

TWINNING CONTRACT

AM/14/ENP/ST/15

Strengthening of the National Statistical System of Armenia – Phase II



MISSION REPORT

on

Poverty Statistics

Activity 4.2: Testing pilot survey results

Mission carried out by

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List of Abbreviations

EU European Union
 NSSRA National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the Twinning Project “Strengthening of the National Statistical System of Armenia – Phase II”. This was the second activity in component 4 and the actions planned for this activity were carried out as scheduled.

The purposes of the mission were:

- Review of collected pilot data
- Analysis of quality of data
- Finalisation of questionnaire
- Plan for integration of questionnaire into the annual ILCS
- To involve relevant stakeholders in the discussions

The consultants would like to express their sincere thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which they received during the stay in Armenia and which highly facilitated their work. The views and observations stated in this report are those of the consultants and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, NSSRA, Istat, Statistics Finland or Statistics Denmark.

2. Assessment and results

Assessment of current situation:

Since the last mission in September 2015, NSSRA has conducted a pilot survey for 48 households. The pilot survey collected data for six sections and 26 variables on material deprivation, both on household or individual level, as well as child-specific questions. More specifically, output variables were mainly recorded at the household level, but there were five questions asked for each adult (aged 16 or more) household member and five questions concerning all children in the household.

Quality assessment of the pilot survey

The quality of the pilot survey data was assessed from two different angles. First of all, the main ILC survey included some questions that were very similar to ones in the pilot survey. Secondly, since the contents of the pilot survey were based on variables that had been collected in the EU-SILC-survey, the distributions of answers from the Armenian pilot survey could be compared with the distributions from the EU-SILC survey. While most EU-countries cannot be considered a good benchmark to the Armenian data, comparing the Armenian results with low-income EU-countries, such as Bulgaria, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania or Hungary, can give some indication of the plausibility of the pilot survey results. Results from the pilot survey, as well as comparable data from the Armenian ILC-survey and selected EU-countries are shown in Annex 8.

Coherence between the pilot survey and the July ILC survey was tested for questions that are very similar in the two sources. These questions were: the possession of computer, internet connection, telephone and car and the ability to keep home adequately warm.

For the questions on the possession of durables, the coherence between the pilot and the ILC-survey was very good. The purpose of the pilot was to distinguish between the household not affording to have a set of durables and household not having these durables for other reason. The pilot survey served this purpose well and, with very few exceptions, the distributions of answers were almost identical between the two surveys. From households selected for the pilot, most of the ones that reported having a certain durable in the July ILC-survey

, reported having it in the pilot. Given the time difference between the two surveys, minor differences are acceptable.

The data on material deprivation of children was collected at the household level. There were minor inconsistencies in the “not applicable” answers, which may indicate problems in understanding the questions. A new arrangement, formulated in the following paragraphs, is proposed in order to overcome them.

Comparisons with the results for low-income countries in the EU (EU-SILC surveys 2009 and 2012) indicate that the results for Armenia seem plausible. For some variables the pilot survey shows pretty high degrees of deprivation in Armenia. The biggest differences between Armenia and low-income EU-countries were detected in arrears on utility bills, the ability to keep home adequately warm, in the ability to afford a meal with meat, chicken or fish every second day, getting together with friends, affording leisure activities, and making ends meet without difficulties. Given the low income level in Armenia, even in comparison with low-income EU-countries, this may be a reflection of the actual situation.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions and recommendations based on the pilot survey

Because of the good coherence and plausibility of the pilot survey data, the conclusion of the analysis is to keep the questions in the same format as they were in the pilot survey. Some translations were reviewed for clarification.

By including questions on material deprivation for the total population ILCS will gain the opportunity to estimate the pertinent indicator in accordance with the newly approved rules at European level, starting from 2016: NSSRA will have it available at the same time European National Statistical Institutes do. Moreover, NSSRA will also be able to estimate the current version of the same indicator, valid from 2004 to 2015. The larger burden associated for asking three more questions (needed for estimating MD indicator in its current version, but unnecessary for the new one) should be more than compensated by the benefits for full comparability with the European data.

As for child-related material deprivation questions, the only meaningful change proposed is they should be asked for every child instead of using the household level.

With this approach, indicators that are comparable with the standards used in the EU-SILC ad hoc-module, as well as ones following the UNICEF standards, can be calculated.

The questions on material deprivation should be asked in the context of the ILC-survey also in the future. The plan to proceed is:

1. To include most questions on material deprivation as a separate module in 2016;
2. To integrate a selected number of questions into the main questionnaire in 2016;

3. To fully integrate the questions on material deprivation into the main questionnaire in 2017;
4. To integrate the questions on child-related material deprivation into the Child needs questionnaire in 2016/17, according to the fieldwork timing established by NSSRA and the relevant stakeholders.

At the end of the paragraph a synthetic prospect reports placement, rearrangements and changes for the new questions. Moreover, each part of the proposal is detailed in annexes 4-7.

Material deprivation for the total population

There were two sections in the pilot. The first was made by 15 questions, asked at household level. The second consists of 5 more questions and they were collected at individual level.

All of these questions should be included in ILCS. However the full integration will be pursued for 2017 survey's operations. A proposal concerning the placement of the new questions in the current ILCS questionnaire's structure was discussed and approved by NSSRA staff (annex 7 accounts for the 2017 new questionnaire).

As for 2016, only marginal changes are allowed into the main structure considering the advanced phase of working activities already done for the next year survey. The integration can be easily fulfilled for three questions on durables (having a computer / internet connection / telephone), as they are already asked for in the main survey. In this case, it is sufficient to change currently used answers' modalities in order to distinguish "no, because cannot afford" vs "no, for any other reason". Two more items (having a washing machine / colour TV) could be added to this set. As for "having a car", being already in the ILCS questionnaire, following changes are made: answers' modalities and a filter for respondents' selection (only for rural households) should be removed.

These changes were approved by NSSRA staff and already implemented both in the English and Armenian version of the 2016 ILCS questionnaire. They are documented in annex 5.

It was also agreed that the remaining questions (14) will be included in a separate module for 2016 operations. The module's informational content (included in annex 4) will be collected for the total ILCS sample.

Material deprivation of children

The section on material deprivation of children is integrated in the Child needs questionnaire (CNQ). The CNQ already includes similar items and has a similar approach to reporting the results. This issue was discussed in a separate meeting with the UNICEF representative. In the meeting a consensus was achieved on both integration of the section to the CNQ and reporting the questions for all children individually.

The integration of the pilot questions into the CNQ included some modifications to the CNQ (new version included in Annex 6). The first table in the child needs questionnaire is split into two parts. The first part consists of questions asked for children aged 1-17 (five questions from the pilot, one from the original CNQ), and the second table consists of questions asked for school-aged children aged 6-17 (one question from the pilot, remaining questions from the CNQ). Since there was a potential overlap between two questions in the CNQ (Does your child receive invitations/invite friends for get-togethers with friends at least twice a month?) and one pilot question (Does your child have celebrations on special occasions (birthdays,

name days, religious events)?), the word “parties” was removed from the CNQ-questions. In the fieldwork, the questions in the CNQ could be asked in connection with one of the visits to households for the ILCS-interview.

Improving the coherence of treating item nonresponse

In the Armenian ILC-survey there are some questions that have answering categories such as “Don’t know” or “Difficult to answer”. For most of the questions, such option does not exist, leading to a situation where it is impossible to recognise the difference between data errors and true item nonresponse, i.e. cases where respondent either does not know the answer or does not want to give an answer. This issue was brought up by the NSSRA staff during the mission.

Consequently, consistent coding for item nonresponse should be provided for the interviewers, but the options “do not know / no answer” should not be given as such to the respondents during the interview. The interviewers should be advised to give their best effort to get an answer from the household for each question, and to mark the answer as “-1” (or any other standardised symbolic value), if the respondent is unable to provide an answer.

Prospect for integrating pilot's questions into the main surveys (ILCS & CNQ) in 2016 and 2017

I. Questions 1- 4 are asked on household – level

1. Could you tell me if your household...

<u>Answers' modalities:</u>	Allocation in ILCS for 2016	Allocation in ILCS for 2017
1.Yes 2.No - cannot afford 3.No - other reason		
1.1 has a computer	ILCS C8_13 [answers' modalities for all the items in C8 have to be changed accordingly]	ILCS C8_13 [answers' modalities for all the items in C8 have to be changed accordingly]
1.2 has an internet connection	ILCS C8_14 [answers' modalities for all the items in C8 have to be changed accordingly]	ILCS C8_14 [answers' modalities for all the items in C8 have to be changed accordingly]
1.3 has a telephone (fixed line or mobile)	ILCS C8_9 & ILCS C8_10 [answers' modalities for all the items in C8 have to be changed accordingly]	ILCS C8_9 & ILCS C8_10 [answers' modalities for all the items in C8 have to be changed accordingly]
1.4 has a colour TV	It has to be added to C8 set of question [answers' modalities for all the items in C8 have to be changed accordingly]	It has to be added to C8 set of question [answers' modalities for all the items in C8 have to be changed accordingly]
1.5 has a washing machine	It has to be added to C8 set of question [answers' modalities for all the items in C8 have to be changed accordingly]	It has to be added to C8 set of question [answers' modalities for all the items in C8 have to be changed accordingly]
1.6 has a car/van for private use	ILCS C26 [answers' modalities for all the items in C26 have to be changed accordingly] The set of questions C26-C30 is currently posed only to rural households. At least C26 has to be collected for all households	ILCS C26 [answers' modalities for all the items in C26 have to be changed accordingly] The set of questions C26-C30 is currently posed only to rural households. At least C26 has to be collected for all households
1.7 can replace worn-out furniture if needed	Separate ILCS module	Section C – Housing Conditions. The best position for this new question is between the current C8 and C9.

2. In the past twelve months, has the household been in arrears, i.e. has been unable to pay on time due to financial difficulties for:

Answers' modalities:	Allocation in ILCS for 2016	Allocation in ILCS for 2017
1. Yes, once 2. Yes, twice or more 3. No 4. Not applicable		
2.1 Rent or mortgage payment for the main dwelling	Separate ILCS module	Section C – Housing Conditions. The best position is between the current C3 and C4. It would be useful to add a question for mortgage (“do the household pay a mortgage to own this dwelling?”) All households paying a rent (C2=2,3,4,5) and paying a mortgage to own the dwelling (C1=1 and “mortgage=yes” should be asked for arrears in rent or mortgage payments.
2.2 The utility bills (heating, electricity, gas, water, etc.) of the main dwelling	Separate ILCS module	The best position for this new question is between the current C15 and C16, after the question on garbage disposal (C15).
2.3 Hire purchase installments or other loan payments	Separate ILCS module	The best position is in section J – Debts. It will be asked in a new question, separated from Table 1. At the end of table 1, it has to be added a new item for “Any other purposes”.

3. Could you tell me, can your household afford...

Answers' modalities:	Allocation in ILCS for 2016	Allocation in ILCS for 2017
1. Yes 2. No		
3.1 An unexpected required expense of 40.000 dram and pay through its own resources (without borrowing or asking for financial help)?	Separate ILCS module	Section K – Subjective estimation of the living standard seems more appropriate. The Section is currently for individuals aged 16+. It has to be added, at the beginning, a new table to be asked at the household level. The question will be the first of this new Table for Section K.
3.2 To keep home adequately warm?	Separate ILCS module	The best position for this new question is between the current C14 and C15.
3.3 To have a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day?	Separate ILCS module	Section K – Subjective estimation of the living standard seems more appropriate. The Section is currently for individuals aged 16+. It has to be added, at the beginning, a new table to be asked at the household level. The question will be the second of this new Table for Section K.
3.4 To go for a week's annual holiday, away from home, including stays in a second dwelling or with friends/relatives (entire household)	Separate ILCS module	Section K. The Section is currently for individuals aged 16+. It has to be added, at the beginning, a new table to be asked at the household level. The question will be the third of this new Table for Section K.

4. Is your household's total income enough to pay the required minimal expenses?

1. With great difficulty 2. With difficulty 3. With some difficulty 4. Fairly easily 5. Easily 6. Very easily	Allocation in ILCS for 2016	Allocation in ILCS for 2017
	Separate ILCS module	Section K – Subjective estimation of the living standard seems more appropriate. The Section is currently for individuals aged 16+. It has to be added, at the beginning, a new table to be asked at the household level. The question will be the fourth of this new Table for Section K.

A proposal for putting the question M15 in this new part of Section K is included

II. Question 5 is asked all the persons in the household aged 16 or more.

For each person in the household aged 16 or more, could you tell me if they have or do the following?

HH member's ID numbers from the list of the HH members, >=16 years <u>Answers' modalities:</u> 1. Yes 2. No – cannot afford 3. No - other reason	Allocation in ILCS for 2016	Allocation in ILCS for 2017
5.1. have two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all-weather shoes)	Separate ILCS module	Section K – Subjective estimation of the living standard seems more appropriate, which is already asked to individuals age 16+. The question will be the first of this new Table for Section K.
5.2. Replace worn-out clothes (including old-fashioned ones) by some new	Separate ILCS module	Section K – Subjective estimation of the living standard seems more appropriate, which is already

(not second-hand) ones		asked to individuals age 16+. Second in the new table.
5.3. Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month	Separate ILCS module	Section K – Subjective estimation of the living standard seems more appropriate, which is already asked to individuals age 16+. Third in the new table.
5.4. Regularly (several times per year) participate in a paid leisure activity outside home such as sport, cinema, concert	Separate ILCS module	Section K – Subjective estimation of the living standard seems more appropriate, which is already asked to individuals age 16+. Fourth in the new table.
5.5. Spend a small amount of money each week on him/herself (without having to consult with any other person)	Separate ILCS module	Section K – Subjective estimation of the living standard seems more appropriate, which is already asked to individuals age 16+. Fifth in the new table.

III. Question 6 is asked all the persons in the household aged 1-16

6. * Could you tell me whether all the children (under 16 years old) above 1 year in your household have or do the following...

<u>Answers' modalities:</u>	Allocation in ILCS for 2016	Allocation in ILCS for 2017
1. Yes 2. No, because household cannot afford 3. No, any other reason 4. Not applicable		
6.1 Have some new (not second hand) clothes?	To be reported individually for all children aged 1-17. Integrated into the Child needs questionnaire.	To be reported individually for all children aged 1-17. Integrated into the Child needs questionnaire.
6.2 Have fresh fruits and vegetables once a day?	To be reported individually for all children aged 1-17. Integrated into the Child needs questionnaire.	To be reported individually for all children aged 1-17. Integrated into the Child needs questionnaire.
6.3 Have three meals a day?	To be reported individually for all children aged 1-17. Integrated into the Child needs questionnaire.	To be reported individually for all children aged 1-17. Integrated into the Child needs questionnaire.
6.4 Have a meal with meat, chicken or fish (or vegetarian equivalent) at least once a day?	To be reported individually for all children aged 1-17. Integrated into the Child needs questionnaire.	To be reported individually for all children aged 1-17. Integrated into the Child needs questionnaire.
6.5 Have celebrations on special occasions (birthdays, name days, religious events)?	To be reported individually for all children aged 1-17. Integrated into the Child needs questionnaire.	To be reported individually for all children aged 1-17. Integrated into the Child needs questionnaire.
6.6 Participate in school trips and school events that cost money?	To be reported individually for all children aged 6-17. Integrated into the Child needs questionnaire.	To be reported individually for all children aged 6-17. Integrated into the Child needs questionnaire.

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

EU Twinning Project AM/14/ENP/ST/15

9-13 November 2015

Component 4: Poverty Statistics

Activity 4.2: Testing pilot survey results

0. Mandatory results and benchmarks for the component

Mandatory results:

- Social exclusions statistics introduced and calculated (July 2017)

Benchmarks:

- Questionnaire for social exclusion pilot survey drafted (October 2015)
- Pilot survey conducted (December 2015)
- Test results calculated (December 2015)
- System of indicators on social exclusions for children introduced (July 2017)
- Staff of NSSRA trained on issues related to the social exclusions statistics (July 2017)

1. Purpose of the activity

- Review of collected pilot data
- Analysis of quality of data
- Finalisation of questionnaire
- Plan for integration of questionnaire into the annual ILCS
- To involve relevant stakeholders in the discussions

2. Expected output of the activity

- Collected data reviewed
- Quality checked and analysed
- Questionnaire finalised
- Plan developed
- A lining up of work programme for the next activity (4.3 is scheduled to May 2016 (study visit to Istat))

3. Participants

NSSRA

Component leaders

- Mr. Gagik Gevorgyan, Member of Council on Statistics of RA
- Ms. Diana Martirosova, Head of Households Surveys Division of NSS RA

Other staff

- Ms. Armenuhi Arushanyan, Head of IT Development Division of the IT and Information Resources Management Department, the National Statistical Service of RA.
- Ms. Lusine Markosyan , Chief specialist of the Households Survey Division, the National Statistical Service of RA;
- Ms. Aida Badalyan, Leading specialist of the Households Survey Division, the National Statistical Service of RA;
- Ms. Arus Galstyan, first category specialist of the Households Survey Division, the National Statistical Service of RA;
- Ms. Laura Avetisyan, second category specialist of the Households Survey Division, the National Statistical Service of RA;

MS experts

Mr. Davide Di Laurea, Expert, Istat

Mr. Juha Honkkila, Expert, Statistics Finland

Other stakeholders taking part in the activity

Representatives from

- Ministry of Labour and social issues of RA
- Ministry of Education of RA
- Ministry of Health of RA
- State Economic University of Armenia
- UNICEF

will also be invited.

Annex 2. Programme for the mission

Time	Place	Event	Purpose / detail
Monday, morning	Hotel / NSSRA	Meeting with RTA	To discuss the programme of the week
	NSSRA	Meeting with BC Component Leader and BC Experts	Assessment of current situation Review of collected pilot data
Monday, afternoon	NSSRA	Meeting with BC Component Leader and BC Experts	Analysis of quality of data
Tuesday, morning	NSSRA	Meeting with BC Component Leader and BC Experts	Analysis of quality of data
Tuesday, afternoon	NSSRA	Meeting with stakeholders	Discussion with relevant stakeholders of new questionnaire on social exclusion statistics Presentation of pilot survey questionnaire
Wednesday, morning	NSSRA	Meeting with BC Component Leader and BC Experts	Finalisation of questionnaire
Wednesday, afternoon	NSSRA	Meeting with stakeholders	Meeting with UNICEF on possibility to sup- port the NSSRA on survey Presentation of the final questionnaire
Thursday, morning	NSSRA	Meeting with BC Component Leader and BC Experts	Plan for integration of questionnaire into the annual ILCS
Thursday, afternoon	NSSRA	Meeting with BC Component Leader	Presentation of MS Experts' findings and agreement on the reached conclusions
		Ad-hoc meetings	Final clarifications with BC Experts, prepara- tion of report and presentation for BC Project Leader
Friday, morning	NSSRA	Debriefing with BC Project Lead- er	Conclusions recommendations for the next activity and the implied work programme for BC Experts

Annex 3. Persons met

NSSRA:

Stepan Mnatsakanyan, President of the NSSRA
Gagik Gevorgyan, Member of Council on Statistics of RA
Anahit Safyan, Member of the State Council on Statistics of RA
Diana Martirosova, Head of Household Surveys Division
Lusine Markosyan, Household Surveys Division
Arus Galstyan, Household Surveys Division
Laura Avetisyan, Household Surveys Division
Armenuhi Arushanyan, IT Development Division
Ruzanna Shaboyan, International Statistical Cooperation Division
Emma Isakhanyan, Social Sphere and Natural Protection Division
Anna Hakobyan, Social Sphere and Natural Protection Division
Leonid Soghomonyan, NSSRA

External stakeholders:

Lusine Yeremyan, UNICEF

Astghik Minasyan, RA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

RTA Team:

Peter Bohnstedt Anan Hansen, Resident Twinning Adviser
Margarit Bejanyan, RTA Assistant
Anush Poghosyan, RTA Language Assistant

Annex 4. Questionnaire for social exclusion module 2016

General note:

- sets of questions in 1-4 have to be asked on household-level;
- set of questions in 5 has to be asked at individuals aged 16+;

1. In the past twelve months, has the household been in arrears, i.e. has been unable to pay on time due to financial difficulties for:

	1 Yes, once	2 Yes, twice or more	3 No	Not applicable
<i>rent or mortgage payment for the main dwelling</i>				
<i>the utility bills (heating, electricity, gas, water, etc.) of the main dwelling</i>				
<i>hire purchase instalments or other loan payments</i>				

2. Could you tell me if your household can replace worn-out furniture, including separate items of furniture, if needed?

1. Yes
2. No, because cannot afford
3. No, any other reason

3. Could you tell me, can your household afford...

	1 Yes	2 No
<i>an unexpected required expense of 45.000 DRAM and pay through its own resources (without borrowing or asking for financial help)?</i>		
<i>to keep home adequately warm</i>		
<i>to have a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day?</i>		
<i>to go for a week's annual holiday, away from home, including stays in a second dwelling or with friends/relatives (entire household)</i>		

4. A household may have different sources of income and more than one household member may contribute to it. Thinking of your household's total income, is your household able to make ends meet, namely, to pay for its usual necessary expenses?

- 1 With great difficulty
- 2 With difficulty
- 3 With some difficulty
- 4 Fairly easily
- 5 Easily
- 6 Very easily

5. For each person in the household aged 16 or more, could you tell me if they have or do the following?

HH member's ID numbers, >=16 years	have two pairs of properly fitting shoes	Replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones	Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month	Regularly participate in a leisure activity such as sport, cinema, concert	Spend a small amount of money each week on him/herself
1 Yes 2 No, because cannot afford 3 No – any other reason					
Adult 1					
Adult 2					
...					
Adult n					

Annex 5. Proposed changes for the ILCS-questionnaire in 2016

General notes:

- modifications in green;
- questions' enumeration is not changed with respect to 2015 official version;
- new questions are identified according to the proposed positioning: as an example the two new questions between existing C3 and C4 will be enumerated C3a and C3b;
- when changes in answers' modalities are proposed, they are reported both old and new values.

Changes occur only in Section C. The short form of the present document, annexed to the Mission Report, includes only part of this section, the others being unchanged.

VISIT 1

Section C.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

I would like to ask you some questions about your housing. By saying housing I mean all rooms and all separate constructions, which are used by the members of your household.

C.1. Type of housing

1. private house
2. apartment
3. hostel
4. railcar/ container, other temporary lodging
5. other _____(specify)

C.2. Does the household own this dwelling or is it rented?

1. owned ⇒ C. 4
2. state or municipality (community) rented ⇒ C. 4
3. private person rented
4. departmental rented ⇒ C. 4
5. other _____(specify) ⇒ C. 4

C.3 If the household rents the dwelling from a private person (question C2, point 3), then how much is the monthly rent

 Dram

 Dollar

 Euro

C.4. How many rooms does the household occupy (exclude bathroom, toilet, kitchen)?

rooms

C.5. Indicate the total space

m²

C.6. Did you change your place of dwelling during the last 5 years?

1. yes
2. no ⇒ question C.8.
- 3.

C.7. Why did you move?

1. to improve housing conditions
2. for family reasons
3. because of debts
4. job reasons
5. because of earthquake
6. refugees (if you consider yourself a refugee)
7. other _____ (specify)

[CURRENT VERSION]

C.8. Do you have the following housing utilities, information and communication means:

N	Item	1. yes 2. no 3. yes, but not operating
1	Centralized water supply	
2	Hot running water (tank, Ariston, geyser)	
3	Centralized sanitation compaund	
4	Local sanitation compaund /hole with waste products/	
5	Outside toilet	
6	Centralized gas supply	
7	Bathtub or shower	
8	Kitchen	
9	Fixed telephone	
10	Mobile phone	
11	Radioreceiver	
12	Electricity	
13	Computer	
14	Internet connection	

[NEW VERSION FOR 2016: C8a & C8b]

C.8.a Do you have the following housing utilities, information and communication means:

(N old) N new	Item	1. yes 2. no 3. yes, but not operating
(1)1	Centralized water supply	
(2)2	Hot running water (tank, Ariston, geyser)	

(3)3	Centralized sanitation compaund	
(4)4	Local sanitation compaund /hole with waste products	
(5)5	Outside toilet	
(6)6	Centralized gas supply	
(7)7	Bathub or shower	
(8)8	Kitchen	
(11)9	Radioreceiver	
(12)10	Electricity	

[NEW VERSION FOR 2016: C8a & C8b]

C.8.b Do you have the following housing utilities, information and communication means:

(N old) (N new)	Item	1. yes 2. no, because cannot afford 3. no, for any other reason 4. yes, but not operating (former 3)
(9)1	Fixed telephone	
(10)2	Mobile phone	
(13)3	Computer	
(14)4	Internet connection	
(5)5	Colour TV	
(6)6	Washing machine	

C.9.-----C.25.

[CURRENT VERSION]

To the interviewer: C26-C30 questions are for rural households.

C26. Does someone in your household own a car, truck or the other mode of transportation?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

[NEW VERSION FOR 2016: ONLY THE ANSWERS' MODALITIES ARE CHANGED]

C26. Does someone in your household own a car, truck or the other mode of transportation?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No, because cannot afford
- 3. No, for any other reason

[NEW VERSION FOR 2016: THE FILTER HAS TO EXCLUDE C26]

To the interviewer: C27-C30 questions are for rural households.

Annex 7. Proposed changes for the ILCS-questionnaire in 2017

General notes:

- modifications in green;
- questions' enumeration is not changed with respect to 2015 official version;
- new questions are identified according to the proposed positioning: as an example, the two new questions between existing C3 and C4 will be enumerated C3a and C3b;
- when changes in answers' modalities are proposed, they are reported both old and new values.

Changes occur in Sections C, J, K, M. The short form of the present document, annexed to the Mission Report, includes only these sections, the others being unchanged.

VISIT 1

Section C.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

I would like to ask you some questions about your housing. By saying housing I mean all rooms and all separate constructions, which are used by the members of your household.

C.1. Type of housing

6. private house
7. apartment
8. hostel
9. railcar/ container, other temporary lodging
10. other _____(specify)

[NEW FILTERS TO ACCOUNT FOR NEW QUESTIONS FOR 2017: c3.a & c3.b]

C.2. Does the household own this dwelling or is it rented?

6. owned ⇒ **C. 3.a**
7. state or municipality (community) rented ⇒ **C. 3.b**
8. private person rented
9. departmental rented ⇒ **C. 3.b**
10. other _____(specify) ⇒ **C. 3.b**

C.3 If the household rents the dwelling from a private person (question C2, point 3), then how much is the monthly rent ⇒ **C. 3.b**

Dram

Dollar

Euro

[NEW QUESTIONS FOR 2017: c3.a & c3.b]

C.3.a If the household owns the dwelling, has it taken a mortgage for purchasing this dwelling?

- 1. Yes, not yet entirely re-paid
- 2. Yes, already entirely paid back ⇒ C. 4
- 3. No ⇒ C. 4

[NEW QUESTIONS FOR 2017: c3.a & c3.b]

C.3.b In the past twelve months, has the household been in arrears, i.e. has been unable to pay rent or mortgage payments of the main dwelling on time due to financial difficulties (question C2, point 2-5; question C3a, point 1)?

- 1. Yes, once
- 2. Yes, twice or more
- 3. No

C.4. How many rooms does the household occupy (exclude bathroom, toilet, kitchen)?

 rooms

C.5. Indicate the total space

 m²

C.6. Did you change your place of dwelling during the last 5 years?

- 4. yes
- 5. no ⇒ question C.8.
- 6.

C.7. Why did you move?

- 8. to improve housing conditions
- 9. for family reasons
- 10. because of debts
- 11. job reasons
- 12. because of earthquake
- 13. refugees (if you consider yourself a refugee)
- 14. other _____ (specify)

[CURRENT VERSION]

C.8. Do you have the following housing utilities, information and communication means:

N	Item	4. yes 5. no 6. yes, but not operating
1	Centralized water supply	
2	Hot running water (tank, Ariston, geyser)	
3	Centralized sanitation compaund	
4	Local sanitation compaund /hole with waste products/	
5	Outside toilet	
6	Centralized gas supply	
7	Bathtub or shower	
8	Kitchen	
9	Fixed telephone	
10	Mobile phone	
11	Radioreceiver	
12	Electricity	

13	Computer	
14	Internet connection	

[NEW VERSION FOR 2017: C8a & C8b, C8c]

C.8.a Do you have the following housing utilities, information and communication means:

(N old) N new	Item	4. yes 5. no 6. yes, but not operating
(1)1	Centralized water supply	
(2)2	Hot running water (tank, Ariston, geyser)	
(3)3	Centralized sanitation compaund	
(4)4	Local sanitation compaund /hole with waste products/	
(5)5	Outside toilet	
(6)6	Centralized gas supply	
(7)7	Bathub or shower	
(8)8	Kitchen	
(11)9	Radioreceiver	
(12)10	Electricity	

[NEW VERSION FOR 2017: C8a & C8b, C8c]

C.8.b Do you have the following housing utilities, information and communication means:

(N old) N new	Item	5. yes 6. no, because cannot afford 7. no, for any other reason 8. yes, but not operating (former 3)
(9)1	Fixed telephong	
(10)2	Mobile phone	
(13)3	Computer	
(14)4	Internet connection	
(-)5	Colour TV	
(-)6	Washing machine	

[NEW VERSION FOR 2017: C8a & C8b, C8c]

C.8.c Can you replace worn-out furniture if needed (including separate items of furniture, as well as second-hand furniture):

- 1.yes
- 2.no, because cannot afford
- 3.no, for any other reason

C.9. What are the sources of water you use?

- 4.centralized water supply
- 5.spring water, wells ⇒ C. 12
- 6.own system of water supply
- 7.river, lake ⇒C. 12
- 8.delivered (imported) water ⇒ C. 12

9. bought water (Noy, Byuregh, etc) ⇒ C. 12

10. rainwater ⇒ C. 12

11. other _____ (specify) ⇒ C. 12

C.10. Where is your water tap located?

(respondents are points 1 and 3 of item C. 9)

1. indoor
2. in the yard
3. in the street

C.10.a. If your water tap is located in the street than what is the distance?

 metre

C.11. If you have centralized water delivery system

(respondent is point 1 of item C. 9.)

1. how many days a month do you have potable water?

 day

2. how many hours a day do you have potable water (all day = 24 hours)?

 hours

C.12. What type of heat source do you use to heat your house (one answer in each column)?

Type of heat source	main	supplementary
Central heating	1	1
Electricity	2	2
Natural gas	3	3
Liquefied gas	4	4
Oil and diesel	5	5
Wood	6	6
Other	9	9
None → C.15	0	0

C.13. What equipment did you mostly use to heat your house?

N	Name	If yes, take in a circle
1	Electric stove	1
2	Electric heater (oil battery)	2
3	Gas stove (kitchen)	3
4	Self-made heater	4
5	Manufactured heater (Iranian, European, other)	5
6	Local-individual boiler (BAXI, and the like)	6
7	Local-collective boiler for the block	7
8	Centralized heating	8
9	Other, specify-----	9

C.14. How much money did you spend on the heating of your house during the last winter? (If you didn't spend the money mention 7).

Dram

[NEW VERSION FOR 2017: C14a]

C.14.a Can your household afford to keep home adequately warm?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

C.15. How is the garbage of the household disposed?

- 1. rubbish evacuation system
- 2. collected by a dust-cart
- 3. dumped by household members
- 4. burned by household members
- 5. buried by household members
- 6. other _____(specify)

[NEW VERSION FOR 2017: C15a]

C.15.a In the past twelve months, has the household been in arrears, i.e. has been unable to pay the utility bills (heating, electricity, gas, water, garbage disposal, etc.) of the main dwelling on time due to financial difficulties?

- 1. Yes, once
- 2. Yes, twice or more
- 3. No

C.16. Do you have any complaints about your housing and its environment from those mentioned below:

(take in a circle)

	Yes	No	Not applicable
1. Not enough floor space	1	2	3
2. Noise from neighbors and from outside	1	2	3
3. Lack of light	1	2	3
4. Lack of heating	1	2	3
5. Humidity	1	2	3
6. Leaking roof	1	2	3
7. Dilapidated walls and floor	1	2	3
8. Dilapidated window frames and doors	1	2	3
9. Heavy traffic	1	2	3
10. Industrial pollution	1	2	3
11. The elevator is frequently out of order	1	2	3
12. Bad water supply	1	2	3
13. Bad garbage evacuation	1	2	3
14. Bad service of common use areas and yard areas in multiple dwelling	1	2	3
15. Lack of green areas	1	2	3

16. Other (specify)	1	2	3
---------------------	---	---	---

C.17. Please, evaluate your housing conditions:

1. very good
2. good
3. satisfactory
4. bad
5. very bad

C.18. Did you renovate your dwelling (i.e., construction work, carpentry, painting)?

1. yes during the last year ⇒ C. 20
2. yes, many years ago
2. no ⇒ C. 21

C. 19. How many years ago did you renovate your dwelling?

Years ⇒ C. 21

C.20. How much money did you spend?

_____ **Dram**
 _____ **Dollar**
 _____ **Euro**

C.21. Are you at the moment building a new house for your permanent living?

1. yes
2. no ⇒ C. 23

C. 22. How much money have you spent for building the new house from the beginning of construction up to now?

_____ **Dram**
 _____ **Dollar**
 _____ **Euro**

C.23. Do you have another owned dwelling, besides the one, where are you living?

1. Yes, I give it for rent
2. Yes, it is used as an area for our own use ⇒ C.25
3. Other ⇒ C.25
4. No ⇒ C.25

C. 24. If you rent it out, mention the amount of the monthly rent:

_____ dram
 _____ dollar
 _____ euro

C. 25. During the last 3 months did someone of household members have the access to computer and Internet? (Yes-1)

No of household members	Someone of h/h members has access to computer		Someone of h/h members has access to Internet		Someone of h/h members has access to Internet						
	at home	other place, (specify)É	at home permanent	at home non permanent	at working place	at educational institution	at others h/h	at public centre of Internet access (free)	at public centre of Internet access (paid)	through cellphone from any locality	from other place through moving set
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											
10											
11											
12											
13											

[CURRENT VERSION]

To the interviewer: C26-C30 questions are for rural households.

C26. Does someone in your household own a car, truck or the other mode of transportation?

- 3. Yes
 - 4. No
-

[NEW VERSION FOR 2017: ONLY THE ANSWERS' MODALITIES ARE CHANGED]

C26. Does someone in your household own a car, truck or the other mode of transportation?

- 4. Yes
 - 5. No, because cannot afford
 - 6. No, for any other reason
-

[NEW VERSION FOR 2017: THE FILTER HAS TO EXCLUDE C26]

To the interviewer: C27-C30 questions are for rural households.

C27.--C.30.

VISIT 5

SECTION J.

DEBTS

NEW ITEM FOR FOR 2017: TABLE 1 ITEM 12

Table 1

N		Did any member of the household borrow money for the following purposes during the last 12 months? yes no → column 6 If yes, mention the number of the h/h member		What is the total borrowed amount?		Where was it borrowed from? 1. family 2. friends/ other persons 3. bank 4. other	If you paid any debts during the last 12 months, specify the amount	
				amount	1. dram 2. ruble 3. dollar 4. euro		amount	1. dram 2. ruble 3. dollar 4. euro
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Purchase of a house / flat/summer house							
2	Purchase of a car, van							
3	Purchase of furniture							
4	For medical treatment							
5	For education							
6	Fridge, washing machine and other equipment							
7	Computer							
8	Wedding							
9	Funeral							
10	Other special events							
11	Entrepreneurship (including agricultural credits)							
12	For any other purpose							

[NEW QUESTION FOR FOR 2017: J1.a]

J.1.a In the past twelve months, has the household been in arrears on hire purchase instalments or other loan payments borrowed by banks or financial institutions, i.e. has been unable to pay these on time due to financial difficulties?

Please don't consider arrears on mortgage payments for the main dwelling: they are covered by question C.3b.

1. Yes, once
2. Yes, twice or more
3. No

VISIT 5

Section K.

SUBJECTIVE ESTIMATION OF THE LIVING STANDARD

[NEW TABLE 1 FOR 2017]

Table 1 FOR ALL THE HOUSEHOLDS

Can your household afford...			Is your household's total income enough to pay the required minimal expenses?
1. Yes 2. No			
...an unexpected required expense of 45.000 dram and pay through its own resources (without borrowing or asking for financial help)?	...to have a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day?	...to go for a week's annual holiday, away from home, including stays in a second dwelling or with friends/relatives (entire household)	1. With great difficulty 2. With difficulty 3. With some difficulty 4. Fairly easily 5. Easily 6. Very easily
1	2	3	4

[RELOCATION OF FORMER QUESTION M15 FOR 2017]

K. 1. (former M15) How much money does your family need monthly to live very well, well and to 'make ends meet' (survive)?

		Amount (put zero if it is difficult to answer)	1. dram 2. ruble 3. dollar 4. euro
1.	Very well		
2.	Well		
3.	To survive		

[NEW TABLE 2 FOR 2017]

Table 2 INDIVIDUALS AT THE AGE OF 16 AND OLDER

Could you tell me if they have or do the following?				
1. Yes 2. No, because cannot afford 3. No, for any other reason				
have two pairs of properly fitting shoes	Replace worn-out clothes (including old-fashioned ones) by some new (not second-hand) ones	Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month	Regularly (several times per year) participate in a paid leisure activity outside home such as sport, cinema, concert	Spend a small amount of money each week on him/herself (without having to consult with any other person)
1	2	3	4	5

Table 3 (former Table 1)

INDIVIDUALS AT THE AGE OF 16 AND OLDER

No	What are the main problems in your households? Range them according to their importance.	What category do you think your family belongs to?	What are your plans to improve your living standards?	Do you think the new generation will live better than you?		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. don't have money even for every day meal food 2. have money for food, but not for clothes 3. housing problems 4. can't ensure good education 5. can't solve health problems 6. other (specify) 7. have no problems <p style="text-align: center;">3 answers are possible</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. rich 2. over middle 3. middle 4. below middle 5. poor 6. very poor 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. my living standards are acceptable for me 2. plan to open my own business (enlarge it, if it already exists) in Armenia 3. plan to open my own business (enlarge it, if it already exists) outside Armenia 4. looking for a profitable job in Armenia 5. looking for a profitable job outside Armenia 6. nothing depends on me, the government must guarantee good conditions and work places 7. I have no expectations at all and must leave Armenia 8. I don't know how to get out of this situation 9. no plans 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. yes, I'm sure about it 2. yes, I hope so 3. no, they will live the same way 4. no, their life will be worse 5. difficult to answer 		
	1	2	3	4	5	6

VISIT 5

SECTION M.
SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

M.1.-- M. 14.

[DROPPED FROM THIS SECTION FOR 2017; IT IS RELOCATED IN SECTION K, QUESTION K1]

M. 15. How much money does your family need monthly to live very well, well and to 'make ends meat' (survive)?

		Amount (put zero if it is difficult to answer)	1. dram 2. ruble 3. dollar 4. euro
1.	Very well		
2.	Well		
3.	To survive		

Annex 8. Results of the pilot survey analysis

The following tables show the results from the Armenian pilot survey and compares them with results from the Armenian ILCS survey in July 2015 (where applicable) and with two low-income and two high-income EU countries (from EU-SILC-surveys 2009 and 2012). All figures indicate percentages of answers in the corresponding answer category from all applicable cases in each country and survey.

Section 1

Could you tell me if your household...

Question	Source	Yes	No – Cannot afford	No – other reason
<i>has a computer</i>	Armenia - pilot	60	29	10
	Armenia - ILCS	61	39	
	Bulgaria	41	25	34
	Romania	36	27	37
	Denmark	82	3	15
	Finland	73	6	21
<i>has an internet connection</i>	Armenia - pilot	58	33	8
	Armenia - ILCS	56	44	
	Bulgaria	38	24	38
	Romania	30	24	46
	Denmark	81	3	17
	Finland	72	5	23
<i>has a telephone (fixed line or mobile)</i>	Armenia - pilot	96	2	2
	Armenia - ILCS	99	1	
	Bulgaria	93	4	3
	Romania	83	11	7
	Denmark	100	0	0
	Finland	99	0	0
<i>has a colour TV</i>	Armenia - pilot	100	0	0
	Bulgaria	96	3	1
	Romania	96	3	1
	Denmark	97	1	2
	Finland	92	2	6
<i>has a washing machine</i>	Armenia - pilot	96	4	0
	Bulgaria	78	15	7
	Romania	76	19	6
	Denmark	91	2	7
	Finland	94	1	5

Section 1 (continued)

Could you tell me if your household...

Question	Source	Yes	No – Cannot afford	No – other reason
<i>has a car/van for private use</i>	Armenia - pilot	38	58	4
	Armenia – ILCS ¹	40	60	
	Bulgaria	53	25	21
	Romania	29	42	29
	Denmark	70	12	18
	Finland	73	14	13
<i>can replace worn-out furniture if needed</i>	Armenia - pilot	19	75	6
	Bulgaria	6	79	15
	Romania	13	68	19
	Denmark	81	13	7
	Finland	82	13	5

Section 2

In the past twelve months, has the household been in arrears, i.e. has been unable to pay on time due to financial difficulties for:

Question	Source	Yes, once	Yes, twice or more	No
<i>rent or mortgage payment for the main dwelling</i>	Armenia - pilot	0	11	89
	Bulgaria	11	19	70
	Romania	4	10	86
	Denmark	2	2	97
	Finland	2	5	93
<i>the utility bills (heating, electricity, gas, water, etc.) of the main dwelling</i>	Armenia - pilot	13	27	60
	Bulgaria	7	20	73
	Romania	10	16	73
	Denmark	2	2	96
	Finland	2	5	93
<i>hire purchase instalments or other loan payments</i>	Armenia - pilot	26	17	57
	Bulgaria	16	23	61
	Romania	11	24	65
	Denmark	2	4	94
	Finland	2	6	93

-
- 1 The question is asked only to rural households.

Section 3

Could you tell me, can your household afford...

Question	Source	Yes	No
<i>an unexpected required expense of 44.000 DRAM and pay through its own resources (without borrowing or asking for financial help)?</i>	Armenia - pilot	27	73
	Bulgaria	28	72
	Romania	46	54
	Denmark	69	31
	Finland	70	30
<i>to keep home adequately warm</i>	Armenia - pilot	35	65
	Armenia ILCS²	60	40
	Bulgaria	51	49
	Romania	86	14
	Denmark	97	3
	Finland	98	2
<i>to have a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day?</i>	Armenia - pilot	25	75
	Bulgaria	45	55
	Romania	76	24
	Denmark	97	3
	Finland	96	4
<i>to go for a week's annual holiday, away from home, including stays in a second dwelling or with friends/relatives (entire household)</i>	Armenia - pilot	27	73
	Bulgaria	24	76
	Romania	25	75
	Denmark	84	16
	Finland	84	16

Section 4

A household may have different sources of income and more than one household member may contribute to it. Thinking of your household's total income, is your household able to make ends meet, namely, to pay for its usual necessary expenses?

Source	With great difficulty	With difficulty	With some difficulty	Fairly easily	Easily	Very easily
Armenia - pilot	48	23	29	0	0	0
Bulgaria	33	34	26	5	2	0
Romania	22	28	38	9	3	0
Denmark	4	8	15	30	27	17
Finland	3	5	16	32	27	17

² Question formulation slightly different: Do you have any complaints about your housing and its environment from lack of heating? “No” interpreted as being able to keep home adequately warm.

Section 5

For each person in the household aged 16 or more, could you tell me if they have or do the following?

Question	Source	Yes	No – Cannot afford	No – other reason
<i>have two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of allweather shoes)</i>	Armenia - pilot	90	10	0
	Bulgaria	87	11	1
	Romania	89	9	2
	Denmark	98	1	0
	Finland	99	1	1
<i>Replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand)ones</i>	Armenia - pilot	62	37	2
	Bulgaria	41	49	10
	Romania	65	30	5
	Denmark	86	7	7
	Finland	90	7	2
<i>Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for adrink/meal at least once a month</i>	Armenia - pilot	38	59	4
	Bulgaria	49	40	11
	Romania	34	51	15
	Denmark	89	2	9
	Finland	72	2	26
<i>Regularly participate in a leisure activity such as sport,cinema, concert</i>	Armenia - pilot	14	69	17
	Bulgaria	20	43	38
	Romania	23	54	23
	Denmark	71	4	25
	Finland	64	4	32
<i>Spend a small amount of money each week on him/herself</i>	Armenia - pilot	49	45	6
	Bulgaria	44	47	8
	Romania	45	47	8
	Denmark	94	5	2
	Finland	97	2	1

Section 6

Could you tell me whether all the children (under 16 years old) above 1 year in your household have or do the following....

Question	Source	Yes	No – Cannot afford	No – other reason
<i>Have some new (not second hand) clothes?</i>	Armenia - pilot	60	40	0
	Bulgaria	67	31	1
	Romania	78	20	2
	Denmark	98	2	1
	Finland	97	3	0
<i>Have fresh fruits and vegetables once a day?</i>	Armenia - pilot	100	0	0
	Bulgaria	69	30	1
	Romania	78	20	2
	Denmark	98	0	2
	Finland	95	0	5
<i>Have three meals a day?</i>	Armenia - pilot	86	7	7
	Bulgaria	94	5	0
	Romania	95	3	1
	Denmark	99	0	1
	Finland	98	0	2
<i>Have a meal with meat, chicken or fish (or vegetarian equivalent) at least once a day?</i>	Armenia - pilot	28	62	10
	Bulgaria	72	27	1
	Romania	74	24	2
	Denmark	98	1	1
	Finland	99	0	1
<i>Have celebrations on special occasions (birthdays, name days, religious events)?</i>	Armenia - pilot	83	17	0
	Bulgaria	75	23	2
	Romania	66	30	4
	Denmark	99	0	1
	Finland	99	0	1
<i>15 Participate in school trips and school events that cost money?</i>	Armenia - pilot	60	30	10
	Bulgaria	57	38	6
	Romania	42	43	15
	Denmark	97	1	2
	Finland	97	1	2