

Roundtable discussion

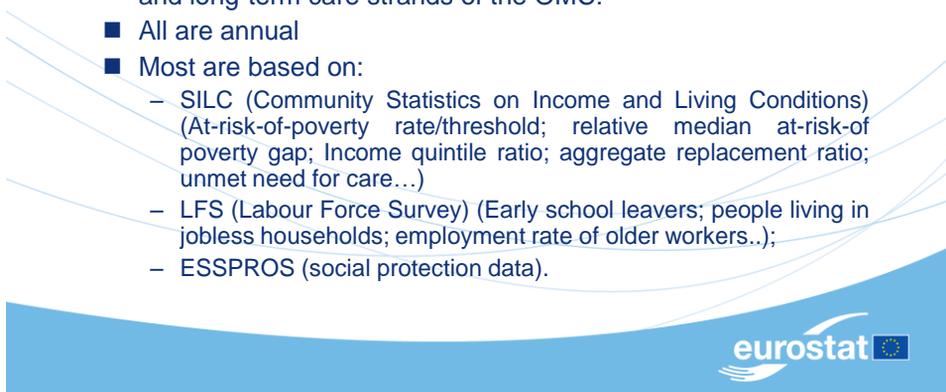
How best to monitor the effects of the financial crisis on vulnerable groups of society'

OECD – 18 March 2009



Current set of EU indicators on poverty, inequality and social exclusion suitable to monitor short-term developments in household conditions?

- Set of indicators used at EU level under the OMC (Open Method of Coordination on Social Inclusion and Social Protection) includes 14 overarching indicators and three portfolios for the for the social inclusion, pensions and health and long-term care strands of the OMC:
 - All are annual
 - Most are based on:
 - SILC (Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) (At-risk-of-poverty rate/threshold; relative median at-risk-of poverty gap; Income quintile ratio; aggregate replacement ratio; unmet need for care...)
 - LFS (Labour Force Survey) (Early school leavers; people living in jobless households; employment rate of older workers..);
 - ESSPROS (social protection data).



Current set of EU indicators on poverty, inequality and social exclusion suitable to monitor short-term developments in household conditions?

■ Timing of data availability for these three EU data sources:

- EU-SILC
 - Data of year N (income of N-1): available at the end of December N+1
- EU-LFS – quarterly/annual data
 - Data of year N available at the end of March N+1
- ESSPROS
 - Data of year N available at the end of October N+2

■ The usual common indicators are not sufficiently reactive in a context of rapid change



Current set of EU indicators on poverty, inequality and social exclusion suitable to monitor short-term developments in household conditions?

■ Limitation of scope/target population/sample sizes of these three EU data sources:

- EU-SILC
 - Homeless and people living in institutions are excluded
 - Some specific population under-represented (migrants..)
 - Sample sizes: around 400.000 persons for the EU as a whole - limited possibility for regional analysis
- EU-LFS
 - Homeless and people living in institutions are excluded
 - Limited information on income (only monthly take-home pay from main job)
- ESSPROS
 - Data on total receipts/expenditure and on number of pensions' beneficiaries only



What additional data and indicators should NSIs be collecting to provide more up-to-date information on these aspects?

■ On the basis of household/individual surveys

- Labour indicators (Early school leavers; people living in jobless households; employment rate of older workers): use the quarterly data available 12 weeks after the reference quarter (data of the 4th quarter of 2008 will be available at the end of March 2009)
- Income based indicators (At-risk-of-poverty rate):
 - Add income in the quarterly LFS: difficult (not impossible)
 - Produce quick results on the basis of SILC:
 - sub-sample: too small sample size - treatment of income components takes time
 - Redesign of SILC (same fieldwork period in all countries (first semester) and production of a more timely at-risk-of poverty rate based on a limited set of current income questions and financial stress)

What additional data and indicators should NSOs be collecting to provide more up-to-date information on these aspects?

■ On the basis of administrative data

- *Minimum income*
 - Number of beneficiaries of minimum income
 - Combined with ad-hoc national surveys (such as the French survey on beneficiaries of the RMI) to get information on the household background of this population
- *Housing*
 - Number of repossessions
 - Requests and waiting time for social housing
- *Over-indebtedness*
 - Number of "non-performing" loans
 - Debts linked to utility bills (Arrears linked to utility bills included in SILC).

Role could international organisations could play in ensuring that good practises are identified and disseminated?

- SPC/DG EMPL (European Commission DG in charge of employment and social affairs) already active
 - First Joint assessment by the SPC and the European Commission of the social impact of the economic crisis and of policy responses gives an overview of the MS challenges and policy responses
 - Monthly monitor by DG EMPL in the form of a short publication 'EU employment situation and social outlook'
- Eurostat
 - Discussion and exchange of good practises in international meeting (Working Group/Directors of Social Statistics of the NSIs)