Survey on Income and Living Conditions

Reference Metadata in ESS Standard for Quality Reports Structure

(ESQRS)

Reference Metadata

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1. Contact	
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2. Statistical presentation	
2.1. Data description	The 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 2019/1700, 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. 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).

Severe Material and Social Deprivation Rate (Europe 2030) represents the percentage of persons living in households that cannot afford at least seven out of thirteen deprivation items (6 items related to individual-level deprivation and 7 items related to household-level deprivation).

List of household-level items:

1. Capacity to being confronted with payment arrears (on mortgage or rental payments, utility bills, hire purchase installments or other loan payments);
2. Capacity to afford paying for one-week annual holiday away from home;
3. Capacity to face unexpected expenses of 30.000 ALL;
4. Capacity to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day;
5. Ability to keep home adequately warm;
6. Have access to a car/van for personal use;
7. Replacing worn-out furniture.

List of individual-level items:

1. Having internet connection;
2. Replacing worn-out clothes by some new ones;
3. Having two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all-weather shoes);
4. Spending a small amount of money each week on him/herself;
5. Having regular leisure activities;
6. Getting together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month.

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 (12 months). A person of working age is considered to be a person of the age group 18-64 years according to the Europe 2030 objectives, excluding persons belonging to the age group 18-24 years who are dependent and economically inactive as well as the exception of persons receiving family

	pension and inactive persons aged 60-64 living in households in which the main source of income is pension.
2.5. Statistical unit	Households and persons within a private household. The sampling frame for the new rotational group selected in 2023, 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.
2.8. Time coverage	SILC data coverage has started since 2017, as the first year of the survey. In this ESQRS, the reference year is 2023, covering annual data. Albania constructed the 4-year panel including 2020–2023 data (consolidated files). Income data were collected for a fixed 12-month period. The income reference period used for EU-SILC 2023 was the calendar year 2022.
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: 1. The actual sample size which is the number of sampling units selected in the sample. 2. The achieved sample size which is the number of observed sampling units (household or individual) with an accepted interview.

	3. 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 2023, INSTAT follows strictly the precision requirements set via the prescription of minimum effective sample sizes as specified in the SILC framework regulation 2019/1700. Regarding the information about the minimum effective sample size Albania has: 1. Households- Cross-sectional: 4200 HH. 2. Households- Longitudinal: 3000 HH. 3. Persons aged 16+ Cross-sectional: 11000 individuals. 4. 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 regulation2019/2242. 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 the most appropriate source for the selection of the Albanian SILC sample and served as the sampling frame, from which a total of 9108 households were selected for the Albanian SILC 2023 sample. In this section the attention focuses mainly on the achieved sample size. The achieved sample size for SILC 2023 in Albania is: 1. Rotation 1: 1649. 2. Rotation 2: 1793. 3. Rotation 3: 1855. 4. Rotation 4: 1525. 5. Total sample achieved: 6822.
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 15 May-18 August 2023.
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 2023: 2-CAPI 60.8% and 7- CAPI with proxy 39.2 %. **Proxy interview:** collecting information about an individual from another person rather than from the individual themselves Overall, 39.2% 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 2023 = 35.4 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 regulation2019/2242. 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 DocSILC065 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: 1. Governmental institutions; 2. Universities; 3. Non-profit national and international organizations; 4. Businesses; 5. Researchers, students and other similar groups. Internal users are other sectors within INSTAT who use SILC results as inputs to their work.
5.2. User satisfaction	INSTAT organizes an annual survey that measures user satisfaction. The results can be accessed in the 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: Database.
5.3.1. Data completeness - rate	The degree of completeness of the data, for the SILC 2023 is almost 100%. This calculation took in to account the Regulation 2019/1700 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, SILC 2023**

Indicator	Value	Standard error	Confidence interval at 95%		CV (%)
			Lower	Upper	
At-risk-of-poverty rate					
Total	19.75	0.98	17.83	21.67	0.05
Men	19.27	1.00	17.32	21.23	0.05
Women	20.21	1.04	18.17	22.25	0.05
Age group 0-17, total	26.50	1.58	23.40	29.61	0.06
Age group 18-64, total	19.22	1.04	17.18	21.25	0.05
Age group 65+, total	13.76	0.86	12.08	15.44	0.06
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate (AROPE)					
Total	42.07	1.19	39.74	44.40	0.03
Severe material deprivation rate					
Total	34.81	1.16	32.55	37.08	0.03
Low work intensity rate (Age group 18-64, total)					
Total	9.30	0.67	7.99	10.61	0.07

6.3. Non-sampling error	Non-sampling errors are basically of 4 types:

	1. Coverage errors: errors due to divergences existing between the target 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.
6.3.1. Coverage error	Coverage errors include over-coverage, under-coverage and misclassification. 1. Over-coverage: relates either to wrongly classified units that are in fact out of scope, or to units that do not exist in practice. 2. Under-coverage: refers to units not included in the sampling frame 3. 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. 1. Selected addresses: 8834; 2. Eligible addresses: 8108; 3. Eligibility rate: 91.79%.
6.3.1.1. Over-coverage - rate	Over coverage rate of SILC 2023 is 8.21%. Under-coverage and misclassification do not apply.
6.3.1.2. Common units - proportion	Not applicable for SILC.
6.3.2. Measurement error	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.
6.3.3. Non response error	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.
6.3.3.1. Unit non-response - rate	Cross sectional data of SILC 2023

	<table><tr><td colspan="2">Address contact rate (Ra)*</td><td colspan="2">Complete household interviews (Rh)*</td><td colspan="2">Complete personal interviews (Rp)*</td><td colspan="2">Household Non-response rate (NRh)*</td><td colspan="2">Individual non-response rate (NRp)*</td><td colspan="2">Overall individual non-response rate (NRp)*</td></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>99.61</td><td>98.72</td><td>86.82</td><td>77.78</td><td>100.0</td><td>100.0</td><td>13.53</td><td>23.22</td><td>0.0</td><td>0.0</td><td>13.53</td><td>23.22</td></tr></table> A* - Results for the total sample, B* - Results for the new part of the sample
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 2019/2242. Item non-response rate is provided for the main income variables both at household and personal level.
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. 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.
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: 1. A new classification is implemented (e.g. economic activities); 2. There are methodological differences; 3. 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 2023.
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 2023 data are published 1 year + 348 days after the end of the reference period. The reference period of the results of SILC 2023 is 31 December 2022.
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	The results of the SILC publication are released according to the publication calendar, which is published annually on the INSTAT website. The publication of the 2023 AANJ was carried out on 13.12.2024.
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 2023. CC2= Jlast-Jfirst+1=7years.
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.

	Data coherence is assessed by comparing EU-SILC results with other statistical and administrative data sources in order to verify the consistency and completeness of the collected information. 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 2023 are comparable and consistent with the years 2020, 2021, 2022.
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 2023 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: Database.
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	Number of staffs involved for SILC: 1. Central Staff: 3 employees 2. Interviewers: 49 employees 3. Controllers: 3 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. 124/2024 on the 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: 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

	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	