the particular legal bond between an individual and his/her State, acquired by birth or naturalisation, whether by declaration, option, marriage or other means according to the national legislation.

  National: Resident person having citizenship of the country of residence (= country of survey/enumeration).

  Non-national (foreigners): Resident person who does not have citizenship of the country of residence (= country of survey/enumeration).

  The information sought is the country of current citizenship of the person concerned. Information on country of citizenship should be obtained in accordance with the administrative status/legal situation existing at the time of data collection.

Technical Issues: It is recommended that countries of citizenship are recorded during interview while more aggregated classification according to transmission codes will be used for transmission of data. A small sample size will not be sufficient for more than aggregated classification.

In the case of dual or multiple citizenship, the following approach should be used :

1. If person has citizenship of the country of usual residence, will normally be recorded in the survey with the first priority.
2. If no citizenship is that of the country of residence, another EU MS citizenship has priority.
3. In other cases person may choose which country of citizenship will be recorded in survey.

Rationale

This item will identify nationals and non-nationals according to their legal links to the country of residence and will permits comparison of residents. In the context of free movement of persons across the EU it is important to be able to examine the relationship between migration and for example social exclusion.

Issues and developments

Classification of countries and areas issued by UN Statistical Division is a useful tool for developing list of citizenship but attention should be paid in considering the dependent territories that are included in the classification but that may not have their own citizenship. It may also be evident that the above mentioned classification does not include codes for the countries that became recently independent.

In order to ensure harmonisation of coding of countries, Eurostat will improve the Country of citizenship list proposing codes as neutral and practical as possible for the newly independent countries.

Good practices

When person had previously the citizenship of a country that currently does not exist, and he/she does not know which citizenship he/she has legal right to have, it is preferable to record the citizenship that person had before the borders were changed. In case when the host country supplies for these persons special temporary status (e.g. non-citizens of Latvia and aliens with undetermined citizenship in Estonia) this should be recorded separately. The further classification of these population groups will be in accordance to the concrete circumstances, (e.g. under EU legislation non-citizens of Latvia and aliens with undetermined citizenship in Estonia are currently considered as non-EU nationals).

It is important to record the country of citizenship and not just the citizenship of a person in terms of an adjective (for example, Chinese, German, British and so forth) in order to avoid confusion between ethnic background and citizenship.

Citizenship at birth, and the way how the national citizenship was acquired, either at birth or by naturalisation or other means according to the national legislation and the year of acquisition, can be useful supplement for surveys seeking more detailed analysis of integration processes and outcomes of immigrants and their descendants.

Variable: Legal marital status

Short description

Legal marital status is defined as the (legal) conjugal status of each individual in relation to the marriage laws (or customs) of the country (i.e. *de jure* status)

Coding

- Transmission codes

Codes	*Labels*
1	Unmarried (i.e. never married)
2	Married (including registered partnership)
3	Widowed and not remarried (including widowed from registered partnership)
4	Divorced and not remarried (including legally separated and dissolved registered partnership)

- Classification used — Legal marital status is classified as presented above.

Definition

- Reporting unit — Individuals
- Filter — No filter
- Reference period — Current status at the time of interview or reference date of survey
- Concept — Legal marital status is defined as the (legal) conjugal status of each individual in relation to the marriage laws (or customs) of the country (i.e. *de jure* status).

Technical Issues

Information on the legal marital status of each person should be collected at least for persons aged 15 and over. However, since the minimum legal age and the customary age for marriage varies between countries, and since the population may also include young persons who have been married in other countries with lower minimum ages, it is recommended to collect the data for all persons.

In case if other legal marital statuses (like registered/legal partnership or legally separated) are used in countries, information on these may collected separately but will be thereafter classified under four main legal marital statuses.

Persons whose only or latest marriage has been annulled will be classified according to their marital status prior the annulled marriage.

Persons living in consensual unions should be classified as never married, married, widowed or divorced in accordance with their de jure (legal) status.

Rationale

The legal marital status of the individual is a core variable of census. It is also standard variable in administrative data and household surveys. Marital status with other demographic variables, like sex and age, is often used to classify and to base other information collected on person to help in the understanding of various issues. It is closely bound up with the issue of rights to and obligations to provide mutual financial support, not just in the present but in the future. As such, it is an important background variable in the study of social exclusion and poverty.

Issues and developments

As the distinction between the concept of legal marital status and *de facto* marital status is becoming vague, integrating the two variables into one could be considered. The name of such variable could be "cohabitation status". This variable would include both concepts "legal marital status" and "consensual union". The combination of two variables may be needed for example in longitudinal studies where one wants to study specific groups – for instance divorced or widowed persons who later begin 'a new life' in a consensual union. However, it needs to be verified whether the integration and the way it would be implemented fit the data needs of the NSIs and the needs for the different surveys and users.

In case of registered/legal partnership or where the same-sex couples can legally marry, additional categories may be included in the classification or category "married" may be expanded in order to include these categories explicitly. However, the introducing such sensitive categories needs prior to introducing a thorough testing.

Good practices

The sensitivity of the information particularly in the case of the same-sex marriages or registered partnership should be considered.

Variable: De facto marital status (Consensual union)

Short description

*De fact*o marital status is defined as the marital status of each individual in terms of his or her actual living arrangements within the household**.** Consensual union is defined as the union between non-married partners.

Coding

- Transmission codes

Codes	*Labels*
1	Person living in a consensual union
2	Person not living in a consensual union

- Classification used Classification as presented above.

Definition

- Reporting unit Individuals
- Filter No filter
- Reference period Current status at the time of interview or reference date of survey
- Concept This variable is referred to as 'de facto marital status' in the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing:
  *De fact*o marital status is defined as the marital status of each individual in terms of his or her actual living arrangements within the household.
  De facto marital status is used for identifying persons living in consensual union. Two persons are taken to be partners in a consensual union when they have usual residence in the same household, are not married to each other, and have a marriage-like relationship to each other.

Technical Issues Information on *de facto* marital status can be derived from information collected on household and family characteristics of persons, characteristics of family nuclei and characteristics of private households, based on the relationship to the reference person question or the full household relationship matrix. Where such matrix is not used a separate question would need to be asked.
Information on the *de facto* marital status should be collected for the same age groups as for the legal marital status.

Rationale

The presence of *de facto* marital status is a non-core census variable. Marital status with other demographic variables, like sex and age, is often used to classify and to base other information collected by census or survey to help in the understanding of various issues.

Increasing number of countries experienced increases of the number of persons living in consensual unions. In some countries it is already possible to identify registered partnerships as this category may have status equivalent to legal marriage. The extent to which couples form consensual unions rather than formally marry varies across EU member states. In terms of the practical aspects of daily life living in consensual union does not significantly differ from the living with married or registered partner. Accordingly, collecting data only on the legal marital status does not allow fully define family and identify family composition.

Issues and developments

As the distinction between the two concepts of marital status – legal marital status and de facto marital status – is becoming vague, a simplification by integrating the two variables into one could be considered. The name of such variable could be “cohabitation status”. This variable integrates the concepts “legal marital status” and “consensual union”. The combination of two variables may be needed for example in longitudinal studies where one wants to study specific groups – for instance divorced or widowed persons who later begin ‘a new life’ in a consensual union. It needs to be verified whether the integration and the way it would be implemented fit the data needs of the NSIs and the needs for the different surveys and users.

Opposite- and same-sex and partnership may be distinguished under the category “Persons living in consensual union”.

Good practices

The sensitivity of the information particularly in the case of the same-sex partnerships should be considered.

Variable: Household composition

Short description

This variable refers to the size and composition of the private household and is derived from the information on the relationship between household members, and the economic activity status.

Coding

#1 Household size (see the variable "age in completed year" for the definition of age)

Total number of persons in household
Number of persons aged less than or equal to 4
Number of persons aged from 5 to 13*
Number of persons aged from 14 to 15*
Number of persons aged from 16 to 24 of which, number of students
Number of persons aged from 25 to 64
Number of persons aged more than or equal to 65

* Information on the numbers of persons aged above/below 14 is required in order to apply the standard (OECD-modified) equivalence scale to adjust values collected for the separate core variable "total household net monthly income".

#2 Transmission codes for household type

Codes	*Labels*
1	One-person households
2	Multi-person households
2.1.	Lone parent with child(ren) aged less than 25
2.2.	Couple without child(ren) aged less than 25
2.3.	Couple with child(ren) aged less than 25
2.4.	Couple or lone parent with child(ren) aged less than 25 and other persons living in household*
2.5	Other type of household**

* Category "other persons" includes all persons in household who are not children of that couple or lone parent or partner in that couple.
** Category "Other type of household" includes all other households without parent-child relationship.

#3 Economic activity (see the variable "self-declared labour status" for the definition of economic activity)

Number of persons aged 16-64 in household who are at work
Number of persons aged 16-64 in household who are unemployed or are economically inactive

- Classification used: Classified as presented above. Combination of size and type of household in case of categories 2.2., 2.3. and 2.4

Definition

- Reporting unit — Derived from household matrix or from individual household relationship
- Filter — No
- Reference period — Moment of the interview
- Concept — The place of usual residence is recommended to use as the basis of the household membership.
  The existence of shared expenses in the household (including benefiting from expenses as well as contributing to expenses) shall be used to determine who is regarded as household members.
  Private households will be classified by the total number of household members, broken down by age. In addition household type is applied for all households. Information is also sought on the economic activity status of household members of working age.
  The concept of a private household is known as the housekeeping concept. In case of register-based surveys a different concept of the private household, namely, the household-dwelling concept, may be used. In view of international comparability it is recommended that countries that use the 'housekeeping' concept, if possible, make an estimate of the number of private households according to the 'household-dwelling' concept, and break this number down by household size.
  The term "couple" includes married couples, registered couples, and couples who live in a consensual union.
  "Child" refers to a blood, step- or adopted son or daughter (regardless of age and marital status) who has usual residence in the household of at least one of the parents, and who has no partner or own child(ren) in the same household.

- Household — The following persons, if they share in household expenses (including benefiting from expenses as well as contributing to expenses) shall be regarded as household members:
  1. persons usually resident and related to other household members;
  2. persons usually resident, not related to other household members;
  3. resident boarders, lodgers, tenants, etc., with no private address elsewhere, actual/intended stay one year or more;
  4. visitors, with no private address elsewhere, actual/intended stay one year or more;
  5 live-in domestic servants, au-pairs, etc. , with no private address elsewhere, actual/intended stay one year or more;
  6. persons usually resident but temporarily absent (for reasons of holiday travel, work, education or similar), with no private address elsewhere and actual/intended absence less than one year;
  7. children of household members being educated away from home, with no private address elsewhere, continuing to retain close ties with the household;
  8. persons absent for long periods but having household ties (eg. persons working away from home), child or partner of other household member, with no private address elsewhere, continuing to retain close ties with the household;
  9. persons temporarily absent but having household ties (eg. persons in hospital, nursing homes or other institutions), with clear financial ties to the household, actual/prospective absence less than one year;

A person shall be considered ‘usually resident’ if they spend most of their daily rest there evaluated over the past one year. Persons forming new households or joining existing households shall normally be considered as members at their new location if there is an intention to stay for more than one year. Similarly, those leaving to live elsewhere shall no longer be considered as members of their original household.

Technical issues

Information should be collected about all persons living in private households on their relationship to other members of the household. Proxy answers are recommended, when not all the household members are interviewed.

A most elaborative method developed for identifying household type is household relationship matrix method. The household relationship matrix allows for the collection of all relationships between all household members.

A second alternative is to record the relationship between each member and one ‘key’ individual in the household (the household reference person). When the household’s reference person is chosen carefully, this method gives accurate information for most household types and family types. In certain cases, however, for instance in multiple family households, this method will not always give the information that is required.

A third option is to record for each person the person number of their spouse, mother, and father, if these persons are in the household. In addition, the person number of own children could be recorded for each adult.

A child who alternates between two households (for instance after his or her parents have divorced) should consider the household where he or she spends the majority of the time as his or her place of usual residence. Where an equal amount of time is spent with both parents the place of usual residence should be the place where the child is found at the end of the reference period.

The definition of household membership reflects recommendations in Commission Regulation no.1980/2003 implementing EU-SILC, with the exception of the 6 months threshold.

Rationale

Many issues (housing problems etc) focus on data at the household level rather than the individual level. Household type is also extremely useful to have the information on dynamics of household structure.

Issues and developments

The definition of the household boundaries has to follow the evolutions of the EU-SILC concepts, having in mind that in some instances membership threshold is SILC is currently 6 months.

There is an increasing amount of accommodation which is being specifically provided for the elderly, the disabled, and other special groups which falls between an institutional and a private household, in that meals can be taken communally or by each household with its own cooking facilities. It is suggested that if at least half the population living in such accommodation possess their own cooking facilities, they should be treated as private households and, if possible, identified separately in the output.

For household surveys, transmission table #2 can typically be constructed in more detailed manner.

The concept of "dependent child"(a person aged below 16 or a person aged between 16-24 who is economically inactive and living with at least one of his/her parents) has been considered carefully by the task force. The TF concluded that it was uneasy to implement and covers only partially the variety of situations encountered. Therefore, it has been abandoned.

Good practices

- Data collection through interviews

Variable: Country of residence

Short description

The respondent's *country of usual residence*.

Coding

- Transmission codes

Codes	*Labels*
BE	Belgium
CZ	Czech Republic
DK	Denmark
DE	Germany
EE	Estonia
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FR	France
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
CY	Cyprus
LV	Latvia
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
HU	Hungary
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
AT	Austria
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovak Republic
FI	Finland
SE	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom
BG	Bulgaria
HR	Croatia
RO	Romania
TR	Turkey
IS	Iceland
LI	Liechtenstein
NO	Norway
MK	Fyrom

- Classification used: NUTS
  Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics, at the most aggregate level (level 0 or country level).

Definition

- Reporting unit: Individuals or households
- Filter: None (apart from exclusion of out-of-scope sample elements)
- Reference period: Moment of the interview
- Concept: The respondent's *country of usual residence*.
- Technical issues: -

Rationale

« Country of residence » is to be considered as a basic and obvious variable, especially of the context of country-comparison within the European Statistical System. The information is complementary to the variables *country of birth* and *country of citizenship*.

Issues and developments

- For most social surveys, such variable will not put any significant burden on respondents nor on the statistical institutes as the information is quasi automatically available. However, for certain groups of respondents, the *country of residence* may be ambiguous, such as (recent) expatriates or persons with a second or holiday home (and who may be registered in administrative files in both countries).

- Misclassification error is nevertheless possible where the statistical unit's country of residence can not be checked or collected: e.g. in the Structure of Earnings Survey (SES), the employer reports on the employees' earnings and working time and although most workers will presumably live in the country where the enterprise or local unit is based, this assumption may be problematic in border regions (cross-border workers).

- LFS definition of *resident population* (see also ESA95 – European System of Accounts):
  - A person belongs to the resident population of a given country if he is staying, or intends to stay, on the economic territory of that country for a period of one year or more.
  - All individuals who belong to the same household are resident where the household has a centre of economic interest: this is where the household maintains a dwelling, or succession of dwellings, which members of the household treat, and use, as their principal residence. A member of a resident household continues to be a resident even if that individual makes frequent journeys outside the economic territory, because its centre of economic interest remains in the economy in which the household is resident.
  - A person is regarded as temporarily absent from his/her household (respectively his/her country of residence) if he or she is staying, or intends to stay outside his household (respectively his/her country of residence) for a period of less than one year. In this case he or she has to be considered as a member of his household (respectively his/her country of residence).

Remark:

This definition fits the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing. By applying these rules, double accounts should be avoided. Resident population and belonging to a household are however two separate concepts, identified at different steps of the survey.

Examples:

- a student studying abroad for a period of less than one year has to be surveyed only in his household of origin.
- a seasonal worker who works every year 6 months in a country and 6 months in another country has to be surveyed in the country where he/she has his/her economic interests (the family dwelling).

Good practices

- To be extracted from the sampling frame (based on population register), where available.
- The Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing as explained in annex 5 should be implemented.

VARIABLE: REGION OF RESIDENCE

Short description

This variable indicates the region where the individual/household is living (place of usual residence). The level of detail may need to be different from on survey to another (see below).

Coding

- Transmission codes
  The coding to be used will depend on the level of detail applied in the different surveys.
  All codes are available from
  http://ec.europa.eu/comm/eurostat/ramon/nuts/codelist_en.cfm?list=nuts

- Classification used — NUTS
  Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics, at 2-digit level. This detail is not necessarily to be disseminated as the information may be regrouped when necessary (and where the sample size allows it).
  Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 establishes a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS, http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l_154/l_15420030621en00010041.pdf). From 1 May 2004, regions in the 10 new Member States are included in the NUTS.
  The classification has three levels, providing increasing levels of detail. They are based on "Local Administrative Units" (LAU) for districts and municipalities (former "levels 4 and 5").

  For more information, see Eurostat's classification server RAMON:
  - General info on NUTS:
    http:// ec.europa.eu /comm/eurostat/ramon/nuts/home_regions_en.html
  - Classification for each country (EU-25, EFTA, Candidate countries):
    http:// ec.europa.eu /comm/eurostat/ramon/nuts/codelist_en.cfm

Definition

• Reporting unit	Individual or household
• Filter	None (apart from exclusion of out-of-scope sample elements)
• Reference period	Moment of the interview
• Concept	The respondent's *region of usual residence*.
• Technical issues	-

Rationale

Regional information is important in the context of social statistics for a number of reasons. First, major differences in living standards exist between regions within a country – even in smaller countries (e.g. capital region versus more rural areas). Second, many policies designed to address social exclusion and poverty, particularly those that address infrastructural deficits, are best implemented at regional level. Third the labour market can differ a lot between regions within the same country, etc.

Issues and developments

- NUTS level recommended
  From an analytical point of view, 2-digit level of NUTS is recommended. Note that for 1 in 3 EU countries the 2 digit level corresponds to the country level.
  However, for sample reasons, this goal may not be feasible for certain social surveys due to sample size restrictions. Where this is the case, intermediate solutions could be considered, e.g. if a country is due to sample size restrictions not able to comply with the NUTS 2 breakdown, a simplified breakdown in f.i. 3 or 4 regions could be a pragmatic alternative.
  See http://ec.europa.eu/comm/eurostat/ramon/nuts/codelist_en.cfm?list=nuts to find out for each country the level of detail linked to 2-digit NUTS breakdown.

  The table below gives the number of regions per NUTS level:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
AT	3	9	35
BE	3	11	43
CY	1	1	1
CZ	1	8	14
DE	16	41	439
DK	1	1	15
EE	1	1	5
ES	7	19	52
FI	2	4	18
FR	8	26	98
GR	4	13	48
HU	3	7	17
IE	1	2	8
IT	5	21	100
LT	1	1	10
LU	1	1	1
LV	1	1	6
MT	1	1	2
NL	4	12	40
PL	6	16	45
PT	3	7	30
SE	1	8	21
SI	1	1	12
SK	1	4	8
UK	12	37	133
BG	2	6	28
HR	1	4	21
RO	1	8	42
TR	12	26	81
CH	1	7	26
IS	1	1	1
LI	1	1	1
NO	1	7	19
EU-25	88	253	1198

Good practices

- Data collection from the sampling frame (or register)
- The Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing as explained in annex 5 should be implemented.

VARIABLE: DEGREE OF URBANISATION

Short description

The type of locality the individual/household is living in, namely whether an urban or a rural area (or a borderline case).

Coding

- Transmission codes

Codes	*Labels*
1	Densely-populated area
2	Intermediate area
3	Thinly-populated area

- Classification used: Classification developed by Eurostat

Definition

- Reporting unit — Individuals/household
- Filter — None (apart from exclusion of out-of-scope sample elements)
- Reference period — Moment of the interview
- Concept — The detailed definition of the three types of area is as follows:

Densely-populated area

This is a contiguous set of local areas, each of which has a density superior to 500 inhabitants per square kilometre, where the total population for the set is at least 50,000 inhabitants.

Intermediate area

This is a contiguous set of local areas, not belonging to a densely-populated area, each of which has a density superior to 100 inhabitants per square kilometre, and either with a total population for the set of at least 50,000 inhabitants or adjacent to a densely-populated area.

Thinly-populated area

This is a contiguous set of local areas belonging neither to a densely-populated nor to an intermediate area.
(a set of local areas totalling less than 100 km², not reaching the required density, but entirely enclosed within a densely-populated or intermediate area, is to be considered to form part of that area. If it is enclosed within a densely-populated area and an intermediate area it is considered to form part of the intermediate area)
Note: for the definition of area, see below ("Issues and developments").

- Technical issues — According to the Labour Force Survey recommendations, a set of local areas totalling less than 100 square kilometres, not reaching the required density, but entirely enclosed within a densely populated or intermediate area, is to be considered to form part of that area. If it is enclosed within a densely populated area and an intermediate area it is considered to form part of the intermediate area.

The calculations of the density of population for the "local unit", the total population of the contiguous area for the densely populated and intermediate areas, and the "situation" (enclosed or not) for the isolated local units have to be made in order to guarantee harmonised application of the definitions. This would normally be available at the National Statistical Institution, since it is needed for the Labour Force Surveys.

The information on the urbanisation of the area may be available from the sampling frame, from registers, or the interviewer may record information on the locality (such as the name of the commune/Demos/Gemeinde/ municipio/ward etc.) which would permit it to be classified according to one of the three categories outlined above without any significant burden on the respondents.

Rationale

There are important differences in the form that social exclusion takes between urban and rural areas. For instance, housing costs tend to be higher in urban areas, while access to essential services and opportunities for social and cultural participation may be more restricted in rural areas. Problems with vandalism and crime also tend to be more prevalent in urban areas. Labour market, occupation tends also to be different in rural and urban areas. Access to broadband or mobile telecommunication networks can be problematic in more remote rural areas.

A measure of the extent of urbanisation of the area is important, therefore, as an explanatory variable in analyses of social statistics.

Issues and developments

- An "area" consists of a group of contiguous "local areas" where a "local area" corresponds to the following entities in the respective Member States:

Belgium: Gemeente / Commune
Czech Republic: Obce (6 251 in year 2000)
Denmark: Kommuner
Germany: Gemeinde
Estonia: Vald+Alev+Linn (254)
Greece: Demotiko diamerisma / Koinotiko diamerisma (after the kapodistria reform, ca. 6000 units)
Spain: Municipio
France: Commune
Ireland: DED / ward
Italy: Commune
Cyprus: Demos/Koinotites
Latvia: Pagast+ Pilsetas (560)
Lithuania: Seniunija
Luxembourg: Commune
Hungary: Telepules (3 135)
Malta: Localities
The Netherlands: Gemeente
Austria: Gemeinde
Poland: Gminy+Miasta (2 486)

Portugal: Freguesias
Slovenia: Obcine (210 as of 1 Jan 2007)
Slovakia: Obce a Mesta (2 920 in year 1999)
Finland: Kunnat
Sweden: Kommune
United Kingdom: Ward

Iceland: Sveitarfélag (124 from 1998)
Norway: Kommuner (435)

Bulgaria: Naseleni miasti
Croatia: not yet available
Romania: Comune, Municipii, Orase
Turkey: not yet available

Alternatives

A more detailed breakdown could possible enable distinctions between, for instance, deep rural and peri-urban rural or between capital areas and more provincial urban areas.
The proposed 3-category breakdown, focusing on population density rather than on land use, has been retained by the Task Force because it is an acceptable compromise from a user point of view, because it doesn't necessitate additional burden on respondents or statistical offices and because this classification is currently already in use in several harmonised social surveys.

Good practices

- Data collection from the sampling frame (or register)
  Conversion tables to convert municipal codes into the three degrees of urbanisation have been made available by Eurostat to the NSIs. This brings the data collection burden down to recoding the municipal code in the survey database into the degree of urbanisation by a simple look-up in the conversion table.

Variable: Self-declared labour status

Short description

Normal or current ‘main’ labour status as perceived by the respondent

Coding

- Transmission codes

Codes	***Labels***
10	Carries out a job or profession, including unpaid work for a family business or holding, including an apprenticeship or paid traineeship, etc.
11	*Full time*
12	*Part time*
20	Unemployed
31	Pupil, student, further training, unpaid work experience
32	In retirement or early retirement or has given up business
33	Permanently disabled
34	In compulsory military or community service
35	Fulfilling domestic tasks
36	Other inactive person

- Classification used not applicable

Definition

- Reporting unit Individuals
- Filter All persons aged 15 or more (according to the survey)
- Reference period No specific reference period should be mentioned (see concept)
- Concept The self-declared current or normal ‘main activity status’

The target variable captures the person’s own perception of their main activity at present. It differs from the ILO[5] concept to the extent that people’s own perception of their main status differs from the strict definitions used in the ILO definitions. For instance, many people who would regard themselves as full-time students or homemakers may be classified as ILO-employed if they have a part-time job. Similarly, some people who consider themselves ‘unemployed’ may not meet the strict ILO criteria of taking active steps to find work and being immediately available.

[5] Based on the International Labour Organisation guidelines, employed persons are defined as persons aged 15 years and over who during the reference week did any work for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour, or were not at work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of, e.g., illness, holidays, industrial dispute and education or training. Unemployed persons comprise persons aged 15 to 74 who were without work during the reference week, were currently available for work and were either actively seeking work or who found a job to start within the next three months.

It is also broader than the ILO definition in a number of respects. The term ‘normal’ refers to disregarding purely transient or other temporary changes in the situation, and to an averaging over time in case of fluctuations (such as over 4 weeks preceding the interview). Despite a certain degree of vagueness, the concept of ‘normal’ is useful and is widely employed in social research.

The concept of ‘current’ implies that any definitive changes in the activity situation are taken into account. For instance, if a person has lost a job or has retired recently, or the activity status has changed otherwise in a definitive manner, then the situation as of the time of the interview should be reported. In this sense, ‘current’ overrides any concept of averaging over any specific reference period.

- Technical Issues

The self-declared main activity status is, in principle, determined on the basis of the most time spent, but no criteria are specified explicitly.

– A **part-time worker** is “an employed person whose normal hours of work are less than those of comparable full-time workers” (International Labour Conference, 81st session, 1994).

– The variable refers to the main job.

– The distinction between full-time and part-time work should be made on the basis of a **spontaneous answer** given by the respondent. It is impossible to establish a more exact distinction between part-time and full-time work, due to variations in working hours between Member States and also between branches of industry.

– In case respondents hesitate between the answers ‘permanently disabled’ and ‘in retirement’, the code ‘in retirement’ should be privileged for persons having reached the most frequent legal retirement age or the one in their previous occupation.

– The code ‘in compulsory military or community service’ might not be relevant any longer in certain countries.

Rationale

The person’s main economic situation (self-defined) is a useful variable. It is the only practical definition to use in examining labour transitions, as it could be done in a panel survey or using a similar variable for the situation one year before.

In addition, it permits an important classification of the regular nature of the work or the main reason for not working as opposed the situation in one specific reference week as in the LFS. For those outside the labour force at present, the nature of their present activity has an important bearing on their likely future labour market participation. People who are retired or unable to work because of disability, for instance, are less likely to respond to an increase in demand for labour than are students or those engaged in home duties.

In contrast to the ILO definition, which requires a series of items, this variable is typically based on a single item in surveys.

Issues and developments

- Self-declared versus International Labour Office concept): It was recognised that the high objectivity and comparability of the ILO status can not overcome its inadequate number of questions and obvious burden on respondents for a too high degree of precision. However, the task force agreed that there was space for improvements of the self-declared status as concerns unemployed persons and the criteria of active search for work. A preliminary analysis on the LFS data shows large discrepancies in many countries between the self-declared and the ILO definition of unemployment. Appendix 4 gives further details on these aspects.

- Distinction full-time / part time: although it implies an slight increase in burden for respondents, this dimension can bring additional information either in terms of time available along with the household data for child or dependant care or in terms of possible lower labour integration and wage.
- Categories of inactivity: some of them represent only a limited percentage of the population. They still need to be covered for the interviews since some respondents would find it difficult to classify themselves in other categories.
- The inclusion of apprenticeship or paid traineeship under the code 10 will need further investigations since the category would be closer to the reply ‘student’ in many cases.

Good practices

- When collected via interview, the question should not in any case precede the questions on the labour status according to the ILO definition or questions on the registration at the public employment office.

VARIABLE: STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT

Short description

Professional status of employed persons

Coding

- Transmission codes

Codes	*Labels*
10	Self-employed
20	Employee
21	*with a permanent job or work contract of unlimited duration*
22	*with temporary job/work contract of limited duration*

- Classification used: based on the ILO resolution concerning the International Classification of Status in Employment (15th ICLS, 1993).

Definition

- Reporting unit: Individuals
- Filter: Employed, according to self-declared status
- Reference period: Normal or current situation (see self-declared status)
- Concept: The definition is based on the ILO resolution concerning the International Classification of Status in Employment (15th ICLS, 1993). The two dimensions that are central to the concept of status in employment are economic risk and authority

The basic distinction is that between employees and the self-employed. Employees are all those workers who hold the type of job defined as "paid employment jobs" – "jobs where the incumbents hold explicit (written or oral) or implicit employment contracts which give them a basic remuneration which is not directly dependent upon the revenue of the unit for which they work (this unit can be a corporation, a non-profit institution, a government unit or a household). Some or all of the tools, capital equipment, information systems and/or premises used by the incumbents may be owned by others, and the incumbents may work under direct supervision of, or according to strict guidelines set by the owner(s) or persons in the owners' employment. (Persons in "paid employment jobs" are typically remunerated by wages and salaries, but may be paid by commission from sales, by piece-rates, bonuses or in-kind payments such as food, housing or training.) ".

Self-employment jobs are those jobs where the remuneration is directly dependent upon the profits (or the potential for profits) derived from the goods and services produced (where own consumption is considered to be part of profits). The self-employed make the operational decisions affecting the enterprise, or delegate such decisions while retaining responsibility for the welfare of the enterprise. (In this context "enterprise" includes one-person operations.)

Employees with a limited duration job/contract are employees whose main job will terminate either after a period fixed in advance, or after a period not known in advance, but nevertheless defined by objective criteria, such as the completion of an assignment or the period of absence of an employee temporarily replaced.

- Technical Issues

Employees

Employees can be further divided into the following groups:

- Paid employees in a family business or on a family farm
- Other paid employees
- **Apprentices** or **trainees** receiving remuneration (i.e. workers who hold explicit or implicit contracts of "paid employment" which specify that all or part of their remuneration should be in the form of training for a trade or profession)
- Those on state employment schemes (workers participating in public or private employment promotion or job training schemes on terms of employment which correspond to "paid employment" jobs)

An employee is usually working for an outside employer, but a son or daughter, for example, who is **working in a parent's firm** and receives a regular monetary wage should be classified as an employee. The separate identification of 'paid employees in a family business' is not mentioned in ICSE-93. It is important in income or labour force surveys, since the remuneration and working conditions of employees in a family business can differ significantly from that of employees working for others. In many cases the hourly rate of pay is lower than would be expected, in anticipation of the person eventually taking over or becoming a partner in the business.

Self-employed

The self-employed can be further divided into

- employers (who, have engaged one or more persons to work for them on a continuous basis in their business)
- own-account workers (who have not engaged any employees on a continuous basis).
- Members of producers' co-operatives (who hold a self-employment job in a co-operative producing goods and services, in which each member takes part on an equal footing with other members in determining the organisation of production, sales and/or other work of the establishment, the investments and the distribution of the proceeds of the establishment amongst their members.)
  In the case co-operative hired workers and these workers have an employment contract that gives them a basic remuneration (which is not directly dependent upon the revenue of the co-operative), these workers are identified as employees of the co-operative.
- Contributing family workers (who hold a "self-employment" job in a market-oriented establishment operated by a related person living in the same household, who cannot be regarded as a partner, because their degree of commitment to the operation of the establishment, in terms of working time or other factors, is not at a level comparable to that of the head of the establishment.
  In the two categories classification Employees / self-employed, unpaid family workers are not distinguished separately and are grouped with self-employed.

Border cases:

A **person who looks after one or more children** that are not his/her own on a private basis and receiving a payment for this service should be considered as self-employed. A **person**

looking after children in his/her own home should be classified as an employee if he/she is paid to do this by the local authority (or any other public administration) and if he/she does not take any decision affecting the enterprise (e.g. schedules or number of children) but should be classified as self-employed if he/she does it privately.

A **freelancer** should in general be classified as self-employed. However in situations where freelancer works for a single employer and receives employment rights from that employer (e.g. holiday pay) he should be classified as an employee (code 20).

A **person who gives private lessons** should be considered as self-employed if he/she is directly paid by his/her students.

Priests (of any kind of religion) are considered employees

Persons working in a family business or on a family farm without pay should be living in the same household as the owner of the business or farm, or in a slightly broader interpretation, in a house located on the same plot of land and with common household interests. Such people frequently receive remuneration in the form of fringe benefits and payments in kind. However, this applies *only* when the business is owned or operated by the individual themselves or by a relative. Thus, unpaid voluntary work done for charity should *not* be included.

Examples of unpaid family workers:

A son or daughter living inside the household and working in the parents' business or on the parents' farm without pay.

A wife who assists her husband in his business, e.g. a haulage contractor, without receiving any formal pay.

A relative living elsewhere but coming to help with the business, e.g. during the harvesting season, without pay in money or kind should not be included. If the relative receives any remuneration (including benefits in kind) the professional status should be coded as 20 Employee.

Contract duration - border cases:

- The category "temporary contracts" include:
  - Persons with a seasonal job
  - Persons engaged by a **temporary employment agency** or business and hired out to a third party for the carrying out of a "work mission" (unless there is a work contract of unlimited duration with the employment agency or business)
  - Persons with **specific training contracts**.
- The main issue involved is the actual employment being time-limited under an agreement - not that the person has, for example, considered stopping work in order to travel or attend college.
- Respondents who have a contract to do their job, which is expected to be **renewed**, for example, once a year, should be coded according to whether or not the respondents themselves consider their job to be of an unlimited duration.
- A person having a contract for a probationary period should be considered having a temporary contract.
- In case of secondment from a permanent job, the person should be considered as having a contract of unlimited duration, if the person has an assurance to go back to his previous job.

Rationale

Status in employment is associated with life chances in a number of important ways. People who are self-employed benefit directly from the level of profit made by the business or enterprise. On the other hand, they are generally more exposed than employees to economic risk, in that their remuneration is tied more directly to the level of profit. Status in employment is also needed for the proposed European Socio-Economic Classification (see appendix 3) with the addition at a later stage of the “employers” category. Information on status in employment will also need to be collected not only for those currently at work, but also at a later stage for those who previously held a job (people who are retired, the unemployed who worked before, those who worked before but are no longer in the labour force).

Issues and developments

The main discussions around this variable concerned the additional dimension permanent / temporary contract. Despite the supplementary burden, persons with temporary contracts constitute a numerous and growing group among employees (around 15% of employees) but are more exposed to economic risks.

The definition and technical issues were revised to be in line with the recent suggestions of the recent task force on ‘LFS explanatory notes’.

Variable: Occupation in employment

Short description

Occupation in the main job

Coding

- Transmission codes (on 2 digits, 36 positions)

Codes	*Labels*
10 to 13	Legislators, senior officials and managers (4 positions)
20 to 24	Professionals (5 positions)
30 to 34	Technicians and associate professionals (5 positions)
40 to 42	Clerks (3 positions)
50 to 52	Service workers and shop and market sales workers (3 positions)
60 to 61	Skilled agricultural and fishery workers (2 positions)
70 to 74	Craft and related trades workers (5 positions)
80 to 83	Plant and machine operators and assemblers (4 positions)
90 to 93	Elementary occupations (4 positions)
00	Armed forces (1 position)

- Classification used — ISCO-COM (88)
The ISCO-88 (COM) is the standard occupational classification used at the EU level, It is based on ISCO-88: International Standard Classification of Occupations' published by ILO (Geneva 1990). The classification is available as an internal Eurostat Working Document; see 'ISCO-88 (COM) Definitions and Structure'.

Definition

- Reporting unit — Individuals
- Filter — Persons in employment according to the self-declared status
- Reference period — As in self-declared status (main status, no reference period)
- Concept — The person's occupation in their main job.
The 'main job' is defined in harmony with the Labour Force Survey definition of 'first job' (Working Group on Employment Statistics, January 2001). The LFS normally takes a reference week to define the current situation of the respondent but the main status should be here considered. Multiple job holders decide for themselves which job is to be considered as the main job. In doubtful cases the main job should be the one with the greatest number of hours usually worked.
The basis for the classification in the ISCO-88 scheme is the nature of the job itself and the level of skill required. A job is defined as the set of tasks and duties to be performed. Skills

are the abilities to carry out the tasks and duties of a job. Skills consist of two dimensions: skill level and domain specialisation. The skill level is related to the level of educational attainment.

- Technical Issues — The questions needed for the classification by occupation are the job title associated with the main job and a further description of the tasks and duties.
  For a few occupations, information on size group of workplace (the local unit of activity) is needed to code ISCO 88(COM).

Rationale

It is generally recognised that the type of work performed can have a great influence on the living conditions of the individual and household. Hence, "social stratification" and "social mobility" researchers pay attention to the type of job as a central element in studies of inequalities of opportunities and results, and their reproduction over life cycles and generations.

Information on characteristics of the job and on social class have two uses: in studying deprivation and social exclusion such variables are used as covariates in the models, while in studying the labour market they have the role of dependent variables.

Occupation is a major classifying variable, and is also used as input into various socio-economic classification schemes. For the proposed European Socio-Economic Classification (See appendix 3) the ISCO-88 (COM) would be needed with at least the two-digit level of detail. For this reason, information on occupation will need to be collected not only for those currently at work, but also at a later stage for those who previously held a job (people who are retired, the unemployed who worked before, those who worked before but are no longer in the labour force).

Issues and developments

- ISCO level recommended
  Two digits is the requirement achievable for all surveys: the implementation of the collection at one digit level would not provide sufficient quality (level 1 is not appropriate for a direct collection). Level 2 is already implemented in most surveys and would constitute the level required for interviews. For register based data, ISCO is often coded at even more precise level.
  A shorter coding list could be studied in the case of reduced breakdowns (manual/non manual, skilled/unskilled) prove to be of better quality in such surveys. However, the needs for more details in certain categories will need to be checked for implementation of the classification ESeC (European Socio-economic Classification).

- ISCO 2008
  A new ISCO is in discussion at UN level, for implementation probably in 2010 at EU level. No specific ISCO(COM) is foreseen for this new classification.

- Quality of ISCO
  There is not yet complete information at Eurostat on the way ISCO is collected or derived in each country and survey. Due to the numerous comparability issues for certain ISCO categories across countries, specific actions should be launched at EU level to ensure comparable ISCO data. This should be done in parallel to the implementation of the 2008 ISCO version.

- Coverage of the variable: persons not currently working (last job)
  The task force agreed that the burden on respondents to cover persons not currently working would be too high although it is relevant for certain surveys like the LFS, EU-SILC or the EHIS. It would be needed for the full version of the classification 'ESEC': persons not long-term unemployed are defined according to their previous job in the ESeC.

Good practices

- Data collection through interviews
  Two digit is the requirement achievable for all surveys although the implementation at a more detailed level in the field work could be considered as a good practice.

Variable: Economic sector in employment

Short description

Economic activity of the local unit where the respondent is employed (incl. self-employed).

Coding

- Transmission codes

Codes	*Labels*	*NACE Rev.1 sections*
1	Agriculture, hunting and forestry; fishing and operation of fish hatcheries and fish farms	A +B
2	Industry, including energy	C + D + E
3	Construction	F
4	Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods, hotels and restaurants; transport and communications	G + H + I
5	Financial, real-estate, renting and business activities	J + K
6	Other service activities	L + M + N + O + P

- Classification used NACE Rev.2

Definition

- Reporting unit Individuals
- Filter Persons employed, filtered from the variable *Self-declared labour status*
- Reference period As in self-declared status (main status, no reference period)
- Concept Economic activity of the local unit where the individual carries out his/her main professional activity.
- Technical issues Where information for the 'local unit' is not available, the 'enterprise' can serve as a proxy. This approximation can be relevant for countries where the information can be derived from registers (f.i. by linking the respondent via a national register number to an enterprise by using a social security register).

  Where the local unit or enterprise has more than one 'economic activity', the dominant should be retained. The ideal measure for determining the dominant activity would be the *number of employees* for the different activities, rather than more economical concepts like *added value* or *turnover*.

  The "local unit" to be considered is the geographical location where the job is mainly carried out or, in the case of itinerant occupations, can be said to be based; normally it consists of a single building, part of a building, or, at the largest, a self-contained group of buildings. The "local unit" is therefore the group of employees of the enterprise who are geographically located at the same site.

Rationale

The activity sector in which people are employed is a key descriptor for labour market analysis (including issues linked to skills, mobility of workers, quality of the job, etc.) and together with the occupation (ISCO) and the type of contract is very useful to describe the socio economic status of individuals.

Issues and developments

- NACE Rev.2
  The aggregate breakdowns for the revised NACE are not yet finalised. Once these are available, they are to replace the Transmission Codes listed above.
- The proposed 6-category breakdown is also used in national accounts, in certain cases of labour law.
- The breakdown allows for differentiation between market and non-market activities.
- Depending on the outcome of the NACE Rev.2 regroupings, the link to this existing classification could be broken in case the groups stemming from NACE are not appropriate for the contemplated analyses.
- Based on the LFS results for 2005Q1, the distribution of employment (as % of the total employment) is given in the tables below (extracted from New Cronos, 21/04/2006) for the proposed A6-breakdown and for a more detailed breakdown:

	Europe	BE	CZ	DK	DE	EE	GR	ES	FR	IE	IT	CY	LV	LT	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK	BG	RO	IS	NO
A+B	6	2	4	3	2	6	13	5	4	6	4	5	11	14	5	2	3	5	16	12	9	5	5	2	1	8	31	7	3
C+D+E	20	19	30	17	24	26	14	18	17	16	22	13	18	20	25	21	14	20	24	20	32	30	19	17	14	29	26	13	14
F	8	7	10	7	6	7	8	12	7	12	8	12	9	9	8	8	6	7	5	11	6	9	6	6	8	6	5	7	7
G+H+I	25	24	25	24	23	27	30	28	23	26	25	31	27	25	26	32	25	29	22	25	22	23	23	22	26	27	17	24	25
J+K	12	13	8	13	13	9	9	11	13	13	14	12	7	5	9	9	16	12	8	8	9	8	13	15	16	6	3	14	12
L->Q	30	36	24	37	32	26	25	26	36	27	27	28	28	28	27	28	34	27	24	25	23	26	34	38	34	24	17	35	39

	Europe	BE	CZ	DK	DE	EE	GR	ES	FR	IE	IT	CY	LV	LT	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK	BG	RO	IS	NO
A+B	6	2	4	3	2	6	13	5	4	6	4	5	11	14	5	2	3	5	16	12	9	5	5	2	1	8	31	7	3
C	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
D	19	18	27	16	22	22	13	17	16	14	21	12	16	18	23	19	14	19	20	19	30	27	18	16	13	25	22	13	12
E	1	1	2	0	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
F	8	7	10	7	6	7	8	12	7	12	8	12	9	9	8	8	6	7	5	11	6	9	6	6	8	6	5	7	7
G	15	13	13	15	15	13	18	15	14	14	15	18	14	16	15	15	15	16	14	15	12	12	13	13	15	15	11	13	16
H	4	3	4	3	3	4	6	6	3	6	5	7	3	2	4	9	4	6	2	5	4	4	3	3	4	5	2	3	3
I	6	7	8	6	5	10	6	6	7	6	6	6	10	6	7	8	6	6	6	4	6	7	7	6	7	7	5	7	7
J	3	4	2	3	4	1	3	2	3	4	3	5	2	1	2	3	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	1	1	4	2
K	9	9	6	10	9	8	7	9	10	9	11	7	5	4	7	5	13	8	6	6	7	6	11	13	11	5	3	10	10
L	7	10	7	6	8	6	8	6	9	5	6	7	8	5	7	9	7	6	6	6	6	7	5	6	7	7	5	4	6
M->Q	23	27	17	31	24	20	17	19	26	22	20	21	20	23	20	19	27	20	17	19	17	19	29	32	27	17	11	31	33

Good practices

- Data collection.
  Ideally, information coming from the employer or the business register should be used. However, in most cases the information will be obtained using a self-assessment question in the interview. The interviewer can present the respondent with the answering categories or can ask for the sector of activity where he/she is employed and attribute the appropriate code.

Variable: Highest level of education completed

Short description

This variable provides information about educational level successfully completed by a person.

Coding

- Transmission codes

Codes	*Labels*
0	No formal education or below ISCED1
1	ISCED 1 - primary education
2	ISCED 2 - lower secondary education
3	ISCED 3 - upper secondary education
4	ISCED 4 - post secondary education but not tertiary
5	ISCED 5 - tertiary education , first stage
6	ISCED 6 - tertiary education, second stage

- Classification used: **ISCED-97**

  The most widely accepted educational classification is the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) which was designed by UNESCO in the early 1970's to serve "as an instrument suitable for assembling, compiling and presenting statistics of education both within individual countries and internationally". ISCED was revised in November 1997. The basic unit of classification in ISCED-1997 is the educational programme. ISCED-97 provides a set of criteria for assigning individual programmes to 'levels' of education.

Definition

- Reporting unit — Individual
- Filter — All persons aged 15 years or more (according to the survey).
  As many young people are still in education, this variable is more relevant for persons aged 25 and more (after the end of tertiary studies).
- Reference period — Moment of the interview
- Concept — The person's highest level of education completed
  The main concern to measure is the level of education achieved. The Task Force on Harmonisation of Social Statistics defined this concept (CC23) as: Educational attainment of a person is the highest level of an educational programme the person has successfully completed.
- Technical issues — "Highest level of education completed" means level successfully completed and must be associated with obtaining a certificate or a diploma. When determining the highest level, both general and vocational education should be taken into consideration. Persons who have not completed their studies should be coded according to the highest level they have completed

(not be coded with a blank). Persons still in education have to indicate their last level of education successfully finished.

Rationale

The level of education is a critical factor for the knowledge economy and society.
The importance of educational level of people for their social position is largely recognised. A higher level of education generally creates more favorable employment prospects and consequently opens up the possibility for better living conditions. For the young people, educational attainment plays an important role in their start in adult life because of nowadays' economy exigencies for skills which become higher and higher. Educational attainment level of the young people and percentage of early school leavers are two of five benchmarks used in evaluation of the progress of the Lisbon strategy. Many national and European programmes try to give more opportunities to the people to improve their knowledge and skills by raising the level of initial education and by participation in lifelong learning.

Issues and developments

- National Educational Attainment Classifications (NEACs)
  The NEACs provide the first information from individual about his/her educational attainment according to the specific national situation. They are a basis for recoding of national levels to the ISCED. These classifications used since many years in the LFS surveys should be considered as a model for other surveys.
- ISCED level recommended
  One digit level of ISCED (see table above) is the minimum requirement feasible for all surveys although the implementation at two digits level as used in the EU-LFS could be considered as a good practice.

EU-LFS Codes	*Labels*
01	No formal education or below ISCED1
11	ISCED 1
21	ISCED 2
22	ISCED 3c (shorter than 2 years)
31	ISCED 3c (2 years or more)
32	ISCED 3 a, b
30	ISCED 3 (2 years or more, without distinction a, b or c possible)
41	ISCED 4 a, b
42	ISCED 4c
43	ISCED 4 (without distinction a, b, c possible)
51	ISCED 5b
52	ISCED 5a
60	ISCED 6

Coding ISCED 97 at two-digits-level enables, in the countries with ISCED 3c short programmes, the more fine aggregation of the ISCED to three commonly known levels:

- Low educational attainment level (ISCED 0-3c short, corresponding to the aggregation of codes 01, 11, 21 and 22)

– Intermediate/Medium educational attainment level (ISCED 3 and 4, corresponding to the aggregation of codes 31, 32, 30, 41, 42 and 43)
– High educational attainment level (ISCED 5 and 6, corresponding to the aggregation of codes 51, 52 and 60).

Good practices

- Data collection through interviews
  Coding of the national educational levels in the way making two digits coding in ISCED possible could be considered as a good practice.
  The question about educational attainment can be asked as an open question in a survey and recoded after or directly coded according to the national list of educational programmes. Information can be obtained from register as well.
  It should be recommended to avoid proxies (in some cases, it can be difficult to determine educational level of the older person, of the migrant or of the person whose participation in formal/non-formal education programmes could be confused).

Variable: Net monthly income of the household

The current definition and comments for this variable are still provisional, pending the recommendations of the EU-SILC methodological task-force.

Short description

The proposal is to consider "the net monthly income of the household" as a core variable.

Coding

During an initial period, countries which choose to do so may supply Eurostat with tables of per capita unequivalised and equivalised income classified by decile, without transmitting the actual collected data on income values.

- Collection code #1

Codes	***Labels***
∟∟∟∟∟∟	Net monthly income of the household (value in national currency)

- Transmission codes #2 – UNEQUIVALISED household total net monthly income

Codes	***Labels***
1	Below 1st decile
2	Between 1st decile and 2nd decile
3	Between 2nd decile and 3rd decile
4	Between 3rd decile and 4th decile
5	Between 4th decile and 5th decile
6	Between 5th decile and 6th decile
7	Between 6th decile and 7th decile
8	Between 7th decile and 8th decile
9	Between 8th decile and 9th decile
10	Above 9th decile

- Transmission codes #3 – EQUIVALISED household total net monthly income PER CAPITA*

Codes	*Labels*
1	Below 1st decile
2	Between 1st decile and 2nd decile
3	Between 2nd decile and 3rd decile
4	Between 3rd decile and 4th decile
5	Between 4th decile and 5th decile
6	Between 5th decile and 6th decile
7	Between 6th decile and 7th decile
8	Between 7th decile and 8th decile
9	Between 8th decile and 9th decile
10	Above 9th decile

* ie. $\dfrac{\textit{household total net monthly income}}{\textit{equivalent household size according to OECD} - \text{mod}\ \textit{ified scale}}$

NB. For transmission codes #2 and #3, the decile cut-off point values in national currency should also be supplied.

- Classification used — Classification as presented above.

Definition

- Reporting unit — Household
- Filter — No filter
- Reference period — Current month (if income varies between months, an average is to be given)
- Mode of collection — Personal interview or register
- Concept

Household income: The income of all persons who are currently members of the household at the date of the interview as well as the income received by the household as a whole are to be taken into account.

Monthly income: Due to its simplicity, a monthly reference period is recommended here despite the fact that annual income is the more commonly adopted reference period.

Net income: Net income means amounts as the household receives them, which is normally after deduction of tax and contributions to social insurance and pensions, and thus represents the amount available for consumption expenditure.

Income components: In calculating the total net monthly income of the household, the following income components should be included:

<u>(a) Income from work:</u>

– Wages and salary earnings (including bonuses regularly paid at the time of each payment – such as regular overtime hours, bonuses for team, night or weekend work, tips and commissions) for the most recent month before the interview (or the monthly average for a recent period if this is easier to collect or estimate); net of amounts deducted at source for tax and contributions to social insurance and pensions;

– For income from self-employment, the respondents can be asked for an estimate of their (usual) monthly disposable income, taking into account drawings from their own business. Alternatively, monthly trading profit estimates could be supplied, together with an estimate for income tax payable. Negative income (eg. trading losses) should be treated as zero amounts.

PLUS

(b) Income from social benefits (unemployment benefits, old age and survivors' benefits, sickness and disability benefits, family/children related allowances, social exclusion allowances not classified elsewhere, housing allowances and education-related allowances). It should refer to the last monthly payment received before the interview (or the monthly average for a recent period if this is easier to collect or estimate); net of any amounts deducted at source for tax and contributions to social insurance and pensions.

For practical reasons, the following income components should NOT be included: Income from capital and investments (property, assets, savings, stocks, shares, etc); Imputed rent for owner-occupied accommodation; Value of goods produced for own consumption; Income transfers from other households (for example alimony payments); Employment bonuses that are not paid at each pay period (for instance annual profit shares); End-of-year adjustment(s) for under-/over-deduction of tax and contributions to social insurance and pensions.

Equivalised income: For dissemination purposes, the target income variable is to be corrected for the household composition (dividing the income by an equivalence scale that weights different members within the same household with different weights according to their ages).
The OECD modified scale is proposed (giving a weight of 1.0 to the first member of the household aged 14 or more, 0.5 to each additional member aged 14 or more and 0.3 to each member aged less than 14 years old).

- Technical Issues
It is practically impossible to collect information on equivalised income directly by interview as people generally don't know it (they should calculate the total household income and then divide it by the equivalence scale…).
Consequently, instead of the equivalised household income, it is proposed to ask in the interview separately for the total net household income, and for the household composition.
Data on household composition: Information on the exact numbers of household members aged above and below 14 is asked under the separate Core Variable on "household composition".
Data on household income: For the total household net income, the exact amount should be asked in a first stage. If the respondent doesn't know the exact amount for their household, an approximate amount should be requested instead. *(See example questionnaire below.)*
During subsequent data processing, the collected income value for the household (exact or approximate amount) will be converted to equivalised income using the separately collected data on household composition. This will be done by dividing the collected income value by an equivalence scale that weights different members within the same household with different weights according to their age. The OECD modified scale is proposed (giving a weight of 1.0 to the first member of the household aged 14 or more, 0.5 to each additional member aged 14 or more and 0.3 to each member aged less than 14 years old). The resulting figure is attributed to each individual household member.
Except for single person households, this equivalised value per individual will be higher than the simple household net income per capita (ie. total net monthly income of the household divided by total number of household members) due to the implied economies of scale.

If the respondent doesn't know the exact or approximate amount for their household, he/she should be requested to indicate the income range (decile) corresponding to the total household net income per month. The interviewer will be given a table where the deciles of household income appear. *(See example questionnaire below.)*

Note: In this case, in order to allow subsequent analysis and classification (eg. conversion to and classification by equivalised values) respondents will be assumed to have a household net income equal to the average value within the decile (the table given to the interviewer should include this information). In the absence of this information, they will be assumed to have a household net income equal to the simple arithmetic mean of the upper and lower cut-off points for the corresponding decile.

Imputation of missing data: Where a respondent is unable or unwilling to supply actual income values or an approximate income decile range, there will be missing data on total household net monthly income. In these circumstances, it will be necessary to impute values. Simplified imputation methods based on those used in EU-SILC may be suitable for this purpose. It may be possible to use external sources (eg. administrative registers) to complete this information.
Where a respondent is unable or unwilling to supply actual information for the separate core variable on household composition (persons aged above/below 14), there will be a potential inability to convert collected income data into per capita amounts or into equivalised income values. It may be possible to complete the household composition information from external sources.

Example questionnaire (data on household income):

Q1: If you add up the income from work and the income from social benefits for all the members of your household, do you know what is your household's total net monthly income per month?

YES => Q2
NO => Q3

Q2: What is your household's total net income per month? If you don't know the exact figure, please give an estimate.

VALUE ∟∟∟∟∟

Q3: Perhaps you can provide the approximate range instead. Is your household's total net monthly income from work and from social benefits

.	*observed average*	*imputed average*
0 to under 600 EURO	450 EURO	300 EURO
600 to under 800 EURO	700 EURO	700 EURO
800 to under 900 EURO	850 EURO	850 EURO
900 to under 1000 EURO	975 EURO	950 EURO
1000 to under 1200 EURO	1100 EURO	1100 EURO
1200 to under 1300 EURO	1225 EURO	1250 EURO
1300 to under 1500 EURO	1375 EURO	1400 EURO
1500 to under 1700 EURO	1575 EURO	1600 EURO
1700 to under 2100 EURO	1875 EURO	1900 EURO
2100 EURO or more (MAX value)	2900 EURO	?
MISSING		

NB. These EURO values are presented for illustrative purposes only. They are derived from ECHP values for 2001 at level of EU15. They refer to per capita equivalised total net household income per year, converted to approximate monthly amounts.

They should be replaced with decile cut-off values and average values within the deciles from the reference source at EU level for the country concerned (eg. validated results from the most recent EU-SILC exercise before the interview) **for the required income components only** (ie. monthly income from work plus monthly income from social transfers, net of taxes and contributions to social insurance and pensions). **The actual distribution of household incomes should be used, not the distribution of per capita incomes or the distribution of equivalised incomes.**

NB. The EURO values should be replaced with approximate values in national currency.

To reduce subsequent data processing, interviewers could be supplied with flashcards (or automated routines on laptop computers) converting household total amounts into per capita terms for a number of different household sizes, and similar conversions into equivalised per capita amounts for a number of different household compositions.

These figures could then be directly attributed to decile ranges of per capita unequivalised incomes and decile ranges of individual equivalised incomes respectively. In order to do that attribution, the interviewer would also need to be given decile cut-off values from the reference data source showing per capita values and equivalised values…

Rationale

For the collection of total household net income:

The aim of this core variable is to obtain a proxy of the economic well being of the respondent. The standard of living of a person not only depends on the income of this person but also on the income received by the rest of the people living with him/her. For this reason, the variable of interest for measuring the well-being is the total household income.
In addition, the net and not the gross income is of interest because it gives an idea of what households actually have available to spend or save.

For the adjustment to equivalised income:

Other things being equal, a large household will have a lower standard of living from the same income received by a small household. It is therefore standard practice to apply an "equivalence scale" to income values in order to reflect differences in size and composition, and thereby obtain a more comparable measure of economic well-being.

For the collection of monthly income:

The spectrum of choices of reference period ranges from income received over the whole lifetime to income received over the most recent period (last week or month). Although annual income is the more commonly adopted reference period, monthly income is recommended here for its simplicity and because our goal is to use the variable to classify people in different "standard of living groups" and not to compare people at individual level according to the income received. For a high percentage of respondents, the monthly income multiplied by twelve will correspond to the annual amount; consequently, the majority of people will be classified correctly.

For the exclusion of certain income components:

For this variable, full consistency is not sought with the income definition from the reference data source at EU level (EU-SILC). A modified definition is instead proposed in order to facilitate data collection because information on certain components of income can be difficult to collect. The selected components (income from work plus income from social benefits) typically account for the major part of total household income. Consequently, this less rigorous definition of income can still be used to classify the majority of people correctly.

Issues and developments

This core variable is only a classification variable, some flexibility can therefore be allowed:

- On the net income recommendation: where a country has the *gross* income available from administrative sources, this information will be sufficiently comparable to allocate individuals to income groups (as long as the values or levels are not being compared). Most people classified in the poorest group according to net income will remain in that group if based on gross income. The only requirement is that within a country the references all have to be made to the same kind of income (gross or net).
- On the monthly income recommendation: for countries where only *annual* income is available in the survey vehicle or from administrative sources, it will be acceptable for this reference period to be used (ie. dividing values obtained by twelve). The difference between annual and monthly income is the annual non-monthly payments. If important, it will lead to under or overestimation that will go in the same direction for most people. Consequently, the allocation to one or another decile will not be significantly affected. However, it is important that the classification into deciles is consistent with the income definition collected.
- On the list of *components* to be included in the income definition: although undesirable, derogations from the recommended definition of household income may be justified in cases where the data can be obtained from slightly different income-related questions in the survey vehicle or from administrative sources. Especially when using such already available data is the best way of obtaining information on this sensitive variable. It is important that the classification into deciles is done in a manner which is consistent with the income data collected.
  One important issue to be considered here is the situation of the Labour Force Survey, where it will be very difficult in the short/medium term to include this income variable. The trade-off recently found is to only consider wages from the main job.
- On the choice of the *equivalence scale* to be used: a decision on the appropriate equivalence scale for the adjustment and comparison of household incomes has already been reached at EU level in the context of the Open Method of Coordination, concerning the use of the OECD-modified scale. However, this core variable is only intended for classification purposes and sensitivity tests could eventually be conducted to examine the impact of using a simpler alternative equivalence scale (eg. the square-root of household size) or varying the age parameters in order to use alternative data already collected in the separate core variable on household composition (eg. persons above/below 16 years). In this case, the classification into deciles should be consistent with the way equivalised income is calculated.

Tests

- The proposed definitions and methods have to be tested, in particular the feasibility and the appropriate ways of transforming classes into imputed amounts, the possibilities for presenting variables or moving ranges according to the composition of the household, the effect on the measurement error or the resulting item non response. These tests would be run on the occasion of the next implementation of the following surveys or pilots: HBS, EHIS and ICT.
- In parallel, tests of the correctness of classification of individuals according to the simplifying assumptions made for this core variable can also be made from EU-SILC.
- After these test a revised methodology would be proposed.

An initial period:

- For this core variable, during an initial period countries which choose to do so may supply Eurostat with tables of unequivalised and equivalised household total net monthly income classified by decile, without transmitting the actual collected data on income values. After this initial period, countries will supply the collected values. Both during the initial period and afterwards, the core variable data on incomes will remain classification values only and only for Eurostat internal use: EU-SILC will remain the reference source of data on income at EU level.

Good practices

- Collection of an actual income value rather than attribution to an income decile range allows greater subsequent analysis.
- Data collection from registers.
- Data collection through interviews: prior contact to allow collection of supporting information (eg. pay slips, benefit slips); training of fieldwork interviewers.
- Collection of values for income components according to corresponding definitions in Commission Regulation no.1980/2003 implementing EU-SILC.
- When presenting income distribution results it is essential to clarify the unit of analysis (household or per capita; equivalised or unequivalised).

Summary table about existing data collections

Appendix 2

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Directly relevant for the survey (DR) or relevant for socio-economic reasearch (RSER); feasible (F) or not feasible (NF); available - complying (AC), available - not complying (ANC) or not available (NA)	LFS	EU-SILC	HBS	AES	ICT	EHIS	TUS	Census	SES
	Labour Force Survey	Survey on Income and Living Conditions	Household Budget Survey	Adult Education Survey	ICT usage in households and by individuals	European Health Interview Survey	Time Use Survey		Structure of Earnings Survey
Demographic information									
Sex	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR,F,AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC
Age in completed years	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR,F,ANC	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC
Country of birth	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, NA	DR,F,AC	RSER, F, NA	RSER, F, NA	DR, F, NA	DR, F, AC	RSER,NF,NA
Country of citizenship	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, NA	DR,F,AC	RSER, F, NA	RSER, F, NA	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC (1)
Legal marital status	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	RSER,F,NA	RSER, F, NA	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER,NF,NA
Consensual union	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER,F,NA	RSER, F, NA	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER, F, AC (3)	RSER,NF,NA
Household composition	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	DR,F,AC	DR, F, ANC	RSER, F, NA	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER,NF,NA
Geographic information									
Country of residence	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR,F,AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC (2)
Region of residence	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	RSER, NF, NA	DR, NF, NA	DR, F, AC	DR, F, NA	DR, F, AC	RSER,NF,NA (2)
Degree of urbanisation	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR,F,AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, NA	RSER, F, AC (3)	RSER,NF,NA (2)
Socio-economic information									
Self-declared labour status	DR, F, AC (1)	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR,F,AC	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	RSER,NF,NA
Status in employment	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR,F,AC	RSER, F, NA	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER,NF,NA
Occupation in employment	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR,F,AC	RSER, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC
Economic sector in employment	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, NA	DR,F,AC	RSER, F, NA	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER, F, AC (3)	DR, F, AC
Highest level of education attained	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR,F,AC	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC
Net monthly income of household	RSER,F,NA	DR, F, AC	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, ANC	DR, F, AC	DR, F, AC	RSER, F, AC (3)	RSER,NF,NA
Earliest implementation date (reference year of the survey)	2010	-	2010	2010	2008	2007/2008	2008	2011	2010

(1) optional
(2) Enterprise survey. Country of work is collected at NUTS 1, by definition only employees are covered (gross earnings)
(3) Availability depends on the decisions of every individual Member State about inclusion of non-core variables in census

Socio economic classification and ESeC project

Appendix 3

History and state of the art

The 6th Framework Programme project on ESeC follows a task force on harmonisation of social statistics in 1997-2000 which also covered this topic. The current project aims at producing a European socio-economic Classification for use in the field of EU comparative research in human sciences. The classification will allow EU wide analyses of health, living conditions, labour market situation of men and women, economic situation of citizens among Member States, along with intergenerational social mobility and intergenerational inheritance of inequalities.

The consortium running the project is composed of universities and research centres from the UK, Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden. Apart from regional meetings for the future ISCO, the Consortium organised several workshops to build the classification. One conference took place on 19/20 January 2006 in Lisbon and aimed at proposing a first version of the classification and validation studies. An additional conference targeted to National Statistical Institutes is planned for June in Slovenia to present a more complete version along with a user guide for implementation in EU surveys in which Eurostat will still be involved as an observer.

In some countries, national socio-economic classifications already exist. They are either developed as a normative/deductive matrix (mostly Anglo-Saxon countries: the Erikson-Goldthorpe-Portocarero - EGP schema) or as a theoretical/inductive classification (French 'nomenclature des Professions et Catégories Socioprofessionnelles' PCS).

Description of the classification proposed by the Consortium

The classification is based on the deductive approach (close to the EGP schema) using mainly data on employment status, local unit size and supervisory responsibilities and ISCO (2 to 4 digits). The information requirements for a fully operationalised ESeC are:

- Status in employment: employers, self employed, employees
- Occupation:
  - service relationship (higher professional, senior administrative and senior management positions)
  - labour contract ('working class occupations')
  - intermediate (clerical occupations, as well as for some technical, sales and service occupations)
- Supervisory status
- Establishment size discussions on 10+ being the best threshold: quality vs. concept[6]

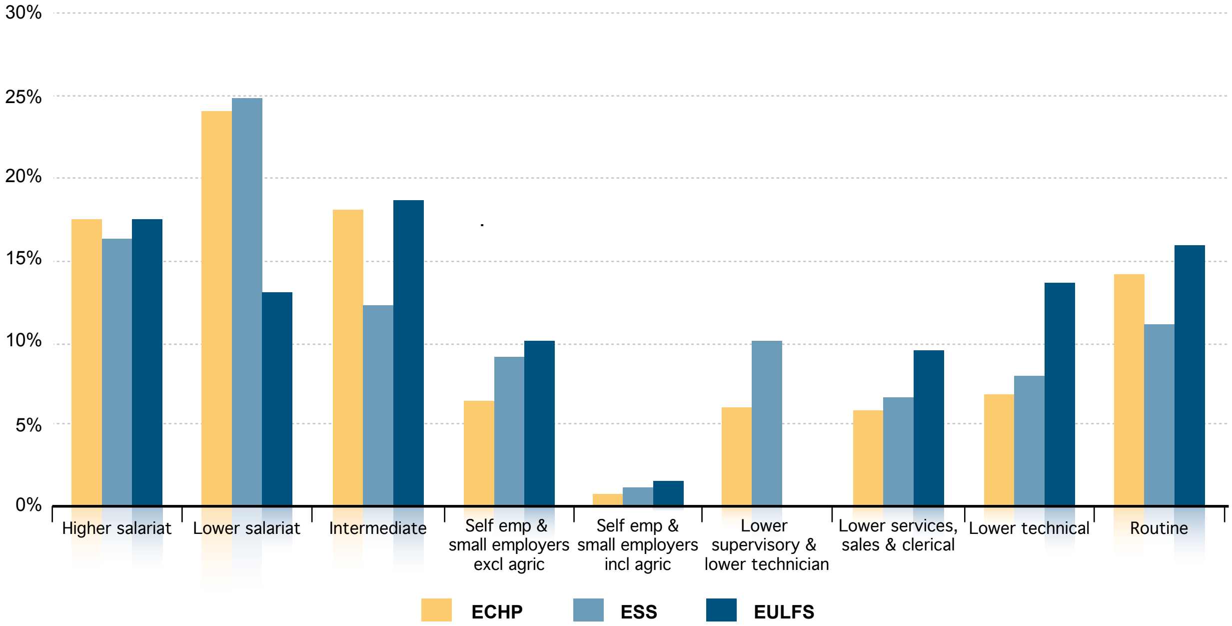
ESeC prototype 'Classes' (Level 1)

1. *Large employers, higher managerial and professional occupations*
2. *Lower managerial and professional occupations*
3. *Intermediate occupations*
4. *Small employers and own account workers*
5. *Employers and self-employed in agriculture*
6. *Lower supervisory and lower technician occupations*
7. *Lower services etc occupations*
8. *Lower technical occupations*
9. *Routine occupations*
10. *Never worked and long term unemployed*

(See derivation chart 1 on page 4 of this appendix)

[6] In addition, some measure of farm size may be necessary, in order to distinguish capitalist farmers from other (e.g. subsistence) farmers. The extension to unemployed and inactive people would also probably require the use of other variables.

***Example** - Distribution of employed persons in three social surveys by ESeC, Belgium*



Source: European Community Household Panel (ECHP), European Social Survey (ESS), EU Labour Force Survey (EULFS). ESeC Consortium, Statistical compendium.

'Reduced' classifications are foreseen for surveys not collecting all details required. Different versions are also possible according to the level of ISCO available (4, 3 or 2 digits). The 3 digit matrix would however be considered as the standard ESeC[7].

Issues and developments

ESeC is the deductive matrix based on existing variables which makes it theoretically easy to implement at EU level (no additional data collection). Several issues should however be listed for use in EU social surveys:

a) Validation studies: some studies were realised by the consortium on the basis of rather restricted data. National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) started some preliminary analyses for a conference dedicated to NSIs (see frame 1 below). Further developments would be needed on micro-data usually not available to researchers. The use of ESeC in EU employment analyses, possible alternative dimensions, and comparability over countries should also be tackled.

b) Quality problems: the level of detail of ISCO available in EU datasets and quality of ISCO constitutes a major issue. In some countries, a better quality ESeC would rather use national classifications instead of a direct derivation from EU variables. On the other hand, quality improvements on ISCO would become essential to allow direct derivations and avoid the transmission of nationally derived ESeC data.

c) ESS Involvement: this project is important to boost EU research in human science but relies mainly on the quality and comparability of such data. The topic needs to be discussed in the task force on harmonised core variables in social surveys. One major issue for the European Statistical System is the improvement of the ISCO.

[7] More information on the Consortium proposal is available at http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/esec/, especially at http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/esec/events/conferences/2006/2006-01-19/papers/doc/Shortnote.doc

Frame 1 - Conclusions of the conference for National Statistical Institutes

A conference was organised by the ESeC Consortium in June 2006 in Slovenia with collaboration of Statistics Slovenia. The conference aimed at presenting the classification to NSIs and discussing the prototype for improvement and possible use in official surveys.

Main conclusions

- The current prototype was considered as operational (based on existing data collection) and comparable (ISCO 3 digits, and common matrix[8]). The need for developments for possible NSI use was addressed.
- Most questions dealt with the derivation of the matrix, the theoretical model used (notion of employment relationships) and Eurostat involvement in the next steps (funding aspects, etc).

Main items for investigations and validations (as mentioned by one or several participants):

- Stability: 1 hour of work as a basis can raise problems when using the LFS as well as the occupation of temporary workers, especially for young persons. Transitions analyses between EseC classes could be studied.
- Additional dimensions / Creation of a level 2: the current prototype does not present different levels. It will be necessary to identify possible additional dimensions and check whether they would explain differences in the EU, such as private/public for instance. If so, a level 2 of the classification could be created.
- Labels / transparency: a key element for a wide use of the classification is its transparency for users and respondents i.e. the use of meaningful labels and definitions.
- Supervisory status (organisational role versus impact on pay/promotion[9]). A French study shows that supervisory responsibilities have significantly changed over the recent years in France, moving from top occupations to many other employees. Beside theses changes, the question itself can have major impact on results: very different definitions are used in the 2006 LFS for instance (very strict definitions in Germany and Austria compared to the standard UK label ‘formal responsibilities’).
- Establishment size for self-employed is not exactly collected by the LFS / ECHP-SILC.
- Inactive persons: they are not covered or partially for those with previous work experience (last occupation only). This item could be studied in a second step if employment relationships can be used as a first version of the classification.
- Household dimension: the impact of the choice of the household reference person would need to be assessed. The person with highest income or paying for the accommodation would be preferred but with implementation issue in surveys.

Questions for future steps:

- In the medium term: How to organise and co-ordinate NSI validation studies[10]? How to ensure EU comparability? National validation studies will need to isolate possible missing dimensions for a proper description of national employment relationships.
- In the short term: Eurostat proposed to build the prototype algorithm in the SAS software and make the programs and Labour Force Survey aggregated data available to the meeting participants.

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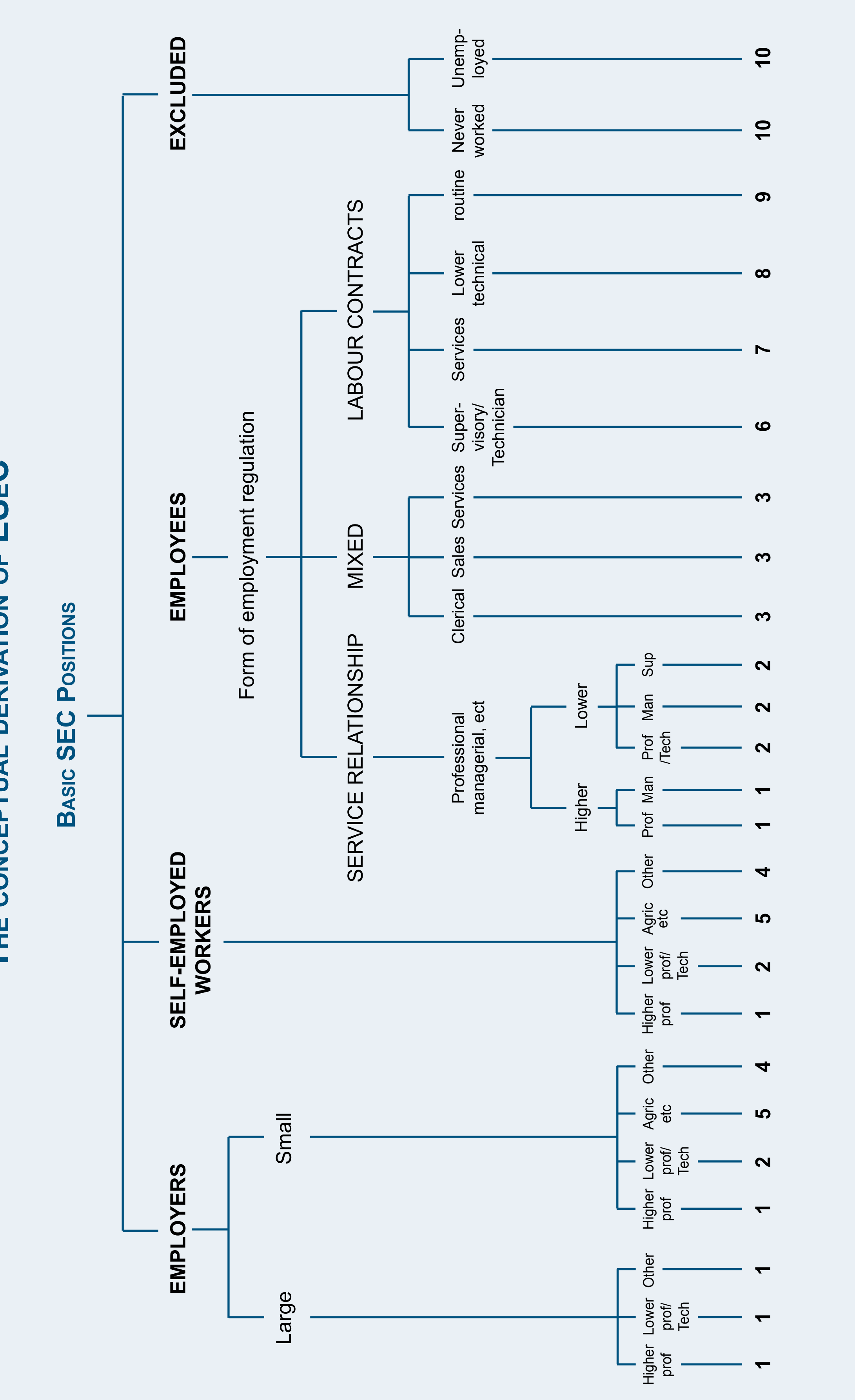
[8] National matrices could be built if needed, i.e. in countries where ISCO is derived from national classifications.

[9] A list of possible components is: assigning work duties, command on how to conduct work, giving performance appraisal, taking disciplinary actions, strategic planning.

[10] The French NSI proposed a validation method based on the derivation of a theoretical ESeC from national variables for data comparison to the EseC prototype.

Chart 1


THE CONCEPTUAL DERIVATION OF ESeC
BASIC SEC POSITIONS
EMPLOYERS
SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS
EMPLOYEES
EXCLUDED
Large
Small
Form of employment regulation
SERVICE RELATIONSHIP
MIXED
LABOUR CONTRACTS
Professional managerial, ect
Higher
Lower
Higher prof
Lower prof/ Tech
Other
Agric etc
Prof
Man
Prof /Tech
Sup
Clerical
Sales
Services
Super-visory/ Technician
Lower technical
routine
Never worked
Unemp-loyed
1 1 1 1 2 5 4 1 2 5 4 1 1 2 2 2 3 3 3 6 7 8 9 10 10

Further improvement of the labour status variable

Appendix 4

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1. Main conclusions

The variable 'International Labour Organisation working status' (ILO status[11]) can not be implemented in all social surveys due to its inadequate number of questions and obvious burden on respondents for a too high degree of precision.

However, the objectivity of the ILO status ensures the comparability of results within the EU, especially for the definition of unemployed and inactive persons on the basis of the criteria of active search for work.

In order to avoid biases in analyses involving the comparability of the self-declared labour status, a preliminary analysis on the basis of the Labour Force Survey question self-reported 'main status' and 'ILO status' was done for the June 2006 task force meeting (tables enclosed at the end of this annex). The analysis shows large discrepancies in many countries between the self-declared and the ILO definition of unemployment:

- The replies to the status 'employed' are relatively similar when comparing both questions except to some extent in Latvia, the Netherlands and Malta.
- 27.3% of the unemployed (LFS 'main status') were ILO inactive in 2005 in the EU-25 without large differences across quarters, ages or genders.
- In 12 countries, from 46.8% in Italy to 26.4% in Cyprus of the unemployed (LFS 'main status') were ILO inactive.
- In the 6 countries, the participation in education and training of the unemployed (LFS 'main status') differs by more than 2.5 points considering those also ILO unemployed or the others. Regional results also show large differences.

More needs to be done to explain the differences in some countries (especially the derivation of the LFS variable 'main status'). However, the results emphasize the need for additional analyses on this issue in order to avoid biases in statistical analyses based on core variables. The recent experience of the Italian NSI (inclusion of the variable ILO status in the main social surveys) and the tests carried out for a reduced variable on ILO status in the Health Interview Survey could constitute alternative sources to reach this goal.

Although the inclusion of the variable "ILO status" in the list of core variables can not be retained, further analysis of the differences with the variable "self-declared labour status" could be foreseen for possible improvements of this latter (distinction between active employment seekers for instance).

2. Main issues discussed on the ILO status during the task force meetings

The following codes and detail were discussed by the task force, especially the need for a reduced version of the ILO status. Similar aspects would need to be studied for the development of an improved version of self-declared labour status if the preliminary conclusions based on the LFS are confirmed.

- Short description
  Labour status in a reference week according to the International Labour Organisation guidelines.

[11] According to the ILO, employed persons are those aged 15 years and over who during the reference week did any work for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour, or were not at work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of, e.g., illness, holidays, industrial dispute and education or training. Unemployed persons comprise persons aged 15 to 74 who were without work during the reference week, were currently available for work and were either actively seeking work or who found a job to start within the next three months.

- Transmission codes

Codes	Labels
00	Economically active
10	*Employed persons*
20	*Unemployed*
30	Inactive

Or (since the purpose of the ILO status is to better isolate unemployed and inactive, much less problems for employed)

Codes	Labels
10	Employed persons
20	Unemployed
30	Inactive

- Classification used — ILO resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment) adopted by the 13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, October 1982), Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000 on the definition of unemployment from 2001 onwards.

- Issues and developments discussed:
The self-declared labour status should not be considered as a simplified block of this variable. The problematic behind this variable is the comparability of results at EU level. The self-declared labour status proves to be very dependant of the national context, especially for the division between unemployed and inactive.
The variable requires an additional burden on respondents. The following aspects would need to be studied before a possible inclusion in all surveys:
  - comparative analyses using ILO and self-declared labour status (see preliminary analyses at the end of this annex)
  - impact of reference periods from different surveys (based on ECHP/SILC and LFS data and national questionnaires, along with national experiences)
  - development and tests of a simplified block for an ILO working status if reference periods prove to be a key but improvable issue.

Comparability among countries
Labour status is a key variable to study social phenomena between countries and regional areas. The ILO labour status is the only definition based on an objective and common definition.
The ILO definition may not add key informative information within one survey although some analyses could be enriched, such as regional comparisons or participation in job oriented training for unemployed for instance.

Reference period
The ILO status should vary more than the self-declared labour status, which restrict its use when studying surveys on different reference weeks.
Based on the preliminary results from the LFS and the ECHP, this seems not to be the case in all countries but further analyses are needed before a conclusion can be made (analysis of the questionnaires in both surveys, order of questions, etc.).

A wider use of an ILO status would probably be linked to a certain harmonisation of reference periods in all surveys, which proves to be very difficult to reach in the short or medium term.

Detailed versus simplified block

A simplified block is needed to avoid burden on respondents.

The precise ILO status definition based on one hour of work may need to be reviewed for the definition of employment since it may not strictly correspond to the needs for analysis although using a precise ILO definition would allow comparison (and matching) with LFS data.

The first comparisons of the ILO and self-declared labour status on LFS data show few differences for employment but much larger for unemployment and inactivity.

Table 1- Distribution of persons aged 15-64 by ILO status for a given self-defined status, 2005, EU-25

27.3% of the unemployed (LFS 'main status?) were ILO inactive in 2005 in the EU-25. There is no large differences across quarters, age or gender.

Main status	ILO status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2005			2005
						15-64	15-24	Females	Thousands
1.Employed	1.Employed	99,7	99,7	99,7	99,6	99,7	99,4	99,5	112802
	2.Unempl.	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,1	83
	3.Inactive	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,3	0,4	0,4	275
2.Unempl.	1.Employed	4,2	4,3	4,3	5,4	4,5	3,9	3,9	553
	2.Unempl.	69,9	70,2	67,8	63,9	68,2	72,4	67,1	9051
	3.Inactive	*25,9*	*25,5*	*27,9*	*30,7*	*27,3*	*23,6*	*29,0*	*3288*
3a.Student	1.Employed	7,7	8,5	9,3	11,4	9,1	8,2	9,8	1624
	2.Unempl.	1,9	2,3	1,7	2,2	2,0	1,7	2,1	432
	3.Inactive	90,5	89,2	89,0	86,4	88,9	90,1	88,1	16983
3b.Other Inactive	1.Employed	6,3	5,7	7,1	6,4	6,4	3,7	6,3	2240
	2.Unempl.	2,0	1,9	1,8	2,2	2,0	3,5	2,0	751
	3.Inactive	91,7	92,5	91,1	91,4	91,7	92,7	91,8	36640
No answer	1.Employed	9,5	9,4	9,7	10,9	9,9	4,5	10,3	62
	2.Unempl.	2,1	4,2	2,5	1,8	2,7	2,1	2,8	28
	3.Inactive	88,4	86,4	87,7	87,3	87,4	93,4	86,9	568

Source: EU Labour Force Survey

Note:
- no answer, mainly in NL (about half million)
- EU-25 without DE, PL and UK
- Thousands for Q2 provisionaly

Table 2a - Distribution of persons aged 15-64 by ILO status for a given main status, 2005, by country

In 12 countries,from 46.8% in Italy to 26.4% in Cyprus of the unemployed (LFS 'main status') are ILO inactive.

Main status	ILO status	IT	SI	HU	BE	IE	FI	AT	LV	NL	DK	PT	CY
1.Employed	1.Employed	99,8	99,9	99,3	99,4	99,6	99,8	99,2	98,1	98,6	100,0	100,0	99,9
	2.Unempl.	0,0	0,0	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,3	0,8	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,1
	3.Inactive	0,2	0,1	0,5	0,5	0,4	0,2	0,5	1,2	1,3	0,0	0,0	0,1
2.Unempl.	1.Employed	7,8	10,6	3,1	2,8	3,2	3,6	6,0	9,1	8,8	5,2	5,4	3,7
	2.Unempl.	45,4	44,3	53,2	55,0	59,2	60,0	57,9	56,9	58,9	62,9	66,9	69,9
	3.Inactive	*46,8*	*45,1*	*43,6*	*42,2*	*37,6*	*36,3*	*36,1*	*34,0*	*32,3*	*31,9*	*27,7*	*26,4*
3a.Student	1.Employed	2,7	19,4	0,3	3,6	18,4	23,2	15,1	1,6	53,8	47,6	1,2	3,8
	2.Unempl.	1,6	1,9	0,3	1,5	1,5	9,6	2,4	3,9	6,2	5,5	1,3	0,4
	3.Inactive	95,7	78,7	99,3	94,9	80,1	67,2	82,4	94,6	39,9	46,9	97,4	95,9
3b.Other Inactive	1.Employed	2,6	11,4	2,0	4,2	3,0	8,4	15,8	2,5	25,9	4,8	7,5	5,0
	2.Unempl.	1,8	0,6	1,9	4,3	2,7	1,9	1,9	4,4	5,3	1,4	2,1	2,0
	3.Inactive	95,6	88,0	96,0	91,6	94,2	89,8	82,3	93,1	68,8	93,9	90,4	93,0
No answer	1.Employed		*0,0*		*17,2*		*32,6*			*43,8*	*3,1*		
	2.Unempl.		*0,0*		*22,6*		*0,0*			*8,3*	*0,2*		
	3.Inactive		*100,0*		*60,1*		*67,4*			*47,9*	*96,7*		

Source: EU Labour Force Survey

Note:
- no answer, mainly in NL (about half million)
- DE, PL and UK excluded due to the lack of data on ?self-defined status? EU without DE, PL and UK
- FR and SE average based respectively on Q1-Q3 and Q2-Q4

Table 2b - Distribution of persons aged 15-64 by ILO status for a given main status, 2005, by country

In the other 10 countries, less than 20% of the unemployed (LFS 'main status') are ILO inactive.

Main status	ILO status	MT	ES	EE	LT	CZ	SE	SK	EL	LU	FR	EU-25 *
1.Employed	1.Employed	98,7	99,6	99,9	99,9	100,0	99,7	99,6	100,0	99,9	100,0	99,7
	2.Unempl.	0,3	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1
	3.Inactive	1,0	0,3	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,2	0,4	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,3
2.Unempl.	1.Employed	4,3	2,7	0,3	0,0	0,4	13,6	0,2	5,8	0,0	0,0	4,5
	2.Unempl.	76,5	78,2	86,2	86,6	86,3	75,8	89,9	85,9	92,3	99,8	68,2
	3.Inactive	19,2	19,1	13,5	13,4	13,3	10,6	9,9	8,3	7,7	0,2	27,3
3a.Student	1.Employed	4,8	3,8	0,6	0,7	1,5	22,3	0,6	1,6	0,1	0,0	9,1
	2.Unempl.	2,9	0,7	1,7	0,0	0,2	6,5	0,3	0,8	0,3	0,0	2,0
	3.Inactive	92,3	95,5	97,7	99,3	98,3	71,2	99,0	97,6	99,6	100,0	88,9
3b.Other Inactive	1.Employed	1,0	9,0	0,4	1,0	10,5	17,0	4,8	0,3	0,0	0,0	6,4
	2.Unempl.	1,6	2,0	2,5	0,0	2,8	0,2	3,6	1,2	7,7	0,0	2,0
	3.Inactive	97,4	89,0	97,1	99,0	86,7	82,9	91,6	98,5	92,3	100,0	91,7
No answer	1.Employed		*0,0*	*0,0*			*18,7*					*9,9*
	2.Unempl.		*0,0*	*0,0*			*29,9*					*2,7*
	3.Inactive		*100,0*	*100,0*			*51,4*					*87,4*

Source: EU Labour Force Survey

Note:
- no answer, mainly in NL (about half million)
- DE, PL and UK excluded due to the lack of data on ?self-defined status? EU without DE, PL and UK
- FR and SE average based respectively on Q1-Q3 and Q2-Q4

Table 3a - Percentage of persons aged 25-64 in education and training by ILO status for unemployed (LFS main status), 2005 quarter 2

In the 6 countries,the participation in education and training of the unemployed (LFS 'main status') differs by more than 2.5 points considering those also ILO unemployed or the others.

Main status = Unemployed	All ILO status	ILO unemployed	ILO other status	Difference between ILO status
SE	20,7	23,0	13,4	9,6
BE	9,3	11,3	7,2	4,1
FI	10,1	11,6	8,2	3,3
SI	12,9	14,7	11,7	3,1
NL	12,3	13,5	10,7	2,8
EL	3,0	2,6		2,6
IT	5,5	6,2	4,9	1,3
ES	15,5	15,7	14,7	1,0
HU	3,3	3,3	3,3	0,0
AT	16,4	16,3	16,4	-0,1
PT	5,4	4,9	6,1	-1,1
DK	25,9	24,8	28,0	-3,2
SK	2,1			
MT	9,8			
LV	4,2			
LU	11,6			
LT	3,2			
IE	4,9			
FR	8,0			
EE	3,2			
CZ	2,9			
CY	4,9			

Source: EU Labour Force Survey

Note:
- DE, PL and UK excluded due to lack of data on 'main status''
- SK, MT, LV, LU, LT, IE, FR, EE, CZ, CY excluded due to small sample size

Table 3b - Percentage of persons aged 25-64 in education and training by ILO status for the unemployed (LFS main status), 2005 quarter 2, NUTS 1

The differences are even larger when comparing regions.

Main status = Unemployed	All ILO status	ILO unemployed	ILO other status	Difference between ILO status
ES - Noreste	22,8	25,1	13,2	11,9
DK - Danmark	25,9	24,8	28,0	-3,2
SE - Sverige	20,7	23,0	13,4	9,6
ES - Centro (E)	20,1	20,9	17,4	3,5
NL - Noord-Nederland	15,3	20,8	7,9	12,9
ES - Noroeste	18,5	20,2	12,6	7,7
AT - Ostusterreich	18,0	17,9	18,1	-0,1
ES - Canarias	15,4	15,7	14,0	1,7
BE - Vlaams Gewest	12,6	15,3	10,1	5,1
ES - Madrid	14,9	14,7	15,6	-0,9
AT - Westusterreich	13,9	14,1	13,5	0,6
NL - Oost-Nederland	12,4	13,9	9,2	4,8
BE - Bruxelles Capitale	13,1	13,5	12,4	1,1
AT - Sadusterreich	13,8	13,5	14,2	-0,7
ES - Sur	12,6	13,0	11,2	1,7
NL- Zuid-Nederland	11,9	12,7	10,8	1,9
NL - West-Nederland	11,8	11,9	11,7	0,2
FI - Manner-Suomi	10,2	11,6	8,3	3,3
ES - Este	12,6	11,1	18,8	-7,7
IT - Nord-Est	9,0	9,8	8,1	1,7
IT - Centro (I)	8,5	7,6	9,4	-1,8
IT - Nord-Ovest	6,2	7,4	4,9	2,5
BE - Wallonie	4,5	6,6	2,4	4,1
IT - Isole	4,7	5,7	3,9	1,8
HU - Kozep-Magyarorszag	4,8	5,3	4,2	1,1
PT - Continente	5,5	5,0	6,2	1,2
IT - Sud	3,6	4,1	3,3	0,8
HU - Dunantul	2,7	2,8	2,6	0,2
HU - Alfold Es Eszak	3,0	2,7	3,3	-0,6

Source: EU Labour Force Survey

Note:
- DE, PL and UK excluded due to lack of data on ‘main status”
- SK, MT, LV, LU, LT, IE, FR, EE, CZ, CY excluded due to small sample size

Recommendation for the definition of resident population

Appendix 5

eurostat

The scope of all social surveys except the Structure of Earnings Survey is the resident population. The task force recommends to follow the definition used in the European System of Accounts (ESA95):

– A person belongs to the resident population of a given country if he is staying, or intends to stay, on the economic territory of that country for a period of one year or more.

– All individuals who belong to the same household are resident where the household has a centre of economic interest: this is where the household maintains a dwelling, or succession of dwellings, which members of the household treat, and use, as their principal residence. A member of a resident household continues to be a resident even if that individual makes frequent journeys outside the economic territory, because its centre of economic interest remains in the economy in which the household is resident.

– A person is regarded as temporarily absent from his/her household (respectively his/her country of residence) if he or she is staying, or intends to stay outside his household (respectively his/her country of residence) for a period of less than one year. In this case he or she has to be considered as a member of his household (respectively his/her country of residence).

Remarks:

This definition fits the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing.
By applying these rules, double accounts should be avoided. Resident population and belonging to a household are however two separate concepts, identified at different steps of the survey.

Examples:

– a student studying abroad for a period of less than one year has to be surveyed only in his household of origin.

– a seasonal worker who works every year 6 months in a country and 6 months in another country has to be surveyed in the country where he/she has his/her economic interests (the family dwelling).

Good practices:

– Ask each person in the household who has been residing in the country for less than one year about his intention in terms of length of residence in the country. If the length of the elapsed time of residence plus the length the period he intends to stay in the country is less than one year, the interview stops and the person is removed from the sample.

– If a person is absent from the household for less than one year (time already elapsed + intention), then the normal questionnaire has to be filled by proxy interview.

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