Survey on Income and Living Conditions

Reference Metadata in ESS Standard for Quality Reports Structure (ESQRS)

INSTAT

Reference Metadata

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1. Contact	
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2. Statistical presentation	
2.1. Data description	The European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) Survey was launched for the first time in Albania in 2017 and has been carried out on annual basis. This survey is the main source of national statistics on income distribution, poverty and social exclusion. The EU-SILC is carried out under European Framework Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003, which defines the rules by which this survey is carried out in a harmonised way. Data collection is also coordinated by Eurostat which provides methodological guidelines by which this survey can be carried out at highest quality standards. Information collected from this survey includes information related to the distribution of household income, health and disability, employment, and material deprivation. In this context, indicators derived from SILC aim to identify the population categories that are most prone to poverty and material deprivation. The method used for SILC involves personal interviews among a representative sample of households using CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) techniques. SILC is a rotational design survey. The sample for each year consists of 4 rotational groups, which have been in the survey for 1-4 years. With the exception of the first three years of the survey, any rotation group remains in the survey for 4 years. Every year, one of the 4 rotational groups from the previous year is dropped and a new one is added, while this rotational scheme started from 2017. This methodology makes it possible for INSTAT to analyze more accurately differences in income and socio-economic situation of households over a relatively long period of time, 4 years period.

2.2. Classification system	SILC follows international standards about the classification: ISCO, NACE, ISCED and Degree of urbanization. The main classifications used are: 1. ISCED 2011 for the level of education, 2. ISCO 08 for occupation and 3. NACE Rev. 2 for economic activity.
2.3. Sector coverage	The sample of the survey covers all the territory of Albania. The sample represents the whole population. The population living in collective housing such as: orphanages, dormitories, nursing homes, homes for children with disabilities, hotels, military barracks, hospitals, sanatoriums, prisons are not included in this study.
2.4. Statistical concepts and definitions	According to the methodology for measuring poverty, the poverty line is calculated based on its relative concept (poor in relation to others) and is defined at 60% of the median total equivalised disposable income of the household, using the modified OECD equivalised scale. **The poverty line** represents the lowest annual disposable income that a person would not be considered at risk of poverty. Total equivalised disposable income of the household is considered the total net income (that is, income after taxes and social contributions) received by all household members. **Household concept:** is referred to a group of people, a related person or not, who live together in the same dwelling or in a part of it and share a partial or common economy. **Equivalised income:** As equivalised disposable income of the individual is considered the total disposable income of household after being divided by the equivalent size of household. In the income distribution per person each household member possesses the same amount of income, corresponding to the equivalent disposable income of the household. This means that each member of the household enjoys the same level of living. Consequently, in the income distribution per person, the income that is attributed to each person does not represent wages but, actually, an indicator of the level of living. **Equivalence scale:** Equivalent size refers to the OECD modified scale which gives a weight of 1.0 to the first adult (over 14 years old), 0.5 to other persons aged 14 or over who are living in the household and 0.3 to each child aged under 14. **At-risk-of-poverty:** rate indicates the percentage of persons living in households where equivalent disposable income is below the at-risk-of-poverty line (threshold). **Material deprivation:** indicates the level of living of the population by the material deprivation rate, or the proportion of materially deprived persons. Severe materially deprived **persons** are those living in household who cannot afford at least four of the nine categories of material deprivation related to assets, living conditions or financial aspects. The nine items of material deprivation are:

	1. Arrears on mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loanpayments; 2. Capacity to afford paying for one week's annual holiday away from home; 3. Capacity to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day; 4. Capacity to face unexpected but necessary expenses of 30.000 ALL; 5. Capacity to afford a telephone (including mobile phone); 6. Capacity to afford a colour TV; 7. Capacity to afford a washing machine; 8. Capacity to afford a car and 9. Capacity to afford keeping home adequately warm. **The work intensity** of the household is defined as the ratio of the number of months that all household members have been working during the income reference year to the total number of months that could have theoretically worked during the same period. A person is considered economically active when he/she is 18-59 years old by excluding people who are depending on household and belong to the age group 18-24. **Very low work intensity** refers to the situation of persons in the household where no one works, or works very little, meaning that working-age household members work only 20% or less of the total number of months they can work during the reference period.
2.5. Statistical unit	Households and persons within a private household. The sampling frame for the new rotational group selected in 2019, for the both stages, was the 2011 Census data. The PSUs are called segments. Segments are area units which consist of 120 private households according to the Census 2011. There were derived from one or more enumeration districts used in the 2011 Census and belonging in the same municipality. In each stratum PSUs were systematically selected with probability proportional to size (the measure of size was the number of private households in PSU), and in the second stage 12 addresses (occupied dwellings) were selected in each selected PSU. All private households in selected addresses construct a sample of households.
2.6. Statistical population	The reference population of EU-SILC is all private households and their current members residing in the territory of Albania at the time of data collection. Persons living in collective housing and in institutions are excluded from the target population. There are no differences between the national and the standard EU-SILC concept.
2.7. Reference area	Data on the SILC cover the whole territory of the country and prefecture level.
2.8. Time coverage	SILC data coverage has started since 2017, as the first year of the survey.
2.9. Base period	Not applicable.

3. Statistical processing	
3.1. Source data	Concerning the SILC instrument, three different sample size definitions can be applied: - The actual sample size which is the number of sampling units selected in the sample. - The achieved sample size which is the number of observed sampling units (household or individual) with an accepted interview. - The effective sample size which is defined as the achieved sample size divided by the design effect with regards to the at-risk-of poverty rate indicator. For SILC data 2019, INSTAT follows strictly the precision requirements set via the prescription of minimum effective sample sizes as specified in the SILC framework regulation 1177/2003. Regarding the information about the minimum effective sample size ALBANIA has: • Households- Cross-sectional: 4200 HH • Households- Longitudinal: 3000 HH • Persons aged 16+ - Cross-sectional: 11000 individuals • Persons aged 16+ - longitudinal: 8000 individuals The longitudinal samples are followed-up over time in accordance with the tracing rules specified in EU-SILC implementation regulation 1982/2003. The database based on the 2011 Census of Population & Housing, provides a comprehensive count of all persons living in Albania. As a result, this database is considered to be the most adequate source to be used for the Albanian SILC sample selection and served as sampling frame, from which a total of 8380 households were selected for SILC 2019 sample. In this section the attention focuses mainly on the achieved sample size. The achieved sample size for SILC 2019 in Albania is: **Rotation 1** **Rotation 2** **Rotation 3** **Rotation 4** **Total sample achieved** 1389 2052 2295 1270 7006
3.2. Frequency of data collection	Data collection frequency is done on annual bases. Albania starting from 2017 collects data on annual basis. Data collection was carried out in April- July 2019. The income reference period used for EU-SILC 2019 was calendar year 2018.
3.3. Data collection	The work for the data collection process for year N starts at the end of year N-1. The new questionnaire (including all yearly changes and updates) and the updated version of CAPI program are done. At the beginning of year N, the program is tested thoroughly and interviewers are selected and briefed accordingly. Also the sample of the new households is extracted at that time.

Upon finishing the testing procedures, the interviewers are briefed on both paper and computer questionnaires. The data collection period takes approximately 4 months of the same year N.

Mode of data collection

The method of data collection in Albania is through face-to-face interviews by CAPI system. The following is the distribution for types of interview in cross-sectional SILC 2019:

2019	
2-CAPI	7- CAPI with proxy
60.86	39.14

Proxy interview

Overall, 39.14% of all personal interviews were carried out by proxy interview. Our aim was to keep the proxy-rate low but mainly to achieve a highest response rate possible.

The mean interview duration

The mean interview duration per household is calculated as the sum of the duration of all household interviews plus the sum of the duration of all personal interviews, divided by the number of household questionnaires completed. Only households accepted for the database have to be considered.

Average interview duration 2019 = 38 minutes

3.4. Data validation

A number of work processes are carried out during data collection in order to ensure that data is collected in a proper manner. Measures that are regularly implemented include: checks on the questionnaires, interviewer audits, follow-ups on non-responding households, etc. In the process of data entry the data entry system (by CAPI) has logical control checks.

The SILC dataset is further validated through a number of checking rules during the analysis stage. After processing the primary data and receiving the target changes, verification with the SAS program provided by Eurostat for verification and validation of the data is performed. Additional compatibility checks are performed before publishing the information.

3.5. Data compilation

Imputation is normally done by making use of already existing information in conjunction with several methods. For respondents taking part for the second, third or fourth time, imputation is done by using data collected in the previous years. This method is preferred since it ensures consistency with the previous years' data. When considering new respondents or when information from previous years is not available, information from other persons or households with similar characteristics is used. In cases where these two methods are not possible, mathematical imputation methods, such as regression-based techniques, are used.

3.6. Adjustment

Missing survey data is imputed using procedures specified in SILC implementing regulation 1981/2003. This includes income data, household composition data and other elements.

In addition, data is weighted to correct for unit non-response and panel attrition, and further calibrated in order to reflect the characteristics of the target

	population. Seasonal adjustment is not applicable.
4. Quality management	
4.1. Quality assurance	INSTAT is committed to ensure the highest quality with respect to the compilation of official statistics. In accordance with the "Law on Official Statistics", Nr.17/2018, date 17.04.2018, INSTAT use statistical methods and processes in compliance with internationally recognized scientific principles and standards and conduct ongoing analyses of the statistics with a view to quality improvements and ensure that statistics are as up to-date. In performing its tasks, INSTAT follows the general principles of quality management in line with the European Statistics Code of Practice. INSTAT declares that it takes into account the following principles: impartiality, quality of processes and products, user orientation, employee orientation, effectiveness of statistical processes, reducing the workload for respondents.
4.2. Quality assessment	The methodological manual doc065 provided by Eurostat is constantly being consulted to ensure the full conformity to Eurostat definitions. All methods are documented in a quality report which is updated annually. INSTAT recognizes that the production of high quality statistics from SILC is paramount for policy making purposes. During the past years, many efforts were made in order to ensure accuracy of results. Great importance is also given to the production of harmonised results. In this regard, every effort is made in order to ensure that all Eurostat's recommendations and all Regulation's requirements are strictly adhered to.
5. Relevance	
5.1. User needs	SILC users are classified as internal and external users. External users are: • Governmental institutions • Universities • Non-profit national and international organizations • Businesses • Researchers, students and other similar groups. Internal users are other sectors within INSTAT who use SILC results as inputs to their work such as: • National Account Directorate; • Methodology Sector; • Price Statistics Sector; • Regional Statistics Directorate; • Social Statistic Directorate; • Regional Statistical Offices.
5.2. User satisfaction	During 2020 INSTAT conducted a survey to measure user satisfaction from INSTAT publications. The survey results show that the overall quality of SILC is rated 3.61 (72.2%) on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good).

	INSTAT organizes every year User Satisfaction Survey.
5.3. Completeness	The extent to which all statistics that are needed are available. All the necessary information is collected and compiled for Eurostat. Such information may be downloaded from Eurostat's website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database.
5.3.1. Data completeness - rate	The degree of completeness of the data, for the SILC 2019 is almost 100%. This calculation took into account the Regulation 1177/2003 and it is expressed as the ratio of the number of variables collected by INSTAT and the number of variables asked from EUROSTAT.
6. Accuracy and reliability	
6.1. Overall accuracy	In terms of precision requirements, the EU-SILC framework regulation as well the Commission Regulation on sampling and tracing rules refers respectively, to the effective sample size to be achieved and to representativeness of the sample. The effective sample size combines sample size and sampling design effect which depends on sampling design, population structure and non-response rate.
6.2. Sampling error	EU-SILC is a complex survey involving different sampling design in different countries. In order to harmonize and make sampling errors comparable among countries, Eurostat (with the substantial methodological support of Net-SILC2) has chosen to apply the "linearization" technique for variance estimation. Linearization is a technique based on the use of linear approximation to reduce non-linear statistics to a linear form. This technique can encompass a wide variety of indicators, including EU-SILC indicators.
6.2.1. Sampling error - indicators	**Table 1: Standard errors for some indicators, EU-SILC 2019**

Indicator	Value	Standard error	Confidence interval at 95%		CV (%)
			Lower	Upper	
At-risk-of-poverty rate					
Total	23.03	0.37	22.29	23.76	1.6
Men	22.22	0.52	21.20	23.25	2.4
Women	23.83	0.54	22.78	24.88	2.3
Age group 0-17, total	29.73	0.87	28.03	31.44	2.9
Age group 18-64, total	22.81	0.47	21.89	23.74	2.1
Age group 65+, total	13.86	0.80	12.30	15.42	5.8
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate (AROPE)					
Total	46.19	0.44	45.33	47.05	1.0
Severe material deprivation rate					
Total	37.07	0.42	36.24	37.89	1.1
Low work intensity rate (Age group 18-59, total)					
Total	12.43	0.37	11.70	13.15	3.0

6.3. Non-sampling error	Non-sampling errors are basically of 4 types: 1. Coverage errors: errors due to divergences existing between the target

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>population and the sampling frame.
2. Measurement errors: errors that occur at the time of data collection. There are a number of sources for these errors such as the survey instrument, the information system, the interviewer and the mode of collection
3. Processing errors: errors in post-data-collection processes such as data entry, keying, editing and weighting
4. Non-response errors: errors due to an unsuccessful attempt to obtain the desired information from an eligible unit.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.3.1. Coverage error</td><td>Coverage errors include over-coverage, under-coverage and misclassification.
• Over-coverage: relates either to wrongly classified units that are in fact out of scope, or to units that do not exist in practice
• Under-coverage: refers to units not included in the sampling frame
• Misclassification: refers to incorrect classification of units that belong to the target population.

The sampling frame for the both stages was the 2011 Census data.

<table><tr><th></th><th>Selected addresses</th><th>Eligible addresses</th><th>Eligibility rate (%)</th></tr><tr><td>Republic of Albania</td><td>8,380</td><td>7,903</td><td>94.31%</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>6.3.1.1. Over-coverage - rate</td><td>Over coverage rate of SILC-2019 is 5.7% (477 households out of a gross of 8380 households).

<table><tr><th>Main problems</th><th>Size of error</th><th></th></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">Cross sectional data</td><td>· Over-coverage</td><td>5.7% (DB120=23) = 477/8380 *100</td></tr><tr><td>· Under-coverage</td><td>N/A</td></tr><tr><td>· Misclassification</td><td>N/A</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>6.3.1.2. Common units - proportion</td><td>Not applicable for SILC.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.3.2. Measurement error</td><td>Common sources of measurement errors occur due to imperfections in the questionnaire, under-reporting, errors made by interviewers during data collection, as well as during data analysis. SILC is mainly carried out by Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) which helps considerably when it comes to reducing these types of errors.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.3.3. Non response error</td><td>Non-response errors are errors due to an unsuccessful attempt to obtain the desired information from an eligible unit.

Two main types of non-response errors are considered:

1) Unit non-response: refers to absence of information of the whole units (households and/or persons) selected into the sample
2) Item non-response: refers to the situation where a sample unit has been successfully enumerated, but not all required information has been obtained.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.3.3.1. Unit non-response - rate</td><td>Cross sectional data of SILC 2019</td></tr>
</table>

	<table><tr><th colspan="2">Address contact rate (Ra)*</th><th colspan="2">Complete household interviews (Rh)*</th><th colspan="2">Complete personal interviews (Rp)*</th><th colspan="2">Household Non-response rate (NRh)*</th><th colspan="2">Individual non-response rate (NRp)*</th><th colspan="2">Overall individual non-response rate (NRp)*</th></tr><tr><td>A*</td><td>B*</td><td>A*</td><td>B*</td><td>A*</td><td>B*</td><td>A*</td><td>B*</td><td>A*</td><td>B*</td><td>A*</td><td>B*</td></tr><tr><td>99.6</td><td>99.6</td><td>91.6</td><td>91.6</td><td>100.0</td><td>100.0</td><td>8.8</td><td>8.8</td><td>0.0</td><td>0.0</td><td>8.8</td><td>8.8</td></tr></table> A* - Results for the total sample, B* - Results for the new part of the sample *= A & B are the same for 2019 in AL as all were in first wave
6.3.3.2. Item non-response - rate	The computation of item non-response is essential to fulfill the precision requirements concerning publication as stated in the Commission Regulation No 1982/2003. Item non-response rate is provided for the main income variables both at household and personal level. For SILC 2019, the Item non-response rate for one of the main indicators turns out to be as follows: ○ Old-age benefits is 0.3%
6.3.4. Processing error	Possible sources of processing errors include data entry errors and an element of human error in the processing of results. EU-SILC is collected through computer-assisted methods that lessen the possibility of such errors through automatic routing of questions and in-built validations.
6.3.4.1. Imputation - rate	To calculate the imputation rate, the number of imputed values versus the number of total values is taken into account. i) Imputation rate (I): (Number of Imputed values/Number of Total values)*100; The number of imputed values includes: number of additions, number of modification, and number of eliminations. For SILC 2019, the Imputation rate for one of the main indicators turns out to be as follows: ○ Old-age benefits is 0.46%
6.3.5. Model assumption error	Not applicable. There is no model used to predict /evaluate the results.
6.4. Seasonal adjustment	Not applicable. There is no seasonal adjustment made to the data collected by SILC.
6.5. Data revision - policy	SILC Review Policies are made in accordance with the revision policy and the policy of settling errors set by INSTAT. For more information refer to: • Revision Policy • The Errors Treatment Policy
6.6. Data revision - practice	SILC data are revised when: • A new classification is implemented (e.g. economic activities); • There are methodological differences; • Revision of weights (new and/or improved data sources, corrections of errors).

6.6.1. Data revision - average size	INSTAT has not revised data for SILC 2019.
7. Timeliness and punctuality	
7.1. Timeliness	The number of days from the last day of the reference period to the day of (national) publication of the SILC results.
7.1.1. Time lag - first result	SILC data do not include publication of preliminary result.
7.1.2. Time lag - final result	SILC 2019 data are published 1 year + 500 days after the end of the reference period. The reference period of the results of SILC 2019 is 31 December 2018.
7.2. Punctuality	Time lag between the actual delivery of the data and the target date when it should have been delivered.
7.2.1. Punctuality - delivery and publication	Due to the situation of COVID-19 in data processing the publication of SILC it was postponed to May 14, 2021. Therefore publication of SILC data 2019 was delayed by 172 days. **$P_3=d_{act}-d_{sch=}$ 5/14/2021 – 11/23/2020** **$P_3=172$**
8. Coherence and comparability	
8.1. Comparability - geographical	Data collection, data cleaning and data submission is fully regulated by Eurostat; this is done to ensure that SILC data is fully comparable throughout all participating countries.
8.1.1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics - coefficient	Not filled by INSTAT, is calculated by EUROSTAT after metadata is published.
8.2. Comparability - over time	SILC data has been collected in a consistent manner since 2017. In view of this, the data can be considered to be comparable or reconcilable over time.
8.2.1. Length of comparable time series	In view of this, the data can be considered to be comparable or reconcilable over time. Comparable time series exist from 2017 to 2019. CC2= Jlast-Jfirst+1=3years.
8.3. Coherence - cross domain	SILC follows international standards: ISCO, NACE, ISCED, Degree of urbanisation, and the Canberra Group handbook on household income statistics. The sets of weights available in SILC datasets have been obtained using calibration techniques which ensure basic coherence of estimates obtained from SILC micro datasets and demographic counts. Further coherence analysis with other surveys like Labour Force Survey, Household Budgetary Survey or other statistics as National Accounts and Social Protection Accounts were done. These tests ensure that the data being submitted

	falls in line with the aggregate values provided from these sources, thus ensuring coherence throughout. SILC data related to social benefits such as old age pensions, family pensions and other categories of social benefits are compared with administrative data available from state institutions.
8.4. Coherence - sub annual and annual statistics	Not applicable.
8.5. Coherence - National Accounts	When analysing SILC cross-sectional data, National accounts figures are used as benchmarks and serve as checks through the data cleaning process.
8.6. Coherence - internal	SILC data are panel data where ¾ of the sample is repeated from last year and only ¼ of the sample is new. For this reason, based on the recommendations of EUROSTAT, the consistency of the data over the years is permanently checked. Thus the data of 2019 are comparable and consistent with the years 2017, 2018.
9. Accessibility and clarity	
9.1. News release	The press release contains information about key indicators: income distribution, poverty and social exclusion. The format of the press release has changed; It is defined by the publishing sector, which also sets the date of publication. SILC press release is published online on INSTAT website.
9.2. Publications	Users can find the results of SILC 2019 published on the INSTAT website: • Income and Living Conditions in Albania
9.3. On-line database	All the information is available in both Albanian and English language. The data on SILC can be found in Excel format where the main indicators are detailed by age group and gender. These tables can be found at the following link: Income and Living Conditions in Albania.
9.3.1. Data tables - consultations	Page Views (Hits) about SILC data in 2020 are around 6,068 clicks.
9.4. Micro-data access	As a result of confidentiality preservation, SILC data are not available at micro level. Aggregated data are the only type of data provided to external users.
9.5. Other	Users can send other specific requests through a dedicated section for contacts in the following link: Contact us.
9.6. Documentation on methodology	A brief explanation of the definitions, key concepts and methodological explanations for users is published in the press release and publications. When necessary, additional information is provided to the internal users. On the INSTAT website there is a section related to the survey Methodology.
9.7. Quality documentation	Living Condition Statistics Sector documents the entire work process and SILC procedures for internal purposes.

9.7.1. Metadata completeness - rate	Not filled by INSTAT, is calculated by EUROSTAT.
9.7.2. Metadata - consultations	Not filled by INSTAT, is calculated by EUROSTAT after metadata is published.
10. Cost and burden	The mean interview duration in 2019 per household was estimated at 38 minutes. Number of staff involved for SILC: • Total 48 employees 1. Central Staff 2 employees 2. Interviewers 44 employees 3. Controllers 2 employees 4. Operators 0 employees SILC data collection is conducted using a Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method. The questionnaire has been incorporated into CAPI format and is also incorporated logical rules in questions. A series of validations that alert interviewers to inconsistencies during data collection were applied. This method has many advantages as it results in shorter interview duration and in the reduction of data entry errors during fieldwork.
11. Confidentiality	
11.1. Confidentiality - policy	The data collected by INSTAT are considered strictly confidential and used only for statistical purposes and scientific research in accordance with Law no. 17/2018 "On Official Statistics", as well as Law no. 9887, dated 10.03.2008 "Protection of Personal Data". Article 31 of the Law on Official Statistics clearly stipulates that all statistical information collected by INSTAT is confidential and may only be used or published in summary tables such as not to identify the source unit of information.
11.2. Confidentiality - data treatment	Albanian Institute of Statistics protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units. Albania Institute of Statistics takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by Albania Institute of Statistics if and only if: a) These data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation, in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or b) The statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data. The confidential data that are transmitted to Albania Institute of Statistics are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right

	to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task. Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the staff working in Albania Institute of Statistics. The responsibilities of this staff are to recommend and determine: at what level of detail this data can be published and disseminated, so that direct or indirect identification of the statistical unit observed is not possible; anonymity criteria for microdata provided to users; providing researchers with access to confidential data for scientific purposes.
12.Comments	
Annex	