Rome 15-16 May 2014

List of topics on Survey design and weighting

Themes **Subjects**

A **Effective data collection designs**

A.1 Rotational patterns

EU countries apply different rotational patterns. We're interested in the reasons/circumstances that led countries to choose the rotation pattern they have instead of others, in particular considering the evaluation of the impact in terms of stability of stock and flow estimates. Moreover it would be interesting knowing about plans or ideas to adapt the rotational patterns to be more in line with common approaches, explaining the reasons for this and valid arguments for a more harmonised rotational pattern.

A.2 Sub-sampling of annual modules using a wave approach

In a modular EU LFS the wave approach is used for sub-sampling. Sub-sampling reduces the respondent burden and increases flexibility. However, data collection and processing become more complicated and demanding. We are looking for positive experiences with this approach and successful ways of dealing with the obstacles or processing complications.

A.3 Using multiple mode designs

The traditional LFS data collection design of a first wave CAPI and successive waves CATI seems to become outdated. Applying several modes in a given wave and introducing new modes like CAWI seems the logical next step. We are looking for experiences or plans to move in that direction. What are the advantages and what are problems that arise?

A.4 Embedding the LFS in an integrated modular social survey design

Several countries are planning to develop an integrated design of all social surveys. The LFS will be part of this. An integrated design will be based on modularity. How do these designs look like and what issues occur when one attempts to do so? This session could also deal with data collection design issues that are common to all social statistics, now or in the future.

B **Sampling issues**

B.1 Ensuring uniform allocation among reference weeks

An important goal of the sampling scheme is to distribute the sample uniformly among reference weeks to ensure an effective distribution of the sample over time as well as over space, improving quarterly estimates and their comparability (over time and over countries) and enhancing the production of LFS based monthly estimates. We are interested in effective methods to ensure this.

B.2 Optimal allocation for (NUTS3) regions

We are interested in effective methods to allocate the national sample optimally between regions, taking into account both the precision and the distributional requirements at national and NUTS2 level. What sampling methods are used to allow for estimates at NUTS3 level or other small domains (for instance urban and rural areas)?

B.3 Efficient sampling schemes to meet precision requirements

We would like to know if countries apply sophisticated sampling schemes with over or under sampling to meet precision requirements for both national and international users. Which methods and stratifications are used?

B.4 Other sampling issues

We would like to know about interesting approaches or ideas about topics not listed above.

C Weighting methods

C.1 Weighting in case of sub-sampling of annual modules

Sub-sampling based on the wave approach requires additional weighting. We are looking for positive experiences and good ideas in this area. How is it ensured that this does not result in a major increase of workload? How can consistency with estimates based on quarterly variables be achieved and which level of detail is possible?

C.2 Weighting of the longitudinal sample

The longitudinal sample is a specific sub-sample that requires additional weighting. We are looking for positive experiences and good ideas in this area. How can consistency with quarterly estimates be achieved and which level of detail is possible?

C.3 Weighting of households

In countries where the LFS is a sample of individuals, countries generally collect information about the other household members for a sub-sample. This requires additional weighting. We are looking for positive experiences and good ideas in this area. How can consistency with estimates provided by quarterly variables be achieved and which level of detail is possible?

C.4 Composite estimation using the matched sample

Composite estimation methods make explicitly use of the panel dimension of the LFS; these methods are effective since they reduce the variance. Currently, only a limited number of countries use this method. We invite countries that already apply this method to explain it and to show that it is not so difficult to do so.

C.5 Other weighting issues

We would like to know about interesting approaches or ideas about topics not listed above.