

TWINNING CONTRACT

AM/14/ENP/ST/15

Strengthening of the National Statistical System of Armenia – Phase II



MISSION REPORT

on

Poverty Statistics

Activity 4.1: Assessment and planning of pilot survey

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 first activity in component 4 and the actions planned for this activity were carried out as scheduled.

The purposes of the mission were:

- Assessment of current situation
- Presentation of international and European standards
- Review of current questionnaire
- Development of new questionnaire
- Development of plan for how to develop social exclusion statistics
- 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

Documents received:

- Questionnaire of the Integrated Living Conditions Survey (ILCS)(paper and electronic copies);
- Diary for current expenditures, consumption and income (ILCS)(paper and electronic copies);
- Child needs Questionnaire (paper and electronic copies);
- Social Snapshot and Poverty in Armenia (paper copies);

Assessment of current situation:

The Armenian ILCS has very extensive contents, and covers consumption, income, housing as well as many aspects of social exclusion. Data are collected via paper questionnaires (main questionnaire, diary for consumption and income data, child needs questionnaire). In each month, more than 400 households are interviewed by 48 interviewers in ILCS, with 9 interviews per interviewer.

Moreover, a high quality report “Social Snapshot and Poverty in Armenia” has been produced. The report from 2014, based on 2013ILCS data, includes chapter on child poverty , with sections on material deprivation, and housing deprivation.

Although the Armenian ILCS standards on data collection and reporting on poverty were found to be high, two main objectives for further improvement were identified. First, to converge towards international standards on poverty statistics, in particular the European standards. Second, to improve monitoring of child poverty and social exclusion.

A concern as well as a constraint for further improvements is respondent burden. The current questionnaire is lengthy and covers many difficult areas. There is very limited scope to add further questions to the current ILCS questionnaire.

Plan for the pilot

The main purpose of the pilot is to test how the suggested questions would work in the Armenian context. Sample size of the pilot should be sufficient for detecting problems with the questions and questionnaire flow, as well as allowing technical testing of data processing and derivation of indicators and table. It is not suitable for analysis or dissemination of the results. The pilot in Armenia on Time Use Survey had a sample size of 60 households.

Data for the pilot would need to be collected and processed before the next mission in early November. The main questionnaire of 2016 cannot be changed because the material has to be ready well in advance. Any changes for 2016 can be implemented only as a module. The pilot is for testing these module questions. A subset of the pilot questions would eventually be in the 2016 additional module to the main questionnaire. The module questionnaire can be finalised after the November mission, so it should be ready around mid- to late November. To be confirmed whether this is feasible.

Feasible options were to use the August or July sample as the basis of the pilot, because main questionnaire and household information are already available. Sample size depends on the resources (in particular, transportation costs) and timing. Possible UNICEF financial support is available only from January 2016 onwards.

It was decided that the pilot will be based on 48 households selected from the July sample (August sample will be processed only on 10th October). The IT personnel will select the households to be interviewed for the pilot. The data for all of these 48 households then need to be collected and processed before early November, so that the data will be available for the next mission. This is essential, because otherwise the experts have nothing to work on in their mission. For questions on child deprivation, it has to be ensured that the pilot sample includes sufficiently households with children aged 1-15 years.

Contents of the questionnaire

The starting point for discussions on the contents of the pilot was the EU indicator of at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE). It has three components: poverty, severe material deprivation, and low work intensity.

Poverty measurement

The Armenian poverty threshold is based on consumption data, because they are of better quality than income data and better reflect the economic well-being of households. It is also an absolute rather than a relative measure. EU definition of poverty is a relative measure based on income. The Armenian ILCS covers income, and there are plans to compute relative income-based poverty indicator from ILCS. Indeed, as explained later, this is also required for one of the EU-SILC questions, namely capacity to finance unexpected expenses. Therefore, the poverty threshold according to EU standards (60 % of median of the equivalised – using modified OECD equivalence scale- disposable income) needs to be computed for the pilot

questionnaire. In the Armenian consumption-based poverty measure, equivalence scale is not the modified OECD scale.

The Armenian ILCS measures income, including income in kind such as goods produced for own consumption (Diary section X2). Income components (Diary section Y) are collected net of taxes. Administrative data on income are not used. The option of linking tax and social benefits data to ILCS sample should be explored, although developing this often requires significant resources and time. European experiences on integrating administrative data with Income and Living Conditions surveys are described in “The Use of Registers in the context of EU-SILC”, published by Eurostat. For the measurement of poverty and social exclusion, the use of register data is in practice restricted to income poverty, and does not concern material deprivation indicator.

Low work intensity

Low work intensity indicator in EU-SILC requires information on the months of activity for each working age adult household member. This is compared to the theoretical maximum number of months a person could have worked. Asking additional questions about number of months from each adult would be quite burdening. Recommendation of the experts is that the Armenian questionnaire should not aim to collect such data.

Material deprivation

In contrast to income poverty and low work intensity components, convergence with EU-SILC seems feasible in the material deprivation domain as well as with subjective economic well-being question. The recommendation is to concentrate on these questions, testing only them in the pilot survey.

The current EU-SILC material deprivation indicator consisting of 9 items will be revised. A study by Guio et al.¹, based on the 2009 EU-SILC module on material deprivation, examined in-depth quality of material deprivation variables, and proposed a revised list of 13 items. The proposal for the pilot aims for measuring the revised version of the material deprivation indicator, i.e. indicator of 13 items instead of 9.

The list of items for the whole population proposed by Guio et al. in their study is:

a) Personal items: The person cannot afford (but would like to have, i.e. a lack is an 'enforced lack' and does not simply reflect a choice):

1. To replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones;
2. Two pairs of properly fitting shoes, including a pair of all-weather shoes;
3. To spend a small amount of money each week on oneself;
4. To have regular leisure activities;
5. To get together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least monthly;

b) 'Household items', i.e. items collected at household level (population: whole population living in private households).

The household cannot afford:

¹ Guio, A-C & Gordon, D. & Marlier, E.: "Measuring Material Deprivation in the EU". Eurostat Methodologies and Working Papers 2012 edition. Available online: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3888793/5853037/KS-RA-12-018-EN.PDF>.

6. To replace worn-out furniture;
7. A meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day;
8. To face unexpected expenses;
9. One week annual holiday away from home;
10. To avoid arrears (mortgage or rent, utility bills or hire purchase instalments);
11. A computer and an Internet connection (enforced lack, i.e. cannot afford but would like to have);
12. To keep home adequately warm (enforced lack);
13. A car/van for private use (enforced lack).

The questions that are not in the old list but are in the new 13 items list are:

- For all adults 16 +:
 - replace worn-out clothes by some new ones;
 - have two pairs of properly fitting shoes;
 - spend a small amount of money each week on him/herself;
 - have regular leisure activities;
 - get together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least monthly.
- At household level:
 - replacing worn-out furniture;
 - both a computer and internet connection (enforced lack).

Note that the number of items is not the number of questions needed, for instance arrears (item 10) are recorded in three separate variables in EU-SILC.

In the pilot, the whole list of the MD items could be asked following the EU-SILC definitions and formulations. A draft pilot questions and a possible layout for the questionnaire can be found in the Annexes. Enforced lack of washing machine, television and telephone will probably not be in the revised version. However, the proposal is to collect them too in the pilot, so that also the old 9 items for material deprivation indicator can be tested.

The question on being able to finance unexpected expenses is based on income poverty threshold. It is the 60 % of annual equivalised disposable income divided by 12. For the pilot, the threshold should be therefore computed from ILCS as in EU-SILC, using the modified OECD equivalence scale and 60 % threshold, to retain comparability with EU-SILC.

The 2016 questionnaire cannot be changed in time, so the questions that are kept from the pilot need to be in a dedicated module. There will be some overlapping content between the module and the main questionnaire, as explained above, if the pilot questions are added to the module as such. These overlaps could be resolved in the 2017 questionnaire, by modifying the questions on the main questionnaire and placing some questions to specific main sections instead of a module. The following changes or amendments could be considered for the main questionnaire at later stages (2017 questionnaire).

The consumption diary includes a section on durables, and the main questionnaire also has questions on durables. Currently, only the lack of consumer durables is used as an indicator of material deprivation whilst in EU-SILC enforced lack of durables (inability to afford them, if wanted) is the criterion. This criterion should be adopted for relevant consumer durables in the main questionnaire.

Therefore, it will be necessary to ask in ILCS questions on “not being able to buy a colour television” and “not being able to buy washing machine”. Also, for ILCS question C8 (mobile or telephone): additional categories on “no, because cannot afford” and “no, some other reason” could be added.

As for the questions that are both in the 9 and 13 items list:

C14: ask additional question on whether the household was not able to afford heating to keep the house warm.

C26 (car): if no, ask additional question on whether this was because “could not afford” or “for some other reason”.

Section K: add questions on: 1) arrears on mortgage/rents, utility bills, hire purchase installation or other loan payments 2) not being able to afford one week’s annual holiday away from home 3) not being able to finance unexpected expenses.

In ILCS questionnaire Section K question table 1, the option 1 “don’t have money even for every day meal food” should be dropped and replaced with question on “not being able to afford a meal with meat, chicken (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day”.

In section K, question table 1 the option 2 could be replaced with question on “replacing worn-out clothes by some new ones”.

Questions on computer and internet connection are in ILCS question C8. Additional categories on “no because cannot afford” and “no for some other reason” could be added to C8. We noted that question C25 asks about access to computer and internet (at home). This seems redundant with C8, but question on enforced lack could be possibly added to C25 instead of C8.

Child material deprivation indicator

EU child material deprivation indicator has 15 child related items, with child defined as aged between 1 to 15. Some of the items are already included in the Armenian Child Needs Questionnaire (CNQ), for children aged 6-17 years, since July 2013. Working on the CNQ version as of September 2015, for as much as 4 variables the formulation of questions is similar to the EU-SILC one; in 5 cases they are fully equivalent.

Also UNICEF can be provided with output tables about child deprivation using questions on household level for h/h with children (replacing worn-out furniture; both a computer and internet connection (enforced lack)).

After Meeting with UNICEF it was agreed that a section on child deprivation covering 6 child related questions will be proposed for the pilot. The 6 questions are on items not already covered in CNQ.

Moreover, it was agreed that in the November mission there should be meeting with UNICEF to keep them informed about the results of the pilot and way forward regarding the child deprivation questions to be included in 2016 ILCS module.

In principle, there are two different modes to collect child-specific items data. The first one is currently used in CNQ. It consists in collecting data for each child in the household. The second one collects data for all the children at the household level, by asking if all the children in the household could afford a basic need. This is the way suggested by Eurostat. We believe that the second way is easier: it implies less respondents' burden without any collateral effect on quality of the collected data.

However, adopting this mode of collection in the module – at the household level- poses some problem for the integration of these new questions in the main CNQ, because of the two different modes.

After testing results from the pilot data, a final decision should be taken to let the whole set of child related items be collected homogeneously. Also the age criterion to define a child should be addressed.

As for contents in the pilot, it consists of three parts: 1) household-level MD questions for the whole population; 2) personal level MD questions for persons aged 16 and over; 3) child deprivation questions.

Subjective well-being and health

The question on “making ends meet“ in EU-SILC has proved to be useful as a subjective indicator of economic well-being (or even poverty). It requires only one question, and the recommendation is to add this question to section K of the main questionnaire. The question should also be asked in the pilot. The formulation should be exactly as in EU-SILC.

On health, the question on general health has five categories and based on English translation seems coherent with self-perceived health in EU-SILC (variable PH010). Other questions on health have reference period of last 30 days (days ill, termination of usual activities).

Housing deprivation

Severe housing deprivation rate is defined as the percentage of population living in the dwelling which is considered as overcrowded, while also exhibiting at least one of the housing deprivation measures. *Housing deprivation* is a measure of poor amenities and is calculated by referring to those households with a leaking roof, no bath/shower and no indoor toilet, or a dwelling considered too dark.

Severe housing deprivation adds the criterion of overcrowding. A person is living in overcrowded household if the household does not have at its disposable a minimum number of rooms. The minimum requirement for the household is to have a) one room for the household 2) one room per couple in the household 3) one room for each single person aged 18 or more 4) one room per pair of single people of the same gender between 12-17 years of age 5) one room for each single person between 12 and 17 years and not included in the previous category 6) one room per pair of children under 12 years.

Complete household roster is collected in the Armenian ILCS, including age and sex for each household member. Number of room household occupies (excluding bathroom, toilet, kitchen) is asked in section C of the questionnaire. Therefore, overcrowding indicator according to EU-SILC criteria can be computed from the current Armenian ILCS-

In the Armenian poverty report, occupancy rates (household members per room) are presented, as well indicators on child housing deprivation including overcrowding rate. The threshold for overcrowding that is used is 0.43 or fewer rooms per person (p. 83 of the 2014 report).

Conclusion is that housing deprivation indicators according to EU definitions could be derived from the existing survey questionnaire (following the principle of output harmonisation). Recommendation is to compute both the housing deprivation and the severe housing deprivation indicators, and compare the results with those of the EU-SILC countries, and with the current Armenian overcrowding definition.

The EU-SILC is ongoing a revision of its legal basis. There is a proposal to have a module on housing conditions every three years. Some of the questions from this module could be included in the Armenian ILCS on section on housing conditions. Questions on quality of living environment such as HS190 crime, violence or vandalism in the area or HS180 Pollution, grime, or other environmental problems could be considered as additional questions. Moreover, question C17 (“please, evaluate your housing conditions”) could possibly be harmonised with EU-SILC variable HC080 “Overall satisfaction with the dwelling”.

Question C16 in the current ILCS questionnaire asks about housing conditions. The questions appear to cover some EU-SILC questions (leaking roof, lack of light, lack of heating, heavy traffic etc.). The recommendation of the experts is to compare C16 with EU-SILC housing conditions and environmental problems and see whether coherence can be improved. Full coherence is not necessary, and some of the EU-SILC questions have been criticized having low quality of responses.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

The overall road map is to 1) conduct the pilot in October 2015 as a module to the current questionnaire using the July as the frame, 2) analyse the data and finalise the module in November 2015, and 3) to add a module to 2016 questionnaire without changing the main questionnaire, and 4) then possibly change the main questionnaire in 2017. The results from the 2016 need to be analysed in the twinning project, so postponing all changes to 2017 is not possible.

The pilot will be based on 48 households selected from the July sample. The IT personnel will select the households to be interviewed for the pilot, ensuring that there are enough households with children in the sample.

The data for all of these households then need to be collected and processed before early November, so that the data will be available for the next mission. Micro data should be available for the next mission, including pilot, main questionnaire, and child needs questionnaire.

The contents of the pilot questionnaire build on EU-SILC target variables on material deprivation and other relevant variables. The aim is converge towards the EU-SILC contents without damaging the current Armenian ILCS contents. A concrete objective is to be able to compute indicator of severe material deprivation as it is specified in EU-SILC.

The proposed questionnaire for the pilot is given in the annexes of this document.

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

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|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Terms of Reference</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EU Twinning Project AM/14/ENP/ST/15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">22-25 September 2015</p> |
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Component 4: Poverty Statistics

Activity 4.1: Assessment and planning of pilot survey

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

- Assessment of current situation
- Presentation of international and European standards
- Review of current questionnaire
- Development of new questionnaire
- Development of plan for how to develop social exclusion statistics
- To involve relevant stakeholders in the discussions

2. Expected output of the activity

- Current situation assessed
- Current questionnaire reviewed
- New questionnaire drafted
- Plan for pilot survey developed
- A lining up of work programme for the next activity (4.2 is scheduled to 9-13 November 2015)

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, Chief Specialist 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 specialist of the Households Survey Division, the National Statistical Service of RA;

MS experts

Mr. Davide Di Laurea, Expert, Istat

Mr. Veli-MattiTörmälehto, 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 and UNICEF will also be invited.

Annex 2. Programme for the mission

| Time | Place | Event | Purpose / detail |
|----------------------|---------------|---|---|
| Tuesday, morning | Hotel / NSSRA | Meeting with RTA Meeting with BC Component Leader and staff of NSSRA | To discuss the programme of the week Assessment of current situation MS presentation of international and European standards on social exclusion statistics |
| Tuesday, afternoon | NSSRA | Meeting with BC Component Leader and BC Experts | Review of current Armenian Integrated Living Conditions Survey questionnaire Development of plan for pilot survey |
| Wednesday, morning | NSSRA | Meeting with BC Component Leader and BC Experts Meeting with stakeholders | Development of plan for pilot survey Discussion with relevant stakeholders of new questionnaire on social exclusion statistics |
| Wednesday, afternoon | NSSRA | Meeting with BC Component Leader and BC Experts | Development of plan for how to develop social exclusion statistics |
| Thursday, morning | NSSRA | Meeting with stakeholders | Meeting with UNICEF on possibility to support the NSSRA on survey |
| Thursday, afternoon | NSSRA | Meeting with BC Component Leader and BC Experts | Development of new questionnaire |
| Friday, morning | NSSRA | Meeting with BC Component Leader and Project Leader | Presentation of MS Experts' findings and agreement on the reached conclusions |
| Friday, morning | NSSRA | Ad-hoc meetings | Final clarifications with BC Experts, preparation of report and presentation for BC Project Leader |
| Friday, afternoon | NSSRA | Debriefing with BC Project Leader | Conclusions and recommendations for the next activity and the implied work programme for BC Experts |

Annex 3. Persons met

NSSRA:

Stepan Mnatsakanyan, President of the NSSRA
Anahit Safyan, Member of the State Council on Statistics of RA
Gagik Gevorgyan, 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
Aida Badalyan, Household Surveys Division
Jemma Avoyan, Labour Statistics Division
Siranush Zeynalyan, Labour Statistics Division
Ani Hambardzumyan, Social Sphere Division
Hasmik Simonyan, Social Sphere Division
Laura Avetisyan, Household Surveys Division
Armenuhi Arushanyan, IT Development Division
Varsik Senekerimyan, International Statistical Cooperation Division
Anush Khamosyan, International Statistical Cooperation Division

External stakeholders:

Lusine Yeremyan, UNICEF
Diana Andreasyan, Director of Health Information Analytical Center SNCO
Armen Sahakyan, National Institute of Labour and Social Research
Astghik Minasyan, RA Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Ella Mkrtchyan, RA Ministry of Education and Science

RTA Team:

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

Annex 4. Draft list of pilot questions and instructions

Draft questionnaire for the October 2015 pilot

Household-level questions to be asked from a household respondent:

(See EU-SILC 2014² and 2009³ doc 65 for definitions and clarifications.

Note: there is no common EU-SILC questionnaire, so there are no specifications for the order of the questions.)

HS011 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:

(a) rent

*(b) mortgage repayment
for the main dwelling?*

1 Yes, once

2 Yes, twice or more

3 No

4 Not applicable

HS021 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, etc.) of the main dwelling on time due to financial difficulties?

1 Yes, once

2 Yes, twice or more

3 No

4 Not applicable

HS031 In the past twelve months, has the household been in arrears on hire purchase instalments or other loan payments, i.e. has been unable to pay these on time due to financial difficulties?

** Please note that mortgage instalments for main dwelling are excluded.*

1 Yes, once

2 Yes, twice or more

3 No

4 Not applicable

HS040 Can your entire household afford to go for a week's annual holiday, away from home, including stays in a second dwelling or with friends/relatives?

1 Yes

2 No

HS050 Can your household afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day?

1 Yes

²<https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/2aa6257f-0e3c-4f1c-947f-76ae7b275cfe/DOCSILC065%20operation%202014%20VERSION%20reconciliated%20and%20early%20transmission%20October%202014.pdf>

³<https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/5ca1c292-cfe5-4e18-b2e5-16604aa51f95/SILC065%20operation%202009%20changes%20highlighted.pdf>

2 No

HH050 Can your household afford to keep its home adequately warm?

1 Yes

2 No

HS090 Does your household have a computer?

If you do not have a computer:

(a) Would you like to have it but cannot afford it, or

(b) Do you not have one for other reasons e.g. you do not want or need it.

1 Yes

2 No – cannot afford

3 No – other reason

HD090: Does your household have an internet connection?

If you do not have an internet connection:

(a) Would you like to have it but cannot afford it, or

(b) Do you not have one for other reasons e.g. you do not want or need it.

1 Yes

2 No – cannot afford

3 No – other reason

Affordability of the internet connection is to be assessed independently of the affordability of the computer. The internet access can be via smartphone, other wireless handheld device (tablet, etc ...), video games console, laptop, desktop computer, TV etc.

HS070: Do you have a telephone (including mobile phone)?

1 Yes

2 No – cannot afford

3 No – other reason

In the case of mobile telephones, the household should be considered to possess the item if any member possesses it.

HS080: Do you have a colour TV?

1 Yes

2 No – cannot afford

3 No – other reason

HS100: Do you have a washing machine?

1 Yes

2 No – cannot afford

3 No – other reason

HD080 Can your household afford to replace worn-out furniture?

1 Yes

2 No – cannot afford

3 No – other reason

[Note: no question formulation in the modules of 2009 or 2014 doc. 65.]

The term "furniture" corresponds to the objects such as tables, chairs, beds, desks, dressers, cupboards, etc. kept in the dwelling to make it suitable or comfortable for living or working in. Second-hand furniture can be taken into account.

HS110 Does your household have a car/van for private use?

If you do not have a car/van:

(a) Would you like to have it but cannot afford it, or

(b) Do you not have one for other reasons e.g. you do not want or need it.

1 Yes

2 No – cannot afford

3 No – other reason

HS120 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

HS060 Can your household afford an unexpected required expense (amount to be filled) and pay through its own resources?

1 Yes

2 No

Amount to be filled = 60 % of annual median disposable income divided by 12, or monthly equivalent disposable income. Modified OECD- scale (1 for first adult, 0.5 for other persons 14 or older, 0.3 for 0-13-year old children).

Personal questions, data collected for all adults 16 +

(See EU-SILC 2014 and 2009 doc. 65 for definitions and clarifications)

PD020: Replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones

1 Yes

2 No – cannot afford

3 No – other reason

The focus is on the replacement of the worn out clothes by some new clothes (such as suit, winter coat, pullover, etc.). The variable refers to worn out clothes, not to old-fashioned ones.

PD030: Two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of allweather shoes)

1 Yes

2 No – cannot afford

3 No – other reason

The concept of shoes has to be understood in a broad sense. It could include boots, sandals, etc. according to the climatic conditions of the concerned country. On the other hand, all-weather shoes could be defined as any daily life shoes with the exception of sandals and boots.

PD050: Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month

1 Yes

2 No – cannot afford

3 No – other reason

Friends are people the respondent gets together with in his/her spare time (i.e. after working hours, at weekends, or for holidays) and with whom the respondent shares private matters. *The family, or relatives*, shall be understood in the widest sense, and shall include father/mother/children, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces and families-in-law. *To get-together for a drink/meal means* spending time eating and/or drinking with friends or family (relatives) at home or elsewhere (restaurant, pub, etc.). The "No - cannot afford it" answer for getting together for a drink/meal refers to the financial exclusion/ deprivation. The "No - other reason" answer for this variable refers to another type of exclusion, namely the social exclusion. This formulation is thought to be more adapted in a cross national perspective because having friends at home is not the main way to have social relation in all countries. This variable aims to take into account the multi-cultural specificities as well as the financial and social aspects of deprivation.

PD060: Regularly participate in a leisure activity such as sport, cinema, concert

1 Yes

2 No – cannot afford

3 No – other reason

The term "regularly" is linked to the considered activity(ies) and is to be self-defined by the respondent. However, a "yes" answer should imply that leisure activities (all together) are done several times per year. The considered activity(ies) such as sport, cinema, concert, etc should occur outside home. This(these) would cost some money for entrance and/or travel costs (e.g. swimming), for purchase costs (e.g. riding a bicycle) or for participating costs in an organised play events (e.g. football club fees). The formal organisation of activities is not an important element.

PD070: Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself

1 Yes

2 No – cannot afford

3 No – other reason

To spend a small amount of money on yourself means to freely spend money, e.g., to go to the movies, to buy a gift for a friend, to go to the hairdresser, etc. The "Yes" answer means that the person can afford to spend this money without having to consult anyone.

Child related questions to be asked from a household respondent:

(See EU-SILC 2014 and 2009 doc. 65 for definitions and clarifications)

The following questions have to be asked at the household level. If there are not children (aged between 1-15), the answer category should be "Not applicable".

Even if only one child does not have satisfied a need, the entire group of children in the household are assumed not to have satisfied it.

Even if only one child does not have satisfied a need because the household cannot afford it, then the answer category should be "No, because the household cannot afford it".

As for food or nutrition needs, meal and different kind of foods can be eaten at different times and/or places. Children in the household don't have to share the same food.

HD100: Some new (not second hand) clothes

1 Yes

2 No – because cannot afford

3 No – any other reason

4 Not applicable

The focus is on the affordability for the child to have some new clothes. Not all clothes must be new, some can be second-hand. This is particularly the case for young children. The variable refers to worn-out clothes, not to old-fashioned ones.

HD120: Fresh fruits and vegetables once a day

1 Yes

2 No – because cannot afford

3 No – any other reason

4 Not applicable

Canned fruits and vegetables should be excluded.

HD130: Three meals a day

1 Yes

2 No – because cannot afford

3 No – any other reason

4 Not applicable

Three meals a day should be understood as the breakfast, the lunch and the dinner. The meal does not need to be cooked necessarily.

HD140: Meal with meat, chicken or fish (or vegetarian equivalent) at least once a day

1 Yes

2 No – because cannot afford

3 No – any other reason

4 Not applicable

HD190: Celebrations on special occasions (birthdays, name days, religious events)

1 Yes

2 No – because cannot afford

3 No – any other reason

4 Not applicable

It refers to birthdays, name days, religious event (related to children).

HD210: Participate in school trips and school events that cost money

1 Yes

2 No – because cannot afford

3 No – any other reason

4 Not applicable

If there are children aged between 1-15 but not attending school, the value “4” should be used.

If the interview occurs during school holidays, please refer to the school period.

Even if only one child does not participate in school trips and events, the entire group of children in the household are assumed not to do so either.

This variable only concerns activities that are organised by school.

Annex 5. Suggested questionnaire layout for the pilot

Questionnaire layout:

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

| | 1. <u>Yes</u> | 2. <u>No,</u> <u>because</u> <u>cannot afford</u> | 3. <u>No,</u> <u>any other reason</u> |
|---|---------------|---|--|
| <i>HS090 has a computer</i> | | | |
| <i>HD090 has an internet connection</i> | | | |
| <i>HS080 has a telephone (fixed line or mobile)</i> | | | |
| <i>HS090 has a colour TV</i> | | | |
| <i>HS100 has a washing machine</i> | | | |
| <i>HS110 has a car/van for private use</i> | | | |
| <i>HD080 can replace worn-out furniture if needed</i> | | | |

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:

| | <u>1 Yes, once</u> | <u>2 Yes, twice or more</u> | <u>3 No</u> | <u>Not applicable</u> |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| <i>HS011 rent or mortgage payment for the main dwelling</i> | | | | |
| <i>HS021 the utility bills (heating, electricity, gas, water, etc.) of the main dwelling</i> | | | | |
| <i>HS031 hire purchase instalments or other loan payments</i> | | | | |

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

| | <u>1 Yes</u> | <u>2 No</u> |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| <i>HS060 an unexpected required expense of XXX DRAM and pay through its own resources (without borrowing or asking for financial help)?</i> | | |
| <i>HH050 to keep home adequately warm</i> | | |
| <i>HS050 to have a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day?</i> | | |
| <i>HS040 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. *HS120 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?**

| <i>HH member's ID numbers, >=16 years</i> | <i>PD030 have two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all-weather shoes)</i> | <i>PD020 Replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones</i> | <i>PD050: Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month</i> | <i>PD060: Regularly participate in a leisure activity such as sport, cinema, concert</i> | <i>PD070 Spend a small amount of money each week on him/herself</i> |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| | <i>1 Yes 2 No, because cannot afford 3 No – any other reason</i> | | | | |
| <i>Adult 1</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Adult 2</i> | | | | | |
| <i>...</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Adult n</i> | | | | | |

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>1.</u> <u>Yes</u> | <u>2.</u> <u>No, because household cannot afford</u> | <u>3.</u> <u>No, any other reason</u> | <u>4.</u> <u>Not applicable</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <i>HD100 Have some new (not second hand) clothes?</i> | | | | |
| <i>HD120 Have fresh fruits and vegetables once a day?</i> | | | | |
| <i>HD130 Have three meals a day?</i> | | | | |
| <i>HD140 Have a meal with meat, chicken or fish (or vegetarian equivalent) at least once a day?</i> | | | | |
| <i>HD190 Have celebrations on special occasions (birthdays, name days, religious events)?</i> | | | | |
| <i>HD210 Participate in school trips and school events that cost money?</i> | | | | |