

I. Generic template for national reports providing information on quality, sources and methods, together with information on the statistical processes used for the compilation of the statistics underlying the MIP indicators (including concrete specifications for **Labour Force Statistics)**

Reporting institution: CSO

Selected principles					Some specific examples for indicators and related questions (Response options, unless indicated otherwise: not implemented; partially implemented; fully implemented)	Statistical domain specifications
European Code of Practice principles	Public Commitment on European Statistics by the ESCB	Selected elements				
<i>Institutional Environment</i>	<i>Institutional Environment</i>	<i>CoP/PC</i>	<i>IMF DQAF</i>	<i>SIMS</i>	<i>Question(s)</i>	<i>LFS</i>
CoP1 Professional Independence	PC1 Professional Independence	1.1/1.1	1.1.1 1.1.2		The independence of [name of reporting institution], from political and other external interference in developing, producing and disseminating official statistics is guaranteed by law. <i>Legal basis: Pls confirm the independence by referring to the relevant national and EU legal act(s) and the formulation used in the legal act.</i>	The CSO is an independent statutory body in the Irish Civil Service under the aegis of the Department of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister). The independence is ensured by the provisions of the Statistics Act (1993). In November 2013, to help align statistical practices implemented in the ONAs with European norms, the national quality framework of Irish national statistics — the Irish Statistical System Code of Practice (ISSCoP) — was launched and published on a dedicated website. It can be understood as a subset of the CoP, consisting of five principles: professional independence, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, commitment to quality and confidentiality.

		1.4/1.5			<p>The [name of reporting institution] has an annual statistical work programme which is made public.</p> <p><i>Statistics work programme: Pls confirm the existence of a statistics work programme and specify where to find it (or similar document), if available.</i></p>	<p>Statistics work programme:</p> <p>The CSO has approved its strategic document “CSO 2020: Providing information for Ireland” (hereafter called CSO 2020) and prepares a Statement of Strategy setting out its medium-term goals for every three years. The CSO’s statistical work plans are documented at a more detailed level in the internal Divisional Action Plans and Local Business Plans.</p> <p>http://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/descriptionsandfunctions/statementsofstrategy/</p>
CoP2 Mandate for data collection	PC2 Mandate for data collection	2.1/2.1	0.1.1	S 7.1	<p>The mandate(s) of the [name of the institution(s)] to collect information for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics is specified in law.</p> <p><i>Allocation of responsibilities: Pls explain the allocation of responsibilities in producing the relevant statistics.</i></p> <p><i>Legal basis: Pls confirm the mandate by referring to the relevant legal act(s) and any other kind of formal agreements.</i></p>	<p>Allocation of responsibilities:</p> <p>The Central Statistics Office of Ireland (CSO) is the main producer of European statistics in Ireland, including Labour Force Statistics.</p> <p>Legal basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council Regulation (EC) N° 577/98 of 9 March 1998 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community (Official Journal of the EU No L 77 p. 3), last amended by Regulation (EC) No 545/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 (Official Journal of the EU No L 163 p. 10); - the Statistics Act (1993).

CoP6 Impartiality and objectivity	PC6 Impartiality and objectivity	6.6/6.6	1.2.4	S9.1 + S9.2 S.20.1	<p>Advance notice is given on release calendars and on major revisions or changes in methodologies, source data and techniques.</p> <p><i>Advance release calendar: Pls confirm the existence of an advance release calendar and provide a link to it.</i></p> <p><i>Revision policy: Pls explain succinctly the revision policy and provide a link to material on the revision policy, if existent.</i></p>	<p>Release calendar: The production of the main indicators (quarterly results) is accompanied by an EU-LFS release calendar which provides transparency for the users on the availability of the data and favours a timeliness data release of the results.</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/1978984//6048829/LFS_release_announcement.pdf</p> <p>1.3.2 Revision policy: Revisions of previously released data based on EU-LFS are not expected, unless major errors are identified in the data delivered or in their processing. Exceptional revisions may happen e.g. after new estimates of population from a population census.</p>
Statistical Processes	Statistical Processes	CoP/PC	IMF DQAF	SIMS	Question(s)	LFS
CoP7 Sound methodology	PC7 Sound methodology	7.1/7.1	2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4	S4.3 S4.4 S4.5 S4.6 S 6 S12.1	<p>Pls specify the relevant statistical standards to which the statistics abide</p> <p><i>Links/references to existing comprehensive methodological documentation on specific aspects of the national sources and methods can also be provided</i></p>	<p>General remarks:</p> <p>The European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) provides population estimates for the main labour market characteristics, such as employment, unemployment, inactivity, hours of work, occupation, economic activity, and other labour related variables, as well as important socio-demographic characteristics, such as sex, age, education, household characteristics and regions of residence. The Quarterly National Household Survey started in September 1997, replacing the annual April Labour Force Survey (1983-1997). The survey is a continuous one, providing quarterly results.</p> <p>The definitions of employment and unemployment, as well as</p>

					<p>other survey characteristics follow in general the definitions and recommendations of Eurostat and the International Labour Organisation. The definition of unemployment is further specified in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000. Comprehensive EU-LFS methodological documentation:</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey</p>
				<p>Pls specify adherence or deviations from concepts and rules according to international standards and highlight coverage gaps that are of <u>material relevance</u> for the statistics.</p> <p>Pls indicate whether actions to address the deviations and coverage gaps are envisaged.</p>	<p>There are no major specific-country deviations between the concepts and rules to the ILO standards and definitions concerning the data on the labour status.</p>
CoP8 Appropriate Statistical procedures	PC8 Appropriate Statistical procedures	8.2/8.2	3.1 3.3 3.4	<p>S12.1 S21.1 S21.3 S 21.5- 6</p> <p>Pls provide a succinct assessment of the robustness of the statistics by elaborating briefly on the relevant sources of information, statistical methods and procedures used across the various frequencies.</p> <p><i>Pls provide links/references to existing comprehensive methodological documentation on specific aspects of the national statistical procedures. The objective should be to get an overview on how much the statistical output are anchored in actual collected data</i></p>	<p>The following publications provide users with a tool for assessing the quality of the statistics which are based on the EU-LFS. It gives a brief description of the survey and a summary of the main quality indicators, which are: relevance, accuracy, accessibility and clarity, timeliness and punctuality, comparability, and coherence. The quality report is updated annually.</p> <p>Labour force survey in the EU, candidate and EFTA countries — Main characteristics of national surveys</p> <p>Quality report of the European Union Labour Force Survey</p> <p>See: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs/publications/quality-reporting</p> <p>Further individual country information: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/EN/employ_esqrs.htm</p>

<i>Statistical Output</i>	<i>Statistical Output</i>	<i>CoP/PC</i>	<i>IMF DQAF</i>	<i>SIMS</i>	<i>Question(s)</i>	LFS
					<i>rather than on estimation methods or similar judgemental inputs.</i>	
CoP11 Relevance	PC11 Relevance	11.1-11.3	0.3	S.14	<p>Pls specify briefly why the statistics are relevant by referring to the multiple purposes for which the statistics are used at (i) international, (ii) EU and (iii) national level.</p> <p>References to the statistical legislation and other formal or informal commitments could be sufficient.</p> <p>In addition, if applicable, the outcome of user consultation processes could also be given.</p>	<p>EU-LFS results are used by the DG Employment and a number of other Directorates of the Commission mainly for measurement and monitoring of policy agenda purposes. The European Central Bank (ECB) uses short term LFS statistics related to Euro area. Key users include NSI's, international organizations, news agencies and researchers which use various aspects of EU-LSF data for international or intra EU comparisons.</p>

CoP12 Accuracy and reliability	PC12 Accuracy and reliability (including stability)	12.1/12.1	3.5	S 15.1	The analysis should be based on the following indicators (to be compiled by the ECB/Eurostat on a common data vintage) on the reliability of first releases for the relevant series (selected for their material impact and to avoid compensatory effects in the case of balancing items): Directional reliability indicators;	Information on the accuracy and reliability of the LFS data by providing information on the quality indicators. Confidence limits at 95 % level of significance, country-specific annual average 2014: Number of employed (x1000): 1 914 ± 11, Number of part time employed (x1000): 450 ± 7, Number of unemployed (x1000): 243 ± 6, Rate of unemployment (%):11.3 ±0.3
				S 15.2	Revisions' indicators (e.g. MAPE, MACE or RMSRE depending on the indicator).	
				S 15.3		
				S.18.2	and provide a succinct assessment of the accuracy and reliability of the statistics on the basis of the results, with an attempt to provide a relative objective measure, explaining also the main reasons for revisions.	
				S 20.2		
					Pls provide a succinct assessment of the level of the statistical discrepancies (“ <i>internal consistency</i> ”) focusing on their size and direction (systematic bias).	Information on country-specific frame quality (under and over coverage and misclassifications) of the LFS sample and specific measurement errors. Undercoverage: Our frame is the Census of population and as such we have no quality concerns regarding our frame.
CoP13 Timeliness and punctuality	PC13 Timeliness (including punctuality)	13.1 13.4	4.1	S.16	Pls specify the timeliness requirements for international and EU purposes and the national target publication dates.	Information on possible delay of delivery to Eurostat of the full dataset. Information not available for publication. According to Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 data shall be

					Pls specify punctuality defined as deviations in relation to the timeliness requirements and target dates specified above.	delivered to Eurostat within twelve weeks from the end of a reference quarter. For 2014 deadline for transmitting the data was respected.
CoP14 Coherence and comparability	PC14 Consistency and comparability	14.1/14.1	4.2.1	S 17.2	Pls provide a succinct assessment of the results of the consistency check of the statistics with other related domains or data sets with which the statistics must show coherence (“ <i>external consistency</i> ”). The results should provide a relative objective measure to facilitate cross-country comparability, e.g. be presented as a ratio of the inconsistency between compared statistics, as a percentage of GDP, where appropriate.	Information on the assessment of the results of the consistency check of the statistics with other related domains (“ <i>external consistency</i> ”). Coherence of LFS data with National Accounts data, registered unemployment and Business statistics data. Generally coherence to other statistics can be limited due to different sources, different scopes or different coverage and units. The coherence of LFS data with registered unemployment and with National Accounts data is limited.
			4.2.2	S 18.1		For a summary of the deviations see: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-statistical-working-papers/-/KS-TC-15-004 (Chapter 8)
			4.2.3		Pls provide a succinct assessment of the time consistency, specifying (i) whether the time series presents breaks and if so explaining the reasons for the breaks; (ii) the length of the series for which back data are consistent; and (iii) whether the statistics are consistent across the various frequencies (monthly/quarterly/annual) where relevant.	The information applies only to LFS detailed survey results series. The LFS adjusted series (including LFS main indicators) include corrections for breaks. Since 1983, improved comparability between results of successive surveys has been achieved, mainly due to increased harmonisation, greater stability of content and higher frequency of surveys. However, the following factors may somewhat detract from perfect comparability: - population figures used for population adjustment are revised at certain intervals on the basis of new population censuses; - reference periods may not have remained the same for a given

						<p>country due to the transition to a quarterly continuous survey;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - countries may modify their sample designs; - in order to improve the quality of results, countries may change the content or order of their questionnaire. <p>Information on EU-LFS breaks and individual country breaks are documented:</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey_%E2%80%93_data_and_publication</p> <p><u>Major country-specific changes in recent years</u></p> <p>2009: Update of survey to collect data on a calendar quarter basis rather than a seasonal basis.</p> <p>2012: Introduction of a new sample based on the 2011 Census of Population (completed in Q4 2013).</p>
CoP15 Accessibility and Clarity	PC15 Accessibility and Clarity	15.1/15.1	5.1.1 5.2.1	S9.3 S 11 S12.1	Pls provide a brief description of the dissemination policy and dissemination means, including links to the data and respective metadata.	<p>The Eurostat online publication describes the European Union (EU) labour force survey (EU-LFS), a large sample survey among private households in Europe and an important source for European statistics about the situation and trends in the EU labour market. The publication provides information on the main features, the legal basis, the methodology and the data as well as on the historical development of the EU-LFS.</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey</p>