

Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
2001/0293(COD)	
Community statistics: income and living conditions in the Union EU-SILC	
Subject 8.60 European statistical legislation	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		24/01/2002
		V/ALE BOUWMAN Theodorus J.J.	
	Former committee responsible		
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		24/01/2002
		V/ALE BOUWMAN Theodorus J.J.	
	Former committee for opinion		
	BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	2492	06/03/2003
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Eurostat		

Key events			
13/12/2001	Legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0754	Summary
16/01/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
23/04/2002	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
23/04/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0138/2002	
14/05/2002	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0211/2002	Summary
15/11/2002	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2002)0641	Summary

06/03/2003	Council position published	15090/1/2002	Summary
13/03/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
23/04/2003	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
13/05/2003	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0196/2003	Summary
16/06/2003	Final act signed		
16/06/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
03/07/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/0293(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 66_o-p4; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 285-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/5/16242

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(2001)0754 OJ C 103 30.04.2002, p. 0198 E	13/12/2001	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0138/2002	23/04/2002	EP	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0517/2002 OJ C 149 21.06.2002, p. 0024	24/04/2002	ESC	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T5-0211/2002 OJ C 180 31.07.2003, p. 0022-0067 E	14/05/2002	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(2002)0641	15/11/2002	EC	Summary
Council statement on its position	06209/2003	10/02/2003	CSL	
Council position	15090/1/2002 OJ C 107 06.05.2003, p. 0026-0039 E	06/03/2003	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(2003)0287	07/03/2003	EC	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0196/2003 OJ C 067 17.03.2004, p. 0027-0068 E	13/05/2003	EP	Summary
Implementing legislative act	32003R1980 OJ L 298 17.11.2003, p. 0001-0022	21/10/2003	EU	Summary
Implementing legislative act	32003R1981 OJ L 298 17.11.2003, p. 0023-0028	21/10/2003	EU	Summary
Implementing legislative act	32003R1982	21/10/2003	EU	Summary

		OJ L 298 17.11.2003, p. 0029-0033			
Implementing legislative act		32003R1983 OJ L 298 17.11.2003, p. 0034-0052	07/11/2003	EU	Summary
Implementing legislative act		32004R0028 OJ L 005 09.01.2004, p. 0042-0056	05/01/2004	EU	Summary
Implementing legislative act		32005R0013 OJ L 005 07.01.2005, p. 0005-0009	06/01/2005	EU	Summary
Implementing legislative act		32006R0315 OJ L 052 23.02.2006, p. 0016-0021	22/02/2006	EU	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2008)0022	28/01/2008	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2008)0160	31/03/2008	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission

[EUR-Lex](#)

Final act

[Regulation 2003/1177](#)

[OJ L 165 03.07.2003, p. 0001-0009](#) Summary

Community statistics: income and living conditions in the Union EU-SILC

PURPOSE : to establish a common framework for the systematic production of Community statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). EU-SILC is to become the reference source of comparative statistics on income distribution and social exclusion at the EU level.

CONTENT : Statistics on income and living conditions and, more precisely, indicators on poverty and social exclusion have been requested at high political level. Articles 136, 137 and 285 of the Treaty establishing the European Community imply that statistics on income, living conditions and social exclusion shall be collected in the context of EU-SILC. Furthermore the conclusions of the Lisbon (23-24 March 2000) and Nice (7-9 December 2000) European Council meetings have given strong support to the eradication of poverty and invited the Council and the Commission to promote a better understanding of social exclusion through continued dialogue and exchanges of information and best practice on the basis of commonly agreed indicators also capable of measuring progress. It is in this context that the Commission has developed the "Programme of Community action to encourage co-operation between Member States to combat social exclusion", which has been submitted in 2000 to the European Parliament and the Council to promote the "collection and dissemination of comparable statistics in Member States and at Community level". Data are required in both cross-sectional (pertaining to a given time in a certain time period) and longitudinal (pertaining to individual-level changes over time, observed periodically over a certain duration) dimensions. However, the first and clear priority is to be given to the delivery of timely and comparable cross-sectional data. Requirements for longitudinal data will be less important - in terms of both, coverage and sample size. In order to be in a position to carry out multi-dimensional analysis at the level of households and persons, and in particular to investigate major issues of social concern that are new and require specific research, it is essential that the cross-sectional (resp. the longitudinal) information can be linked at the household and personal level. EU-SILC has to be flexible in terms of data sources. Eurostat strongly encourages the use of existing data sources, whether they are surveys or registers. While encouraging the use of national sources, Eurostat will recommend an integrated design for EU-SILC to those countries planning to launch a new operation. This design aims to be the most cost effective and efficient for both, cross-sectional and longitudinal requirements. EU-SILC will be launched in 2003. The cross-sectional and longitudinal micro-data sets will be updated on a yearly basis. Modules will be added to the cross-sectional component of EUSILC starting from 2004. Lastly, the high priority given by the Council and the Commission to fight against poverty and social exclusion in the EU requires comparable and timely statistics to monitor this process.?

Community statistics: income and living conditions in the Union EU-SILC

The committee adopted the report by Theo BOUWMAN (Greens/EFA, NL) broadly approving the proposal subject to a number of amendments (codecision procedure, 1st reading), which were mainly designed to clarify the kind of information to be collected and calculated under the "primary areas" of the survey as set out in Annex I. For example, it wanted the information under the heading "Physical and social environment" to include such factors as crime, pollution and noise. It also wanted to ensure that the categories of education used were comparable (ISCED classification) and proposed creating a new "primary area" entitled "Parental education" with a view to assessing the

intergenerational impact of individuals' educational attainment. Lastly, the committee said that calculations of gross income should take account of circumstances of indirect financial value, such as owning a home rather than paying rent or employment-related income in kind rather than in cash. It therefore amended the definition of "gross income" in the proposal accordingly. ?

Community statistics: income and living conditions in the Union EU-SILC

The European Parliament, using its procedure without debate, adopted the report by Theo BOUWMAN (Greens/EFA, Netherlands) on Community statistics on income and living conditions. (Please refer to the document dated 23/04/02.) "Gross income" was amended to include effective imputed rent and non-cash income from employment or self-employment. ?

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The Commission accepts to take account, in its amended proposal, of nearly all the amendments adopted by the European Parliament. On the other hand, concerning the amendment rejected by the Commission on the issue of personal information, 'Education (ISCED classification)' and 'Parental education (ISCED classification)', the Commission agrees to specify that ISCED classification is covered in the education area but does not want to include the parental education. ?

Community statistics: income and living conditions in the Union EU-SILC

The Council has unanimously adopted the Common position and the Commission accepts it. The European Parliament adopted the twelve amendments on 14 May 2002. The proposed Common position of the Council incorporates most of them either directly or with some minor wording reformulation which makes no change to the content of the project. Only two important differences can be noted in: - the area 'Physical and social environment' where the Council refused to be more precise and to accept the coverage of crime, pollution and noise as proposed by the EP. At the level of variables, however, this information is included; - the education area, where the highest ISCED level attained is specified in the Common position but parents' education as proposed in the EP amendment is not included. Among the other changes introduced by the Council, the most important are the following: - an additional aim of ensuring comparability of data, to be pursued through methodological studies has been introduced; - in the income definition, it has been clarified that: both monetary and non-monetary income components are to be covered; deductions for "self-employed and unemployed compulsory social insurance contributions" are to be made; only "inter-household transfers received" should be used for the calculation of gross income and inter-household transfers paid have to be deducted from gross income to obtain disposable income; - the Council has introduced the word "produced" in order to allow for the range of appropriate methods for Member States to compile or estimate the required data; - the first year of production of data has been changed from 2003 to 2004, reflecting the earliest realistic date for implementation of the Regulation. Dates throughout the Regulation have been adapted to reflect this change. In particular, the date in Article 6(2) for the inclusion of the first target secondary area has been postponed to 2005; - a derogation for Germany, the Netherlands and the UK has been added allowing these three countries to launch SILC only in 2005 under the condition that they supply data for the cross-sectional indicators in the context of the open method of coordination. - allowing transition periods for Germany during which it moves to full use of probability sampling for both cross-sectional and longitudinal data; - the specification that the dates of transmission of comparable data for cross-sectional common EU indicators will also apply to Member States which start annual collection of data after 2004; - funding for four years is guaranteed to all Member States, including those whose derogations allow them to begin collecting data later than others. The budget authority will actually grant the available appropriations, rather than simply determine them. It should also be noted that there have been problems of comitology encountered during the adoption of the Common position (and the position adopted by the Commission). The Council has changed the comitology procedure from management to regulatory procedure. ?

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The Commission accepted all the amendments proposed by the Council. ?

Community statistics: income and living conditions in the Union EU-SILC

The committee adopted the report by Theo BOUWMAN (Greens/EFA, NL) approving the Council's common position without amendment under the 2nd reading of the codecision procedure. ?

Community statistics: income and living conditions in the Union EU-SILC

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Theo BOUWMAN (Greens/EFA, NL), approving the common position. The act was accordingly deemed adopted in accordance with the common position. ?

Community statistics: income and living conditions in the Union EU-SILC

PURPOSE : to establish a common framework for the systematic production of Community statistics on income and living conditions ("EU-SILC"). COMMUNITY MEASURE : Regulation 1177/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community

statistics on income and living conditions. CONTENT : in order to carry out the tasks assigned to it, the Commission needs to be kept informed of income distribution and of the level and composition of poverty and social exclusion in the Member States. The best method of assessing the situation is to compile Community statistics using harmonised methods and definitions. The aim of this Regulation is to establish a common framework for the production of Community statistics, which encompass comparable and timely cross-sectional and longitudinal data on income and on the level and composition of poverty and social exclusion at national and European levels. The main points of the Regulation are as follows: - the EU-SILC covers cross-sectional data on income, poverty, social exclusion and other living conditions as well as longitudinal data restricted to income, labour and a limited number of non-monetary indicators of social exclusion; - the cross-sectional and longitudinal data will be produced annually as from 2004. In any given Member State, the timing of collection will be kept the same from one year to the next as far as possible; - Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom may start the annual cross-sectional and longitudinal data collection in 2005; - in order to permit multi-dimensional analysis at the level of households and persons and in particular investigation of major issues of social concern that are new and require specific research, all household and individual data will be linkable in the cross-sectional component, and in the longitudinal component. - longitudinal micro-data do not need to be linkable with cross-sectional micro-data; - the longitudinal component must cover at least four years; - cross-sectional and longitudinal data will be based on nationally representative probability samples. Germany, however, will supply cross-sectional data based on a nationally representative probability sample for the first time for the year 2008. For the intervening period, there are special provisions; - there are provisions on the access for scientific purposes to EU-SILC confidential data; - for the first four years, Member States will receive a financial contribution from the Community towards the cost of the work involved; - the Commission must submit a report to the Council and Parliament by 31/12/07. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 23/07/03.?

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Community statistics: income and living conditions in the Union EU-SILC

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Commission Regulation 1980/2003/EC, 1981/2003/EC and 1982/2003/EC implementing Regulation 1177/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC). CONTENT : in accordance with Regulation 1177/2003/EC, three Regulations establishing implementation measures in order to : - harmonise definitions, in particular those relating to definitions and updated definitions (1980/2003/EC); - harmonise the methods and the definitions as regards the fieldwork aspects and the imputation procedures (1981/2003/EC); - harmonise the methods and the definitions concerning the sampling and tracing rules (1982/2003/EC). These measures are in accordance with the opinion of the Statistical Programme Committee. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 7 December 2003.

Community statistics: income and living conditions in the Union EU-SILC

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Commission regulation 1983/2003/EC implementing Regulation 1177/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) as regards the list of target primary variables. CONTENT : Regulation 1177/2003/EC established a common framework for the systematic production of Community statistics on income and living conditions, encompassing comparable and timely cross-sectional and longitudinal data on income and on the level and composition of poverty and social exclusion at national and European Union levels. Pursuant to Article 15(2)(a) of Regulation 1177/2003/EC, implementing measures are necessary to define the list of target primary variables to be included in each area of the cross-sectional component and the list of target variables included in the longitudinal component, including the specification of variable codes and the technical format of data transmission. The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Statistical Programme Committee. This Regulation provides a list of target primary variables, the variables codes and the technical format of data transmission for the main operation of the Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC), shall be as laid down in the Annex. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 7 December 2003.?

Community statistics: income and living conditions in the Union EU-SILC

ACT: Commission Regulation 29/2004/EC implementing Regulation 1177/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) as regards the detailed content of intermediate and final quality reports.

CONTENT: This Regulation acts as an implementing act and complements Regulation 1177/2003/EC, which establishes a common framework for the systematic production of Community statistics on income and living conditions, encompassing comparable and timely cross-sectional and longitudinal data on income and on the level and composition of poverty and social exclusion at national and European Union levels. As such the Regulation in:

- Annex I: Sets the definitions to be applied to the intermediate and final quality reports of the Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC).
- Annex II: Stipulates the quality evaluation criteria and the detailed content of the intermediate quality report to be produced by Member States, relating to the common cross-sectional EU indicators based on the cross-sectional component of the EU-SILC.

- Annex III: Stipulates the quality evaluation criteria and the detailed content of the final quality report to be produced by Member States, relating to the EU-SILC cross-sectional and longitudinal components focussing on internal accuracy.
- Annex IV: Sets the content of the comparative intermediate and final quality reports to be produced by the Commission (Eurostat).

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 29 January 2004.

Community statistics: income and living conditions in the Union EU-SILC

ACT: Commission Regulation 13/2005/EC implementing Regulation 1177/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) as regards the list of target secondary variables relating to ?social participation?.

CONTENT: This Regulation acts as an implementing act and complements Regulation 1177/2003/EC, which establishes a common framework for the systematic production of Community statistics on income and living conditions, encompassing comparable and timely cross-sectional and longitudinal data on income and on the level and composition of poverty and social exclusion at national and European Union levels. As such this Regulation, in Annex, establishes a list of target secondary variables, the variable codes and the definitions for the 2006 Module for ?social participation? to be included in the cross-sectional component of Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC).

In summary, the Annex specifies that:

- information shall be provided for all current household members aged 16 and over.
- only personal interviews or information extracted from registers will be considered.
- the reference period will be the last 12 months for variables relating to participation in cultural events and participation in formal and informal activities.
- the following terms are defined: relatives, friends, spending time with friends and family, the frequency thereof, informal voluntary activities and participation in cultural events.

Finally, the Annex lists the areas of target variables.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 27 January 2005.

Community statistics: income and living conditions in the Union EU-SILC

ACT: Commission Regulation 315/2006/EC implementing Regulation 1177/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) as regards the list of target secondary variables relating to housing conditions.

CONTENT: This Regulation acts as an implementing act and complements Regulation 1177/2003, which establishes a common framework for the systematic production of Community statistics on income and living conditions, encompassing comparable and timely cross-sectional and longitudinal data on income and on the level and composition of poverty and social exclusion at national and European Union levels. This Regulation, in Annex, sets out the list of target secondary variables, the variable codes and the definitions for the 2007 module on housing conditions to be included in the cross-sectional component of Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC).

The Annex states that:

- the target variables relate to two types of units, namely household and the household respondent.
- the mode of collection will be based on personal interview with the household respondent or register.
- the reference period will be an ordinary winter/summer in the area where the dwelling is located covering the last two years in cases where the dwelling has changed and current for all other variables.
- the following terms are defined: shortage of space in dwelling, dwelling installations and facilities, accessibility to basic needs, overall satisfaction with dwelling and any changes to the dwelling for family, employment or financial reasons.

Finally, the Annex lists all areas of target variables in a 2007 ?Housing Conditions Module?.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 15/03/2006.

Community statistics: income and living conditions in the Union EU-SILC

PURPOSE: to introduce a new module ?material deprivations? to the list of variables under the EU-SILC Regulations.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Regulation.

CONTENT: to recall, the main aim of the EU-SILC Regulations are to establish a common framework for the systematic production of Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions. The statistics encompass comparable and cross-sectional data on income and on the level and composition of poverty and social exclusion in Europe. The Regulations also allow for the targeting of secondary areas ? modules ? to be included in the system every year starting from 2005 to complement the target primary variables. The modules for 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 related respectively to: intergenerational transmission of poverty, to social participation, to housing conditions and to over-indebtedness and financial exclusion.

The theme for the 2009 module is 'material deprivation'. The list of variables to be included in this module has been developed by a Joint Eurostat/ISG Task Force. The ultimate objective of the module is to run methodological studies as from 2011/2012 on material deprivation in order to improve the deprivation component of the core (annual) SILC survey.

The list of target secondary variables, the variable codes and the definitions for the 2009 module on material deprivation, to be included in the cross-sectional component of the Community statistics on income and living conditions, are set out in Annex to the proposed Regulation. They include, inter alia, information on housing, the environment, financial stress and durables (mobile phones), basic needs, unmet needs such as leisure and social activities and children's items.

Community statistics: income and living conditions in the Union EU-SILC

In accordance with provisions set out in Regulation No 1177/2003, the EU-SILC Regulation, the Commission is obliged to submit a report to the European Parliament and Council on work completed under the Regulation. In presenting this report the Commission is fulfilling this obligation.

SILC: a source of reference data for income and poverty analysis at an EU level: To recall, the EU-SILC was launched between 2003 and 2005 in all EU Member States; its purpose being to act as a data source for the analysis of income distribution and social inclusion at an EU level. Since its adoption in 2003, on the basis of a gentlemen's agreement between six Member States namely Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg and Austria, significant progress has been achieved. Since then it is effective in all of the EU's 25 Member States plus Norway, Iceland, Turkey and Switzerland. It is expected that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia will launch the EU-SILC in the course of 2008.

Legal framework: As well as the Regulation, five implementing Commission Regulations have been adopted on: Sampling and tracing rules; Definitions; List of primary (annual) target variables; Fieldwork and imputation procedures; and Quality reports. In addition, a Commission Regulation is published annually containing a list of secondary target variables, or modules, with the possibility of a topic being repeated every four years or at longer intervals. Topics include, for example, social participation; housing; and over-indebtedness and financial exclusion.

EU funding: Funding has been possible through grant agreements concluded with the NSI's. In total, EU funding amounted to around EUR 6.5 million for the 2004 data collection and around EUR 11 million for the 2005-2007 data collections respectively.

Collection and dissemination of SILC data: The report finds that the collection of SILC data, overall, has been a success. Together with a network of the National Statistical Institutes (NSI's) Eurostat has been able to collect, check and issue data within a reasonable period of time. There is, however, a significant gap of around two years between the reference year of the collected data and the latest available economic data.

Content of EU-SILC: The EU-SILC is a multi-dimensional instrument focusing on income, but at the same time covering housing, labour, health, demography and education, thus making it possible to study the multidimensional approach of social exclusion. Primary target variables including household information or individual information. Secondary targets variables or modules are introduced annually. Thus in 2005, for example, the module chosen was on the 'inter-generational transmission of poverty'; in 2006: Social participation; 2007: Housing conditions; 2008: Over-indebtedness/financial exclusion; and in 2009 it will be Material deprivation.

Collection unit: EU-SILC statistics cover people living in private households only. Persons living in collective households and institutions are excluded from the target population.

Reports and studies: In accordance with the Regulation, all of the 15 countries involved in launching SILC in 2004 submitted an intermediate and final quality report respectively. On that basis Eurostat produced a single EU quality report that combined intermodal and final national quality reports. The intermediate report includes sections on: sample design; sampling and non-sampling errors; method of data collection and interview duration. The final report included parts relating to: relevance, accuracy; sample design; sampling and non-sampling errors; method of data collection; imputation procedure; imputed rent; company cars; comparability such as definitions; income components; tracing rules; punctuality; accessibility and coherence.

Conclusion: The report concludes that since the adoption of the EU-SILC Regulation, SILC statistics have become the source of reference data for statistics on income distribution, poverty and social exclusion. A significant amount has been invested in the evaluation of SILC data quality in the form of quality reports and methodological studies. A methodological Task Force, as well as a SILC Conference held in Helsinki also studied a number of quality issues in depth. On a final point, even though several publications were produced, further work is to be done on the dissemination of the SILC information.