Labour Force Survey
(Day 1 - Session 1)

EU Labour Force Survey

Martin Zeleny, CSU
Ljubljana, March 2017

THE CONTRACTOR IS ACTING UNDER A FRAMEWORK CONTRACT CONCLUDED WITH THE COMMISSION
EU social surveys – An overview

• 3 regular annual data collections:
  - EU – Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS)
  - EU – Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)
  - Survey on ICT usage in households (ICT HH)
EU social surveys – An overview

• Regular data collections with lower frequency:
  • Adult Education Survey (AES)
  • European Health Interview Survey (EHIS)
  • Household Budget Survey (HBS)
  • Harmonised European Time Use Survey (HETUS)
EU social surveys – An overview

• Other related household data collections:

  • Tourism
  
  • Household Energy Consumption
  
  • Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS)
EU-LFS Survey: Legal Background

Framework EP and Council Regulation

**Council Regulation (EC) 577/98** on the organization of a labour force sample survey in the Community

Last amendment: 29. 5. 2014 (Regulation EU 545/2014)

+ a set of *implementing acts*
EU-LFS Survey: Legal Background

Two types of implementing acts:

- implementing Commission regulations
- delegated acts
EU-LFS framework regulation – implementing regulations

Article 4, paragraph 3

The Commission shall, by means of implementing acts, adopt **rules on the edits to be used, the codification of the variables and the list of principles for formulation of the questions concerning labour status**. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 8(2).

**Commission Regulation (EC) 377/2008** (codification to be used for data transmission, the use of a sub-sample for structural variables, definition of the reference quarters)

**Commission Regulation (EC) 1897/2000** (operational definition of unemployment)
EU-LFS framework regulation – implementing regulations

Article 7a, paragraph 5

In order to ensure the uniform application of the programme referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article, the Commission shall, by means of implementing acts, specify the ad hoc module technical characteristics under each ad hoc sub-module in accordance with the area of specialised information referred to in that paragraph, as well as the filters and the codes to be used for data transmission and the deadline for transmission of the results which may be different from the deadline set out in Article 6. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 8(2).

Recent ad-hoc modules implementing regulations:

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 8/2016 (the 2017 ad-hoc module on self-employment)

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2236/2016 (the 2018 ad-hoc on reconciliation between work and family life)
EU-LFS framework regulation – delegated acts

Article 4, paragraph 2

The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 7c, in respect of the adjustment of the list of survey variables, specified in the list of 14 groups of survey characteristics referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, which is made necessary by the evolution of techniques and concepts. A delegated act adopted in accordance with this paragraph shall not transform optional variables into compulsory variables. The compulsory variables to be covered continuously shall be within the survey characteristics in points (a) to (j) and points (l), (m) and (n) of paragraph 1 of this Article. Those variables shall be within the 94 survey characteristics. The respective delegated act shall be adopted not later than 15 months before the beginning of the reference period for the survey.
The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 7c, concerning a list of variables (hereinafter referred to as ‘structural variables’) from among the survey characteristics specified in paragraph 1 of this Article which need to be surveyed only as annual averages, using a sub-sample of independent observations with reference to 52 weeks, rather than as quarterly averages.
EU-LFS framework regulation – delegated acts

Article 7a, paragraph 4

The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 7c establishing a **programme of ad hoc modules covering three years**. This programme shall for each ad hoc module define the subject, the list and description of the area of specialised information (hereinafter referred to as ‘ad hoc sub-modules’) forming the framework within which the ad hoc module technical characteristics referred to in paragraph 5 of this Article are determined and define the reference period. The programme shall be adopted not later than 24 months before the beginning of the reference period of the programme.

**Current program of ad-hoc modules:**

**Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 1397/2014** (programme of ad-hoc modules covering the years 2016-2018)

**Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 1851/2016** (programme of ad-hoc modules covering the years 2019-2021)
EU harmonisation of social surveys

• **Survey methodology standards**
  Reference population definition, probability samples requirements, alternative data sources (interview / use of register data), rules for use of proxy interviews, common quality reporting framework, ...

• **Reference periods / fieldwork periods**

• **Survey content**
  Blueprint questionnaires, definitions of output microdata variables, methodological concepts and guidelines
  Use of international classifications (ISCO, NACE, ISCED, COICOP, ...)
Survey content harmonisation

- **(Ex-ante) output harmonisation**
  - Output microdata variables with defined coding, shared concepts, definitions and guidelines
  - National questionnaire / data source implementation
  - Output variables specification used as background for reporting eventual country-specific implementation issues

- **Input harmonisation**
  - Common shared questionnaire (questions, their order and wording)
  - Translation into national languages (with eventual back-retranslation check)
Core Social Variables initiative

- Harmonisation of coding and definitions of a set of main variables across all EU surveys

- 2007: The coding and definitions of an initial set of 16 variables
  Sex, Age in completed years, Country of birth, Country of citizenship, Legal marital status, De facto marital status (consensual union), Household type /composition, Country of residence, Region of residence, Degree of urbanisation, Self-declared labour status, Status in employment, Occupation in employment (ISCO), Economic sector in employment (NACE), Highest level of education completed (ISCED level), Net monthly income of the household

- 2011: updated Core Social Variables guidelines
Standardised Social Variables

- Expands the standardisation across surveys to two proposed sets of variables

- **27 standardised social variables**
  18 of them as CORE (to be implemented, with varying degree of detail, in all surveys)
  9 additional variables with standardised coding and definition in a relevant sub-set of surveys
Standardised Social Variables

Sex, Age in completed years, Country of birth, Country of main citizenship, Country of birth of father, Country of birth of mother, Duration of stay in the country of residence, Country of residence, Region of residence, Degree of urbanisation

Household grid (composition and relationships), Partner living in the same household, Household Size, Household Type, Tenure status of household

Main activity status (self-defined), Status in employment, Full- or part-time job, Permanency of main job, Economic Sector (NACE), Occupation (ISCO)

Self-perceived general health, Limitation in activities because of health problems

Educational attainment level, Participation in formal education and training, Level of formal education or training activity

Current household income
Standardised Social Variables: in LFS

Sex, Age in completed years, Country of birth, Country of main citizenship, **Country of birth of father**, **Country of birth of mother**, **Duration of stay in the country of residence**, Country of residence, Region of residence (NUTS3), Degree of urbanisation

*Household grid (composition and relationships)*, Partner living in the same household, Household Size, Household Type, *Tenure status of household*

Main activity status (self-defined), Status in employment, Full- or part-time job, Permanency of main job, Economic Sector (NACE) **3 digits**, Occupation (ISCO) **4 digits**

**Self-perceived general health**, **Limitation in activities because of health problems**

Educational attainment level, Participation in formal education and training, Level of formal education or training activity

**Current household income / Current wage**
LFS output harmonisation

- Commission Regulation (EC) 377/2008

specifies the list of variables and their codification to be used for data transmission:
LFS variables coding (examples)

**YSTARTWK**  
43/46  
QUARTERLY

**Year in which person started working for this employer or as self-employed**

Enter the 4 digits of the year concerned

9999  
Not applicable (WSTATOR=3-5,9)

blank  
No answer
## LFS variables coding (examples)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HWUSUAL</th>
<th>61/62</th>
<th>QUARTERLY</th>
<th><strong>Number of hours per week usually worked in the main job</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Usual hours cannot be given because hours worked vary considerably from week to week or from month to month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-98</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number of hours usually worked in the main job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not applicable (WSTATOR=3-5,9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blank</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No answer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WSTATOR=1,2
### LFS variables coding (examples)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NIGHTWK</th>
<th>YEARLY</th>
<th>Night work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>WSTATOR=1 or WSTATOR=2 Person usually works at night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Person sometimes works at night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Person never works at night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not applicable (WSTATOR=3-5,9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blank</td>
<td></td>
<td>No answer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LFS explanatory notes

- LFS variables coding specified in the implementing regulation is supplemented by **LFS Explanatory Notes** – a common methodological and implementation manual

{examples of the  HWUSUAL and NIGHTWK variables to be presented here directly from the LFS Explanatory Notes document}
A special case of labour status / unemployment definition

- **Commission Regulation (EC) 1897/2000** (operational definition of unemployment)
  
  - Higher degree of input harmonisation
  - Precise the binding implementation guidelines for labour status based on the ILO definitions

{annex I and II of 1897/2000 briefly shown here + addressing its justification as a legal act going beyond output harmonisation}
EU-LFS agenda in the European Statistical System

**European Statistical System Committee (ESSC)**
- overall cross-cutting issues of the ESS
- legislative role as responsible committee

**DSS (meetings of Directors of Social Statistics)**
- strategy and coordination within social statistics agenda
- cross-domain issues (e.g. standardised variables agenda)
- consulted for opinions on legislative proposals

**WG LAMAS**
- responsible expert level working group

**Task Force**
- task forces for specified ad-hoc subjects
EU Labour Force Survey specials...

• ... is the eldest European Statistical System social survey with EU legal background
  since 1991

• ... is the largest of European Statistical System social surveys
  >1.2 million respondents in EU 28

• ... is the only European Statistical System infra-annual (quarterly) social survey
EU Labour Force Survey selected headline results

- Employment rates & their breakdowns (by age, sex, education,...)
- ILO-based comparable unemployment rates and their breakdowns
- Long-term unemployment rates
- Part-time / full-time employment, hours worked
- Underemployment / forced part-time work
- Inactive population and its structure

& much more
Europe 2020 strategy monitoring indicators

3 target indicators in the domains of Employment and Education are based on the LFS:

- Employment rate of the 20-64 olds

- Share of „early school leavers“
  share of 18 to 24 year olds with at most lower secondary education and not in further education and training

- Share of the 30-34 olds with tertiary education
Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEIs)

- Harmonised unemployment rate (ILO definition)
Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP) scoreboard indicators

4 out of 14 indicators based on the LFS:

- Harmonised unemployment rate (ILO definition)
- Activity rate - % of total population aged 15-64
- Long term unemployment rate
- Youth unemployment rate

+ as auxiliary MIP indicator: Young people neither in employment nor in education and training
Anonymised microdata for research purposes

- Access for research purposes governed by the Commission Regulation 557/2013
- Anonymised microdata accessible to research institutions
- LFS data widely used in research world-wide