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SILC 2020 Questionnaire Review and Standardised Variables



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2. Background

The CSO SILC team completed questionnaire review in 2019 to guarantee the integrity of the questionnaire, to standardise questions and answers across national household surveys and to remove any redundant questions from the 2020 SILC questionnaire.

3. Standardised Variables

Eurostat issued implementing guidelines for 38 social variables common to the several datasets under Regulation (EU) 2019/1700. The standardised variables are

- (1) Sex
- (2) Age in completed years
- (3) Household grid
- (4) Partners living in the same household
- (5) Household size
- (6) Household type
- (7) Tenure status of the household
- (8) Main activity status (self-defined)
- (9) Full- or part-time main job (self-defined)
- (10) Permanency of main job
- (11) Educational attainment level
- (12) Participation in formal education and training (student or apprentice) in
- (13) Level of the current or most recent formal education or training activity
- (14) Country of birth
- (15) Country of main citizenship
- (16) Country of birth of the father
- (17) Country of birth of the mother
- (18) Country of residence
- (19) Duration of stay in the country of residence in completed years
- (20) Region of residence
- (21) Degree of urbanisation
- (22) Status in employment in main job
- (23) Economic activity of the local unit for main job
- (24) Occupation in main job
- (25) Self-perceived general health
- (26) Long-standing health problem
- (27) Limitation in activities because of health problems
- (28) Net current monthly household income
- (29) Existence of previous employment experience
- (30) Size of the local unit for main job
- (31) Supervisory responsibilities in main job
- (32) Year in which the person started working for his or her current employer or as self-employed in main job
- (33) Year when the highest level of education was successfully completed
- (34) Field of the highest level of education successfully completed
- (35) Interviewing mode used
- (36) Nature of participation in the survey
- (37) Stratum
- (38) Primary sampling unit

For further information see <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/54431/1966394/Standardised-key-social-variables.pdf>



4. Compliance

In order to satisfy implementing guidelines related to these standardised variables, some questions in the 2020 SILC questionnaire were changed. For example, standardised variable No 29 'Existence of previous employment experience' has now 3 answer modalities with an associated definition for 'occasional work'

1. Person has never been in employment
2. Person has employment experience limited to occasional work
3. Person has employment experience other than occasional work

In 2020 changes were made to questions on 'previous employment experience' in the national SILC questionnaire. These changes were required to ensure compliance with the implementing guidelines. Detailed guidelines on EU-SILC are published each year by Eurostat. The guidelines are available in Doc 065 'Description of target variables' and can be found on Eurostat:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/methodology>