

TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS IN GERMANY

Implications for the LFS

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Overview

- Why integrating household surveys?
- The new „basic model“
- Implications for the LFS and chosen aspects
 - Sample sizes & IT infrastructure
 - Modularisation
 - Dependent interviewing
 - Harmonisation
- Time schedule and challenges

Why integrating household surveys?

New requirements

- Intra-annual rotation in LFS
- Increasing demand for labour market (and other) data
- Demand to react more flexibly to new requirements

Improving coherence

Reducing response burden

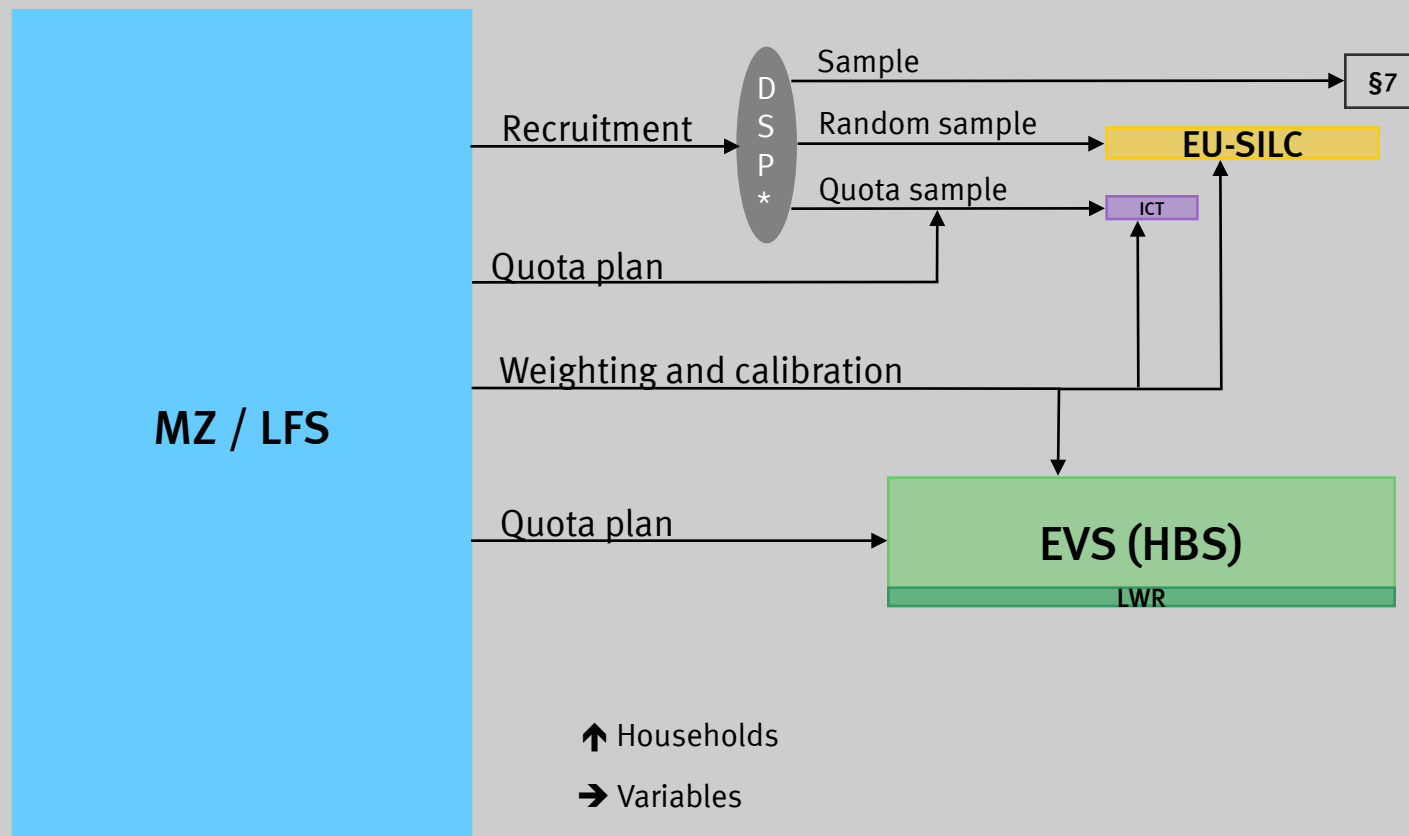
Standardisation of methods and procedures

Budgetary constraints

European level

- Commission Communication no. 404: abandoning the “stovepipe” model
- Wiesbaden Memorandum: new concept of household statistics

Household surveys in Germany: status quo



↑ Households

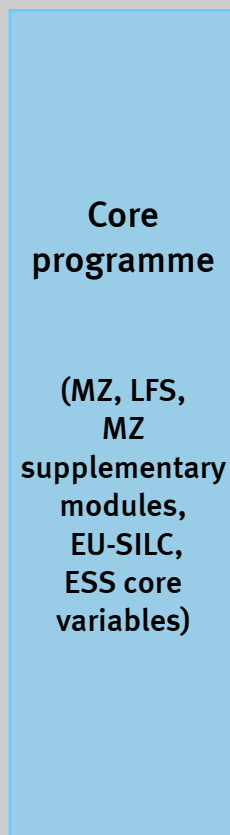
→ Variables

*) DSP: Acces panel for voluntary household surveys

The „basic model“ in brief

- One common random sample – existing individual surveys as subsamples
- Common core programme – plus variables specific to subsamples
- Flexibility for the inclusion of new, or ad hoc surveys
- Close connection between modules
 - Common development and use of survey tools
 - Common survey management and IT infrastructure
 - Common procedures for analysis, weighting, and calibration
- Extended analytical potential due to availability of common core variables

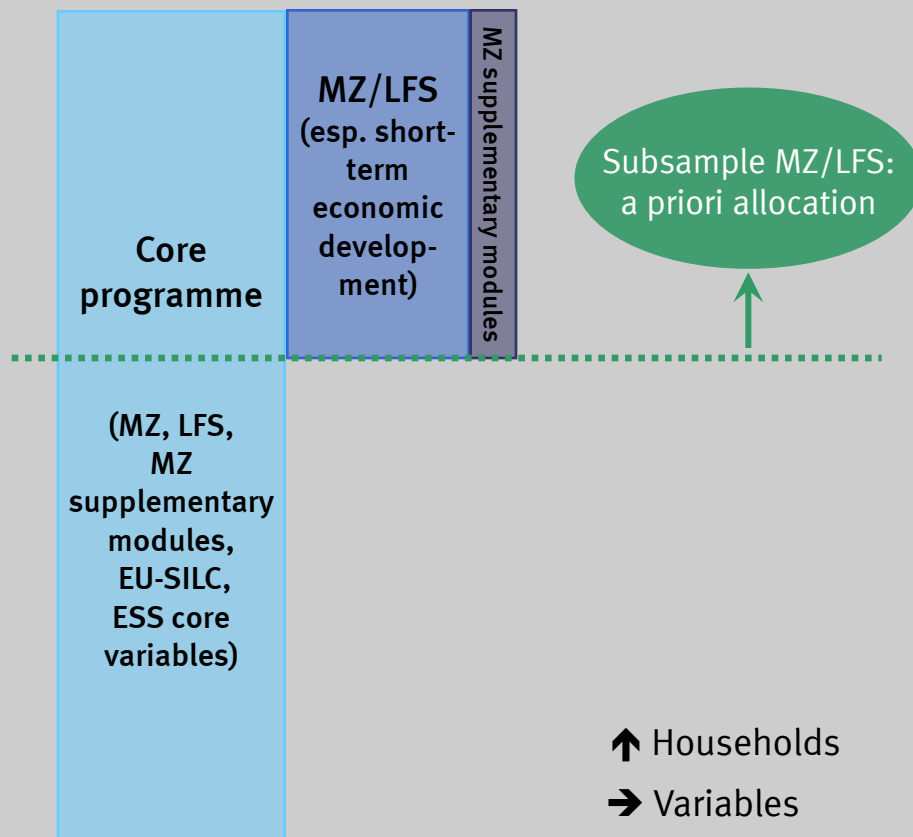
Basic model – common random sample



↑ Households
→ Variables

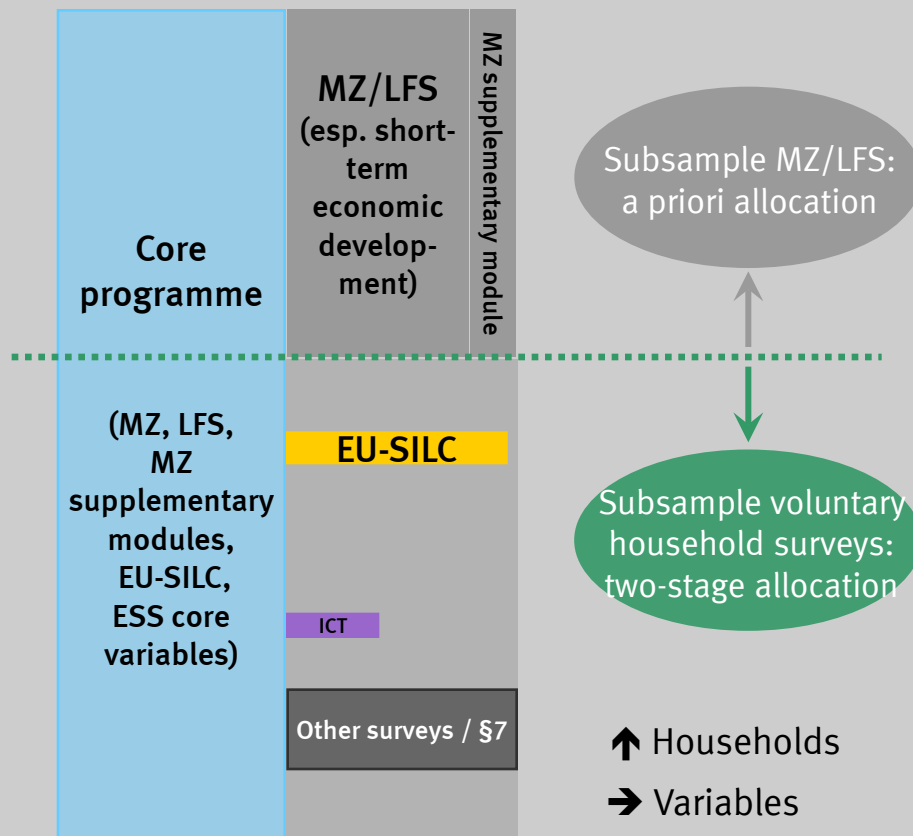
- 380,000 households (1%)
- Area sample (sampling districts of nine dwellings)
- Units equally distributed across calendar weeks (fixed ref. week)
- Compulsory response
- Harmonised set of variables including
 - Core social variables
 - Employment and unemployment (ILO) etc.
- Yearly survey
- CAPI as main data collection mode

Basic model – subsample “MZ/LFS”



- 160,000 households (0,4%)
- Quarterly rotation 2-(2)-2
- Fixed reference week
- Monthly reporting
- Compulsory response
- Variables
 - LFS not covered by core programme
 - MZ supplementary modules
- CATI as preferred mode (follow-up interviews)
- Dependent interviewing

Basic model – subsample voluntary household surveys



- Total of 220,000 households
- Voluntary response
- Subsamples
 - EU-SILC
 - ICT
 - Other
- Allocation to subsamples
 - Two stage stratified random sampling (two-stage)

Implications for the LFS

Chances

- Introduction of intra-annual rotation scheme
- Equal distribution of sample across calendar weeks
- Enhancement of quarterly and monthly reporting (combining common sample and subsample MZ/LFS)
- Using synergies to cope with new demands

Restrictions

- Reduced precision for structural variables and (some) supplementary modules
- Development of complex IT and process architecture
- Harmonisation of variables with other variables
- Additional coordination effort
- Increased nonresponse and memory effects?

Modularisation and harmonisation

- Transformation of standalone survey(s) into flexible survey content modules
- Why?
 - In order to manage the multiplicity of survey programmes, their modes and IT/methodological maintenance
- How?
 - One common data collection software framework enabling a common interface for all survey programmes
 - Survey Programmes composed of several content modules (e.g. labour market participation, education)
 - Content modules are as independent in routing and plausibility checks as possible
 - Attribution of characteristics (e.g. periodicity) to content modules to enable automatic wave-specific and on-site customization of questionnaire
- To tap full potential: harmonisation of concepts

Dependent Interviewing

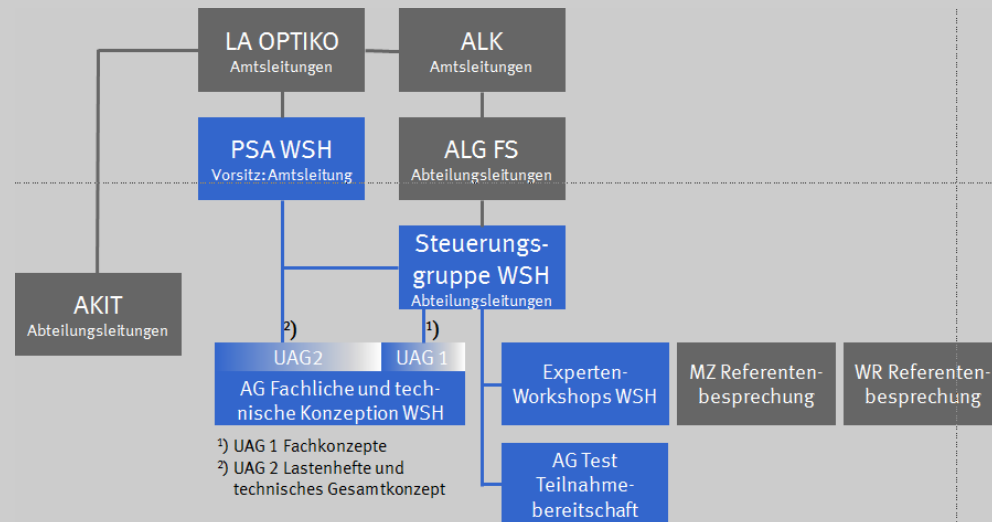
- **Introduction of Dependent Interviewing**
 - In order to meet the challenges set up by intra-annual rotation and to reduce response burden
- **Developed for the following topics**
 - Household composition
 - Main job / secondary job
 - Characteristics of main job and secondary job
 - Previous employment of currently non-employed
 - Nationality and Migration
 - Participation in education or training / educational attainment
 - Income and income sources
- **However, still concerns due to underreporting bias and lack of empirical experience**

Time Schedule

Phase 1	Phase 2		Phase 3		
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Basic conception	Development, Prototyping, Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT-Instruments • Design data collection and processing methodology • Test of response rates for voluntary surveys 		Testing, Adjustment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT-Instruments • Qualitative pretests (e.g. DI) • Field test for LFS-Subsample under real condition 		Start of new system
	Preparation of legislative process		Legislative process		

Challenges I

Project Management



Status of Interviewer

- Increasing requirements, e.g. work to a tightened schedule, wider range of survey programmes, recruitment of households
- Legal aspects and interviewer financing under examination

Legal embedding of aspects like dependent interviewing and use of paradata because of privacy concerns

Challenges II

■ Costs

- Synergy effects are unlikely to fully counterbalance the cost of intra-annual rotation pattern
- Decision makers ask for cheaper solutions
- Investigation of alternative solutions for adjustable dimensions of the „basic model“
 - Area sample vs. register sample
 - Reduction of CAPI vs increase of CATI
 - Centralised vs. decentralised data collection and processing; use of one or more CATI-Studios

■ To secure further progress:

Demand of intra-annual rotation has to come along with early adoption of EU legal basis

THANK YOU!

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