COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1981/2003

of 21 October 2003

implementing Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) as regards the fieldwork aspects and the imputation procedures

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 June 2003 on Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) [1], and in particular Article 15(2)(e) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 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.

(2) Pursuant to Article 15(2)(e) of Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003, implementing measures are necessary to harmonise methods and definitions concerning the fieldwork aspects and the imputation procedures.

(3) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Statistical Programme Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The fieldwork aspects, including household and personal identification numbers, the rules and guidelines for applying substitutions and the imputation procedures, shall be as laid down in the Annex.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 20th day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 21 October 2003.

For the Commission
Pedro SOLBES MIRA
Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 165, 3.7.2003, p. 1.

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1. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply to the longitudinal component of EU-SILC:

(a) Initial sample: refers to the sample of households or persons at the time it is selected for inclusion in EU-SILC.

(b) Sample persons: means all or a subset of the members of the households in the initial sample who are over a certain age.

(c) Age limit used to define sample persons:

In the case of a four-year panel, this age limit shall not be higher than 14 years. In countries with a four-year panel using a sample of addresses or households, all household members aged 14 and over in the initial sample shall be sample persons. In countries with a four-year panel using a sample of persons, this shall mean selecting at least one such person per household.

The abovementioned minimum age limit shall be lower in the case of a longer panel duration. For a panel duration exceeding eight years, members of all ages in the initial sample shall be sample persons, and children born to sample women during the time the mother is in the panel shall be included as sample persons.

(d) Sample household: means a household containing at least one sample person. A sample household shall be included in EU-SILC for the collection or compilation of detailed information where it contains at least one sample person aged 16 or more.

(e) Co-residents (non-sample persons): are all current residents of a sample household other than those defined above as sample persons.

(f) Current household members: means current members of the household at the time of data collection or compilation. The conditions for classifying a person as a household member are laid down in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1980/2003 [1] on definitions and updated definitions.

(g) Former household member: refers to a person who is not a current household member and was not recorded as a household member in that household in the previous wave, but who lived in the household for at least three months during the income reference period.

(h) Entire household:

A sample household is said to be entire (whole) if it remains as one household, without forming an additional household and without the household disappearing, even though there may have been changes in its composition from the previous wave due to deaths, members moving out of scope or co-residents leaving the household, people joining the household or births.

(i) Initial/Split-off household:

Sample household from wave x is said to have been 'split' if its sample persons from wave x reside at the time of wave x+1 in more than one private household within the national territories included in the target population.

When a split has occurred, one (and only one) of the resulting households shall be defined as the 'initial' household, while one or more of the others are termed 'split-off' households.

The following approach shall be used in order to distinguish between 'initial' and 'split-off' households:

— if any sample person of the wave x still lives at the same address as the last wave, then his/her household shall be defined as the 'initial' household. All sample persons who have moved shall form one or more 'split-off' households,

[1] See page 1 of this Official Journal.

— if no sample person lives at the address of the last wave, then the household of the sample person who had the lowest person number in the register for the last wave shall be the initial household. Where this person is no longer alive or in a private household within the national territory of the target population, the initial household shall be the household of the sample person with the lowest person number.

(j) Fusion:

Sample persons from different sample households from the previous wave join together to form a new household.

For the cross-sectional and longitudinal component of EU-SILC, the following definition shall apply:

(k) Person number: refers to the number assigned in the 'household register' to the person the first time he/she is recorded as a household member. In the cross-sectional component, and in new households in the longitudinal component, it should correspond to the person's line position in the 'household register'.

2. IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS FOR PERSONS AND HOUSEHOLDS

2.1. **Household identification number**

1. In the cross-sectional component, the household fixed identification number (ID) is a sequential number.

2. In the longitudinal component, the household identification number (ID) is composed of the household number and the split number. The household number is a sequential number. The split number for the first wave shall always take the value '00'.

Where the household remains entire, it shall keep the household number and split number from one wave to the next.

In the case of a split-off, the initial household shall keep the household number and split number from one wave to the next. The other households, i.e. split-off households, shall keep the same household number, but shall be assigned the next available unique split number in sequence.

In the case of a fusion of two sample households, if the new household is still at a previous address, it shall retain the household number and split number of the household that was at that address in the previous wave. If the new household is at a new address, the household number and split number of the household of the sample person who now has the lowest person number in the 'household register' shall be used.

2.2. **Personal identification number**

1. In the cross-sectional and longitudinal components, the personal identification number is composed of the household ID and the person number.

2. In the longitudinal component, the person number for any new person in the household shall be constructed by adding 1 to the highest person number used, for all the years of the survey and the household ID.

3. For the longitudinal component, the household ID shall be the household identification number of the household where the person first appears in the panel.

4. In the longitudinal component, the personal ID shall remain fixed over the length of time the person is in the survey.

3. INFORMATION TO BE COLLECTED

1. In the initial household, the full information required for current household members, the basic information for former household members and the basic information on household members in the previous wave that are no longer household members shall be collected.

2. In the split-off household, only the full information required for current household members shall be collected.