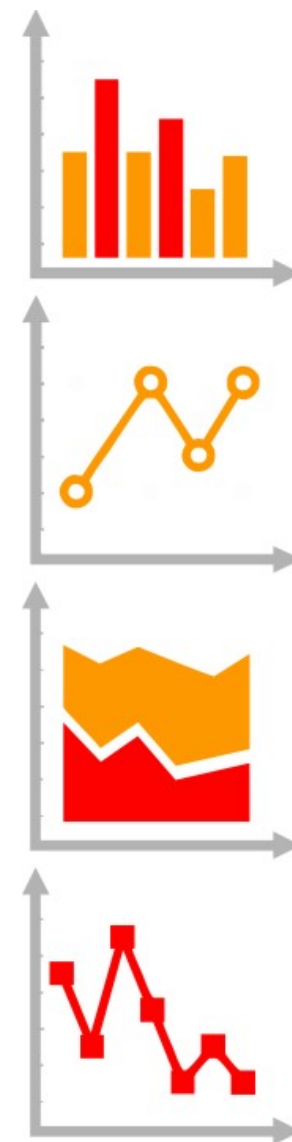


# The French Survey on Income and Living Conditions

Harmonization, integration and  
redesign issues



# EU-SILC in the European Union

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## ◆ Purpose of the survey

- Measurement of monetary poverty
- Measurement of material deprivations
- Distribution of income

## ◆ Survey under regulation

- Regulation 1177/2003 concerning Community statistics on income and living conditions
- Forthcoming new regulation on household surveys (IESS regulation) by the end of this year

# The current regulation

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## ◆ The regulation provides:

- Definitions for core variables of the survey
  - Income, household members, etc.
- Fieldwork and imputation procedures
- Sampling and tracing rules
- Expected content of the quality reports
- A list of domains and variables for the secondary modules

## ◆ The countries are expected to apply these rules but:

- The derogation regime allows some of them to adapt the survey to the national context
- Beyond the common framework, much room left for conducting the survey
  - No blueprint questionnaire for instance
  - *Ex-post* harmonization as a general rule

# The forthcoming regulation

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- ◆ The new regulation should extend the framework to other household surveys (HBS, TUS, etc.) along with already regulated ones (SILC, LFS, AES, EHIS, ICT)
- ◆ Purpose: merging the existing regulations framework into a single one
- ◆ Regarding SILC, some foreseen consequences:
  - Possible modification of the panel time span
  - Definition of a set of variables common to other surveys
  - Revision of the secondary modules
  - Demand on the level of precision of the survey, for both cross-sectional and longitudinal indicators
  - More importantly: improved timeliness (9 months earlier for the final data)
- ◆ A possibly moving content, as the regulation has not been adopted by the European parliament yet
- ◆ The rationale for the redesign of FR-SILC

# The current implementation

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- ◆ **Data collection varies across countries**
- ◆ **Sampling frames: addresses, dwellings, households, individuals**
- ◆ **Data collection varies as well:**
  - Registers for a limited number of countries (FI, DK, SE)
  - Different modes of collection (CAPI, CATI, PAPI)
- ◆ **Fieldwork periods may also be different:**
  - For most of the countries, during S1 with a duration ranging between 3 and 5 months
  - In some cases: the fieldwork may last up to 1 year

# The current implementation (cont'd)

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- ◆ **Imputation methods may also vary, as countries are left free to choose the method that best fits**
- ◆ **Re-weighting is also a source of heterogeneity**
  - **Sampling designs may greatly vary, as countries do not face the same sampling frames**
  - **Post-stratification is not handled the same way in every country, in particular with respect to calibration on income margins or not**

# The target population

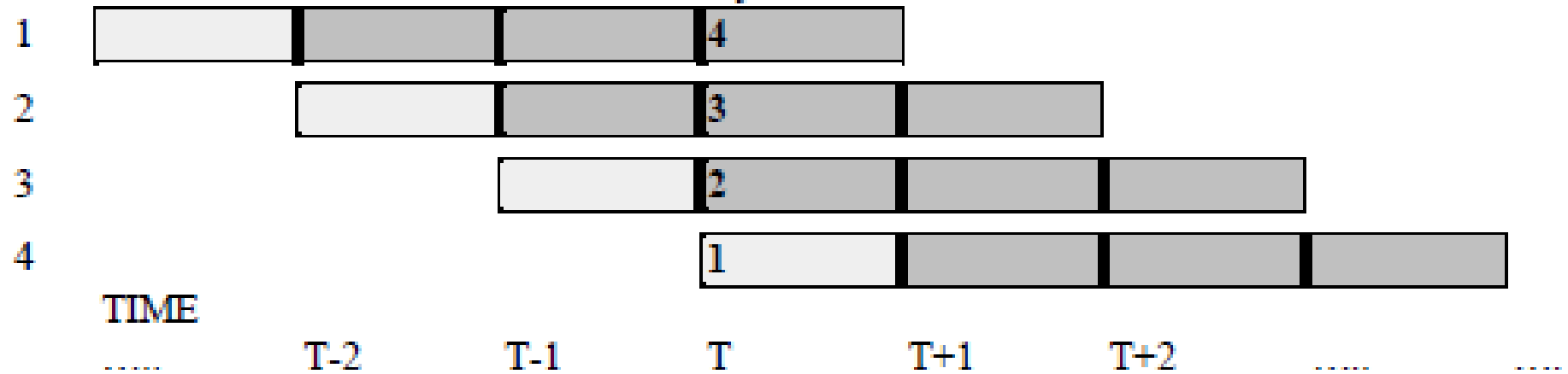
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- ◆ **As defined in the current regulation, the scope is on private households**
- ◆ **A household is defined as:**
  - **A group of persons living in the same private dwelling**
  - **Sharing expenditures (same “budget”)**
- ◆ **Personal interview for individuals aged 16+**
  - **Questions on individual sources of income (wages, pensions, etc.) + personal and professional history, health, well-being, etc.**
  - **Proxies allowed**

# The panel

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## SUCCESSIVE PANELS OF LIMITED DURATION SAMPLE





# The tracing rules

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- ◆ The panel consists of the follow-up of respondents at the 1<sup>st</sup> wave
- ◆ Eurostat sets a list of tracing rules (with a certain degree of freedom)
  - Individuals aged 14+ are to be traced ('sample person')
  - Any household where a 'sample person' has to be interviewed (and personal interviews as well for any individual aged 16+)
  - Sample persons having left the country or living permanently in institution have to be dropped out
- ◆ The degree of freedom
  - In many countries, tracing rules are applied *strictu sensu*
  - FR goes beyond
    - Individuals less than 14 are also 'sample persons' (and even children born after the 1<sup>st</sup> wave and whose mother is a sample person)
      - Possibly modified after redesign
    - Sample persons may be traced for up to 9 years (8 in NO, 4 in all other countries)
      - Also possibly modified after redesign

# Panel and integration

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- ◆ **As stated in the current regulation, the only constraint is that “all household and personal data (should) be linkable”**
- ◆ **A general framework: the ‘rotational design’**
  - **Co-existence of sub-samples similar in size and target population**
  - **Every sub-sample is a 4-year panel and serve the longitudinal estimations**
  - **At time T, all sub-samples in SILC serve also the cross-sectional estimations**
- ◆ **A challenge for re-weighting**
  - **At the cross-sectional level, the co-existence of several sub-samples referring to the same population may be solved with panel techniques (“weight sharing”)**
  - **The implementation of a panel is then carried out at the expense of a loss in precision for cross-sectional estimation**

# Harmonization

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- ◆ The forthcoming regulation should not change much in terms of harmonization
- ◆ EU-SILC methodology remains largely country-specific
- ◆ Nevertheless, Eurostat coordinates a number of initiatives regarding harmonization:
  - Workshops on good practices for EU-SILC are organised, involving Member States
    - Timeliness in 2015
    - Multi-mode and micro-simulation in 2016
  - User conferences are regularly organised by Eurostat, in order to gather data producers and users
  - Once good practices or desirable features (such as small area estimation) are identified, Eurostat may help through financing grants
  - Research network using EU-SILC (NETSILC 1, 2, 3...)
- ◆ The situation with a regulation (even covering not all aspects of the survey) is far better than gentlemen agreements (see HBS and others)

# The current implementation in France

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## ◆ The sample size:

- 16 000 households at the beginning, around 3 000 as “refreshment” sample every year
- Around 11 000 households in the final sample, 26 000 individuals

## ◆ The target population: private households living in France, excluding oversea territories (as for now)

## ◆ Data collection: CAPI

## ◆ Response rate:

- Around 70% at the first wave
- Around 85-90% at waves 2-4
- 75% up to 85% at waves 5-9

# The redesign of FR-SILC (or SRCV)

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- ◆ **Taking advantage of the forthcoming IESS regulation, a redesign of the French survey has been undertaken**
- ◆ **It aims at:**
  - **Improving the timeliness, so as to meet the future requirements**
  - **Improving the accuracy of the survey, so as to meet the requirements**
  - **Taking on board the new variables that should be set in the future regulation**

# The redesign of FR-SILC (cont'd)

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- ◆ Different work streams, one general idea
- ◆ The idea: a more parsimonious implementation, more centred on the European demand
- ◆ The work streams:
  - Redesign of the questionnaire, aiming at limiting the response burden
  - Simplification of the data collection process
  - More parsimonious, transparent and clear statistical processing (in terms of imputation, re-weighting and data management)
  - Improvement of the documentation of the whole production chain, both externally and internally

# The redesign of FR-SILC (cont'd)

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- ◆ After a round of consultations, the questionnaire has been redesigned and is currently under development
- ◆ The process for re-weighting will be audited and simplified, as well as imputation
- ◆ A round of external consultation among users has been launched regarding the documentation of the User DataBase
- ◆ The panel time span will be shortened down to 4/6 years, depending of the final regulation and the effect on precision
- ◆ The fieldwork will be moved ahead to the beginning of the year, so as to gain some time
- ◆ Precision should be largely improved thanks to Insee's new sampling frame, based on fiscal data

# The redesign of FR-SILC (cont'd)

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## ◆ The schedule:

- **Fall 2018:** a first test will be run on a sample of 400 households, so as to test the questionnaire implementation and the data collection process
- **Summer 2019:** a second test will be conducted among respondents of the first test, so as to test the longitudinal aspect of the questionnaire
- **S2 2018 – S2019:** methodological investigations for the different statistical processes (re-weighting, imputations)
- **February 2020:** beginning of the fieldwork for the new FR-SILC 2020
- **November 2020:** transmission of the first dataset (w/o income)

## ◆ In case you read French: stay tuned with our newsletter!



# The French Survey on Income and Living Conditions

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## Thanks for your attention

## Some questions?



**Pierre Lamarche**  
Responsible for the  
redesign of SILC  
Division Household  
Income and Wealth  
+33 (0) 1 87 69 63 80  
[pierre.lamarche@insee.fr](mailto:pierre.lamarche@insee.fr)

**Insee**  
DG