Standard-documentation
Meta information
(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

EU-SILC 2019

This documentation is valid for the reference period:
2019 (income reference period 2018)

Status: 23.06.2020

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Executive Summary

EU-SILC (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) is a statistic on income and living conditions of private households which is harmonized on European level. It is an important foundation of European social statistics. Main topics of EU-SILC are income, employment, housing and many other domains, including subjective questions on health and the financial situation that allow for a description of the living conditions of persons in private households.

EU-SILC is the main data source of the social inclusion indicators that were passed by the European Council and are meant to measure poverty and social exclusion. Until 2010, the goals set by the European Council in Lisbon (2000) aimed at alleviating poverty, helping to better understand poverty and social exclusion in the European context and supporting exchange of experience between member states in this context. Subsequently to this so-called Lisbon strategy in 2010 the new strategy “Europe 2020” was set out. It aims at lifting at least 20 million people in the EU out of risk of poverty or social exclusion by the year 2020. Additionally to its political significance, EU-SILC is one of the most frequently requested data sources for research projects in the social sciences on national and international level.

Since 2005 EU-SILC also contains ad-hoc modules on a yearly basis that cover special topics concerning certain domains of living conditions. In 2019 additional questions on intergenerational transmission of disadvantages, household composition and evolution of income were asked.

EU-SILC in Austria was carried out by Statistics Austria for the first time as a cross-sectional survey in 2003. From 2004 onwards EU-SILC has been implemented as an integrated cross-sectional and longitudinal design with four rotating panels that are surveyed for four years each. This means each year one rotational panel leaves the survey and the first wave of a newly selected sample which is drawn from the central residence register (Zentrales Melderegister – ZMR) is started. In 2019, the response rate of the newly selected first wave amounted to 45.2% of eligible addresses in the gross sample drawn from the ZMR. This was a lower response rate than the one of the previous survey year 2018 (56.7%). The response rate of the follow-up waves (i.e. rotations not surveyed for the first time) was 82.8%. In 2019 the net sample contained 12,357 persons (where 2,006 persons were younger than 16 years) living in 5,983 households.

For EU-SILC all persons aged 16 or above in the selected households are interviewed personally. Participation is voluntary and carried out by CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) or CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) technique. Additionally, substantial information about children (younger than 16 years old) is surveyed.

The legal basis of EU-SILC are EU-regulations and a national regulation on income and living conditions (Einkommens- und Lebensbedingungen-Statistikverordnung – ELStV) of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Soziales und Konsumentenschutz – BMASK)¹. On EU-level, EU-SILC is administered by a framework regulation², five implementing regulations of the European Commission and regulations for the yearly modules. EU legislation regulates basic standards such as minimum sample requirements, target variables, definitions and quality reporting. The national regulation administers amongst other things the implementation of the survey and the possibility of linking survey data with administrative registers. As was the case for previous years, the essential components of the household income of EU-SILC 2019 (income reference period 2018) are calculated using income data from administrative registers. About 87% of the volume of the total household income is gathered in this manner.

¹ Verordnung des Bundesministers für Arbeit, Soziales und Konsumentenschutz über die Statistik der Einkommen und Lebensbedingungen, BGBl. II Nr. 277/2010.
The main results of EU-SILC are published each year on the website of Statistics Austria. Anonymised micro data of the Austrian datasets are made available without charge for scientific use. A European user data-base containing all participating countries is disseminated by Eurostat.

Figure 1 presents the data production process of EU-SILC starting with the selection of the sample and ending with the availability of the results of a survey year.

**Figure 1: Data production process of EU-SILC**

- **Sample selection**
- **Data collection**
- **Data processing**
- **Results**
- **Secondary use, documentation**

- **ZMR (first wave)**
- **Sample t-1 (follow-up waves)**
- **Sample t**
- **Register data**
- **Interviews**
- **Plausibility, imputation, weighting**
- **Non-monetary target variables**
- **Monetary target variables**
- **Computation, analysis**
- **Indicators**
- **Reports**
- **Tables**
- **User data**
- **Quality reports**
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