

## **European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)**

**The entity that has organized the survey and is responsible for data collection – as well as key data on the entity's membership, governance arrangements, source of funding etc.**

The EU-SILC is organized by Eurostat, the official statistical office of the European Union, situated in Luxembourg. Its main objective is to provide the EU with statistics that enable comparisons between the European countries and regions. Eurostat was established in 1953 and became a Directorate-General (DG) of the European Commission when the European Community was founded in 1958. Today, seven different DGs are responsible for different sectors of Eurostat activities. Eurostat is funded by the European Commission.

The national statistical institutes are responsible for selecting the sample, preparing the questionnaires, conducting the direct interviews among households, and forwarding the results to Eurostat in accordance with the common coding scheme.

### **A historical sketch of the initiation and origin of the survey**

The EU-SILC was launched in 2003 on the basis of a “gentleman’s agreement” in six Member States: Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, and Austria, in addition to one non-member: Norway.

### **Internet links to the website of the responsible organization**

[The website of Eurostat](#)

[The subsite of the EU-SILC](#)

### **The frequency or repetitions of the survey. Possible explanation of this.**

The EU-SILC has been conducted yearly since 2004.

### **A description of the survey’s content, i.e. both focused rotational and / or core modules of the survey**

The EU-SILC concerns itself with variables on income, poverty, social exclusion, housing conditions, labour, education, health and other living conditions. Whereas social exclusion and housing condition information is collected at household level, the categories labour, education and health are collected at the individual level. The main focus of the EU-SILC is to obtain very detailed

income information.

### **An outline of the type of sample and the main data collection methods used**

The minimum size of the sample is 130,000 households and 270,000 persons aged 16 and more in the cross-sectional part of the data, and 100,000 households and 200,000 persons aged 16 and more in the longitudinal part of the data. For details on sample sizes for each country, please [click here](#). The target population includes all private households and the persons residing in them – the whole household is surveyed, but only persons aged 16 or more are interviewed. All institutionalized persons are excluded.

The data is collected through face-to-face interviews.

### **An account of the availability of the data to researchers, restrictions on access, etc.**

The results are available on the website of Eurostat, however the anonymised microdata is only accessible for scientific purposes and only upon application.

### **Questionnaires, English version**

Each country is responsible for developing its own questionnaire. The national questionnaires may be [found here](#).

### **The countries included in the different rounds**

2004: EU-15 (except Germany, the Netherlands and the UK) and Estonia, Norway, and Iceland.

2005 and 2006: EU-25, Norway and Iceland.

2007 until today: EU-27, Norway, Iceland, Turkey, and Switzerland.

### **Cumulative file of the various rounds**

There is no cumulative file.

### **Publications based on the data**

[EU-SILC Publications](#)

**Analytical summary...**

**Sources**

Unless otherwise noted, all information is extracted from the website of the EU-SILC/Eurostat.