

# Data protection information for EU-SILC

Last modified in December 2022

This data protection information provides you with information about the processing of personal data for EU-SILC (European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions). The electronic questionnaires for this survey were generated using the web application STATsurv. Since STATsurv is used for a wide range of statistical surveys, the information that relates to STATsurv as a whole – independent of any specific survey – is summarised in separate data protection information for STATsurv: [www.statistik.at/statsurv/datenschutz-information\\_fuer\\_statsurv.pdf](http://www.statistik.at/statsurv/datenschutz-information_fuer_statsurv.pdf).

## Name and address of the controller

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The data protection officer of the controller is:

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## General information about the survey

EU-SILC is a survey that collects information about the living conditions of private households in the European Union every year. The Republic of Austria has been taking part in this project since 2003.

The areas of particular interest in EU-SILC are the employment situation and income of household members, consumer durables in the households, the housing situation (including expenditure on housing), and also education, health and satisfaction. The data collected allows conclusions to be drawn about the living conditions of various population groups, about poverty and social exclusion. These results provide an important basis for social policy decisions in Austria and the EU area.

EU-SILC is a longitudinal survey, which means that the participating households are interviewed once a year for four years. This enables changes in living conditions to be observed over an extended period of time. Every year, some 6 000 households throughout Austria are surveyed. Around a quarter of the households are new to the survey (initial sample). The addresses for the initial sample are randomly selected from the Central Register of Residents.

The first interview is generally conducted using CAPI (computer-assisted personal interviewing), while follow-up interviews are conducted by phone (CATI) or web questionnaire (computer-assisted web interviewing, CAWI), or optionally using CAPI.

## Legal basis

- Income and Living Conditions Statistics Regulation – ELStV, Federal Law Gazette (BGBl.) II No. 277/2010 as amended
- Federal Statistics Act 2000, Federal Law Gazette (BGBl.) I No. 163/1999 as amended
- Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples, amending Regulations (EC) No 808/2004, (EC) No 452/2008 and (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98, OJ No L 261 of 14 October 2019 p. 1 as amended

- Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2242 specifying the technical items of data sets, establishing the technical formats and specifying the detailed arrangements and content of the quality reports on the organisation of a sample survey in the income and living conditions domain pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council, OJ No L 336 of 30 December 2019 p. 133 as amended
- Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2181 specifying technical characteristics as regards items common to several datasets pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council, OJ No L 330 of 20 December 2019 p. 16 as amended
- Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/256 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing a multiannual rolling planning, OJ No L 54 of 26 February 2020 p. 1 as amended
- Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/258 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council by specifying the number and the titles of the variables for the income and living conditions domain, OJ No L 54 of 26 February 2020 p. 16 as amended
- Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1721 specifying technical items of data sets of the sample survey in the income and living conditions domain on health and quality of life pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council, OJ No L 386 of 18 November 2020 p. 9 as amended
- Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2052 specifying technical items of data sets of the sample survey in the income and living conditions domain on Labour market and housing, Intergenerational transmission of advantages and disadvantages, Housing difficulties, and the 2023 ad hoc subject on Households energy efficiency pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council, OJ No L 420 of 25 November 2021 p. 23 as amended

## Reporting obligation

Participation in EU-SILC is voluntary.

## Recipients of personal data

No recipients of personal data.

## Transfer of personal data to a third country or international organisation

No transfer.

## Duration of storage of personal data

Your responses will be statistically processed separately from your name and address. The survey contents will be processed and stored solely in pseudonymised form [Article 15 para. 1 of the Federal Statistics Act].

Only if we contact you again for a follow-up survey will the department responsible for the operational implementation of the survey (survey infrastructure) access your name, address and contact details. After the last follow-up survey has been completed and processed (i.e. no later than the end of the calendar year after the last survey wave), the identity data will be pseudonymised in a non-traceable manner and the name, address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses will be deleted. Once the data has been deleted, no one will know who answered the questions.

Survey agencies engaged by us conduct the personal interviews using a laptop by means of the STATsurv web application in a browser. The user names and passwords required for this must be kept physically separate from the laptop. The application allows survey agencies to electronically access the contact details for the sample household in question to the required extent and for the required period of time.

In addition, the survey agencies receive a list of contact information to enable them to contact the household. After the survey has been completed, this list must be destroyed in compliance with data protection requirements. The name and address may only be retained by the survey agency as evidence for accounting purposes and only in compliance with statutory retention periods. Once the statutory retention periods have expired, this list must also be destroyed in compliance with data protection requirements.

#### **Information about data that is not collected directly**

We draw a sample from the Central Register of Residents in a scientific random procedure [Article 16b (Statistical and Scientific Surveys) of the Registration Act 1991, Federal Law Gazette (BGBl.) No. 9/1992 as amended]. We use the contact information solely to contact you, and it is known only to the department responsible for the operational implementation of the survey (survey infrastructure).

The statistical data is processed in pseudonymised form. It is merged with the administrative data, which is collected in pseudonymised form, in a pseudonymised way that does not allow the data to be traced by Statistics Austria. The administrative data collected and processed in pseudonymised form is listed in Article 6 of the Income and Living Conditions Statistics Regulation (ELStV).

#### **Exercise of the rights of the data subject**

On the basis of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in conjunction with Article 15 of the Federal Statistics Act, natural persons have the following rights with regard to their non-pseudonymised data: right of access (Article 15 GDPR), right to rectification (Article 16 GDPR), right to erasure (Article 17 GDPR), right to restriction (Article 18 GDPR), right to data portability (Article 20 GDPR) and right to object (Article 21 GDPR) provided that these rights take effect in the specific case on the basis of the legal requirements. To exercise these rights, please send an e-mail to [dsgvo@statistik.gv.at](mailto:dsgvo@statistik.gv.at) or a letter to the address of the aforementioned data protection officer.

#### **Right to appeal to the data protection authority**

If you should have any cause to make a complaint about the processing of your data, natural persons can contact the Austrian Data Protection Authority as the supervisory authority. You can find contact details on the Data Protection Authority's website at [www.data-protection-authority.gv.at](http://www.data-protection-authority.gv.at).

#### **Data protection information for the STATsurv web application**

STATsurv is a web application that can be accessed via the Statistics Austria portal. The application generates electronic questionnaires for various statistical surveys and makes them available in a browser for interview-based and non-interview-based survey formats. In the case of interview-based face-to-face or telephone surveys, people engaged by Statistics Austria read out the relevant content of the electronic survey and enter the respondents' answers in the questionnaire. STATsurv also manages information that is used to make contact with respondents (in writing, by phone, by e-mail) and to stay in contact with them for the duration of the survey process. This information includes, in particular, name, age and title as well as address, phone number and e-mail address if applicable. In the case of interview-based survey formats, the application enables the people who have been engaged to conduct the surveys to access this information to the extent required and for the required duration.

#### **Data processed by STATsurv**

If there is a connection to the Internet, STATsurv sends the data entered in a questionnaire to a dedicated database at Statistics Austria at short intervals. If there is (temporarily) no Internet connection during a personal interview, the data entered is temporarily stored locally in encrypted form until there is a working Internet connection and is then transmitted to the Statistics Austria database. After the questionnaire has been transmitted successfully, the survey contents are no longer available locally. The data entered in the questionnaire (excluding name and contact details) is subsequently available to the people

responsible for the particular statistics within Statistics Austria for further processing. In addition to the data entered by respondents, technical paradata from each survey session is logged and sent to Statistics Austria. This includes date and time information, the User-Agent string of the browser used and technical identifiers for the user, survey, questionnaire and particular question. This paradata is used for both error analysis and quality assurance. Anonymised paradata is subsequently used for the technical and content-related development of the application. Administrative process data is also generated during a survey process that is electronically supported and managed by the STATsurv application. This includes, in particular, information about when and to whom letters or e-mails were sent, when and who contacted respondents in person or by phone, and when and using which survey method a questionnaire was produced. This process data is deleted after data collection and processing have been completed or, in the case of panel surveys, after the last survey wave has been completed and processed, observing any statutory deadlines and requirements that may exist.

All identity data and contact details processed in STATsurv (name, address, phone number, e-mail address) are deleted after data collection and processing have been completed or, in the case of panel surveys, after the last survey wave has been completed. If there are any statutory provisions that stipulate time limits for the repeated drawing of sample addresses, we will save the address (but without survey content and without any contact details that may have previously been available) for the required duration.

#### **Server log files**

When a STATsurv questionnaire is used, the date/time, User-Agent string of the browser used, respondent ID (portal user name) and client role (respondent, survey officer) are stored in server log files when the questionnaire is accessed. These log files are used for error analysis in the event of any program errors, to optimise the application and to ensure the security of our IT systems. The log files can only be accessed by developers in the IT department and are deleted after a few days. The data stored in the log files is essential for the secure operation of STATsurv. Users are thus unable to raise any objections.

#### **Cookies**

Cookies are small text files that are stored on your IT end device by our servers during non-interview-based surveys. STATsurv only uses cookies that are not stored permanently but are automatically deleted when the browser is closed (these are known as session cookies). The following cookie is used, which is necessary for the functionality of the STATsurv application:

FBSESSIONID: unique character key to identify the questionnaire, in part to prevent a questionnaire from being opened more than once at the same time. In addition, a number of session cookies are placed by the Statistics Austria portal (see "Authentication information" section). More information is available in the relevant data protection information for the Statistics Austria portal.

#### **Authentication information**

Respondents and survey staff who are involved in a survey conducted using STATsurv need login data – i.e. a user name and password – to be able to access the application. Authentication takes place via the Statistics Austria portal, which is part of the Austrian portal network system. More information is available in the relevant data protection information for the Statistics Austria portal.

#### **SSL/TLS encryption**

In order to protect the data that you transmit as best as possible, STATsurv uses state-of-the-art TLS encryption. TLS is the successor protocol to SSL. You can recognise connections encrypted in this way by the prefix "https://" in your browser's address bar. None of the data that you transmit when using STATsurv can be read by third parties thanks to TLS encryption.