

### Private household concepts and their operationalisation in national and international social surveys

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Jürgen H. P. Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik  
Uwe Warner

Private Household Concepts  
and their Operationalisation  
in National and International  
Social Surveys

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and Uwe Warner  
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## **Preface**

by Peter Ph. Mohler

This first volume of the GESIS-ZUMA Series on *Survey Methodology* discusses a crucial socio-demographic indicator: 'private household'. It comes to no surprise that nearly every EU-member state defines this indicator in a specific fashion reflecting cultural and socioeconomic structures.

As valid as such an approach might be for within-nation analyses the diverse definitions hamper comparison across the European Union. For instance, household composition or household size can have large effects on computations of 'household income' or 'socioeconomic status' of households. National mean income and other indicators will shift, if one applies a different household definition. Moreover, control of variations due to definitions is very hard to do statistically, indeed.

We invite readers to follow Jürgen Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik and Uwe Warner in their journey across European statistical thinking. In our view, their work is a major step forward towards a harmonized, valid, and robust instrument measuring 'household' in a scientifically comparative way across Europe.

Their work is closely linked to other publications on comparative survey methodology in the ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial series, which is now replaced by the new series on Survey Methodology.

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## **Problem formulation**

A country's operational definition of the private household concept is shaped by its national culture. Each definition embodies a particular structure, and different definitions lead in turn to different structures with different compositions of the group definable as a household and, thus, to different private household sizes.

In a national survey this is considered to be immaterial because

- firstly, provided they share a common culture, it is assumed that all participants in the survey (researchers, interviewers and target persons) consider private household in exactly the same way, and
- secondly, by applying a design weight (1 divided by the number of population members in the private household), one can redress sampling biases which occur when using the Kish table to randomly select the target person in the household.

In principle, therefore, a different definition of household is irrelevant when drawing the sample, so long as the size of the household is known. Nor is a different household size initially of relevance at the analysis stage provided the aim of the survey is to examine individual attitudes. However, the definition of household – and the resultant variation in household size – is indeed relevant when the analysis focuses on the structure in which the individual is embedded. This is particularly evident when the aim is to measure sociological variables which have a significant effect on the defined composition of private households:

- household income and
- socio-economic status (SES) of the household.

The composition of the private household plays a role with regard to household income since the latter can vary considerably depending on the number of persons who contribute to it and the composition of household income types in question. This cannot be corrected using equivalence income because if, in one case, a person with a high income and a person with a low income (e.g. father and son) constitute a household and, in another case, these two persons constitute two separate households, this leads, at the level of society, to different income distributions.

The problem is similar in the case of socio-economic status when the person in the private household with the highest status determines the status of the group as a whole. If, for example, two people (father and son) of unequal social status share a household, both share the higher

status, whereas in separate households one person has a higher and one person a lower status.

With regard to the sociological variables *household income* and *SES*, the composition of the household and, therefore, the definition by means of which this composition is determined, is of central importance. This is because the definition of the private household embeds a target person into a specific social context. Unlike the selection of target individuals, the structural differences which arise as a result of different definitions of private household cannot be statistically corrected. For this reason it is important

- either to be aware of the definition of private household used and to use this knowledge to interpret correctly the data in a cross-cultural comparison or, ideally,
- to succeed in harmonising the definition of private household. However, harmonisation cannot mean that the respondents from all participant cultures must adopt the definition used by one selected culture. Because, even in a national context, it is likely that, in the case of a tacitly understood private household concept, researchers, interviewers and respondents nonetheless have different definitions and, accordingly, different perceptions of household composition. Indeed, even among respondents, there is probably no consensus as to what private household means.

In the present paper we address the following questions:

- (1) In what way do definitions of private household differ across European countries?  
 How do the EU member states define the concept?  
 What are the central elements of these national definitions?  
 How does the European Union define the private household concept it uses?
- (2) What structure is behind the individual definitions of private household?  
 ... theoretically?  
 ... in surveys: census, micro-census, European Community Household Panel (ECHP) and the European Social Survey (ESS) in comparison?  
 What different definitions of private household are to be found in the ESS national questionnaires?  
 What different definitions of private household are to be found among the various survey participants: respondents and interviewers?
- (3) What influence do private households of different composition (census, micro-census, ECHP and ESS in comparison) have on

... the household income,  
... the SES of a private household?

- (4) What should an attempt at harmonising the concept of private household for the purpose of national and international comparison look like?

## **1. Differences in the definition of private household**

Almost every culture defines private household in a different way. As a result, there are almost as many definitions of household as there are countries in Europe, although cultural similarities between countries do give rise to similar definitions. However, taken as a whole, the various definitions comprise only a small handful of elements which can be classified according to pattern.

The following definitions used by 16 EU member states show that very different elements are used when defining private household. As a result, almost every country has its own national-culture-oriented definition. Some countries make do with just one defining dimension – either co-residence or family (in Italy). However, most employ two defining criteria: on the one hand, a dimension for common housekeeping and on the other a co-residence dimension. With the second dimension limiting the first, the circle of people belonging to the private household is reduced and specified. Apart from Italy, where a private household is synonymous with a family, household and family differ insofar as the precondition for a private household is not that the members be related by blood, marriage, adoption or guardianship. Hence, any group of people sharing a common dwelling who fulfil the criteria of the definition count as a private household. Moreover, problematical groups such as students and weekly commuters are often assigned to a private household. One feature which distinguishes a private household from a family is that a household can be a one-person unit whereas a family cannot.

The definitions of private household employed by 16 EU member states are given below. They are followed by three definitions used by the European Commission for a number of Europe-wide projects such as

- the Household Budget Survey (HBS), which is the original source of all the definitions of household which the Commission uses,
- the European Community Household Panel (ECHP) and
- the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC).

The ECHP and the EU-SILC are two of the main EU socio-economic surveys. It is interesting to note that Europe, too, has a problem gaining acceptance for a generally binding definition of private household. The most recent survey, the EU-SILC, contains a footnote to the effect that member states may continue to use their respective national definition (European Commission 2003a).

## 1.1 Different definitions of private household in EU member states

The following definitions of private household used by 16 EU member states show the different defining elements.

### Austria:

Ein Haushalt besteht entweder aus einer einzelnen Person oder aus zwei oder mehreren Personen, die gemeinsam eine Wohnung oder Teile einer Wohnung bewohnen und eine gemeinsame Hauswirtschaft führen. Hinzu kommen Personen, die nur vorübergehend abwesend sind, z.B. weil sie im Internat, auf Urlaub oder im Krankenhaus sind. Verwandtschaftsbeziehungen spielen für die Abgrenzung eines Haushalts keine Rolle. Nicht als Haushaltsmitglieder zählen Gäste. Anstaltshaushalte (Pflegeheime, Gefängnisse, etc.) sind ausgenommen. Die "Haushaltsgröße" entspricht somit der Zahl der in der Wohnung lebenden Personen, einschließlich nur kurzfristig abwesender Personen.

Source: Statistik Austria, 2006

### Czech Republic:

Individuals living in the same dwelling with common expenses.

Source: *Census 2001 (IECM and IPUMS, 2006)*

### Denmark

A household is defined as one or more persons registered at the same address in the Central Population Register.

Source: *Statistics Denmark (26-03-07)*

### England:

A household comprises either one person living alone or a group of people, who may or may not be related, living (or staying temporarily) at the same address, with common housekeeping, who either share at least one meal a day or share common living accommodation (i.e. a living room or sitting room). Resident domestic servants are included. Members of a household are not necessarily related by blood or marriage.

Source: *Thomas, 1999*

### France:

Ménage ordinaire: L'ensemble des personnes résidant dans un logement est appelé conventionnellement "ménage". Un ménage peut donc être constitué aussi bien par une personne vivant seule que par un ensemble plus complexe, non nécessairement lié par des liens de



parenté (exemple : le père, la mère, le fils, la belle-fille et leurs enfants, un pensionnaire et une domestique).

Les ménages comprenant au moins une famille sont dits ménages familiaux.

*Source: Centre Maurice Halbwachs*

#### Germany:

Als Haushalt (Privathaushalt) zählt jede zusammenwohnende und eine wirtschaftliche Einheit bildende Personengemeinschaft sowie Personen, die allein wohnen und wirtschaften (z.B. Einzeluntermieter). Zum Haushalt können verwandte und familienfremde Personen gehören (z.B. Hauspersonal). Gemeinschafts- und Anstaltsunterkünfte gelten nicht als Haushalte, können aber Privathaushalte beherbergen (z.B. Haushalt des Anstaltsleiters). Haushalte mit mehreren Wohnungen werden unter Umständen mehrfach gezählt (s. Bevölkerung in Privathaushalten).

Die Zahl der Haushalte stimmt mit derjenigen der Familien nicht überein, weil es bei Haushalten zu Doppelzählungen kommen kann. Ferner ist zu beachten, dass in einem Haushalt mehrere Familien wohnen können.

*Source: Statistisches Bundesamt, 1998*

#### Greece:

Individuals living in the same dwelling and sharing at least one meal.

*Source: Census 2001 (IECM and IPUMS, 2006)*

#### Hungary:

A (private) household is a group of persons living together in a common housing unit or in a part of it, bearing together, at least partly, the costs of living (i.e. daily expenses, meals). Persons living in the same dwelling but on the basis of independent tenure status, are not considered as persons living in the same household even if the above conditions are fulfilled. Consequently, owners or tenants (partner tenants) do not form a common household with their subtenant, night-lodger, the former persons (the members of a family, if so) always are grouped as an independent household.

*Source: Census 2001 (IECM and IPUMS, 2006)*

#### Ireland:

A private household comprises either one person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping arrangements – that is, sharing at least one meal a day or sharing a living room or sitting room.

A permanent private household is a private household occupying a permanent dwelling such as a dwelling house, flat or bedsitter.

A temporary private household is a private household occupying a caravan, mobile home or other temporary dwelling and includes travelling people and homeless persons living rough on census night.

*Source: Census 2002 (Central Statistics Office Ireland, 2002)*

#### Italy:

Famiglia: E' costituita da un insieme di persone legate da vincoli di matrimonio, parentela, affinità, adozione, tutela o da vincoli affettivi, coabitanti ed aventi dimora abituale nello stesso comune (anche se non sono ancora iscritte nell'anagrafe della popolazione residente del comune medesimo). Una famiglia può essere costituita anche da una sola persona. L'assente temporaneo non cessa di appartenere alla propria famiglia sia che si trovi presso altro alloggio (o convivenza) dello stesso comune, sia che si trovi in un altro comune italiano o all'estero. La definizione di famiglia adottata per il censimento è quella contenuta nel regolamento anagrafico.

*Source: Census 2001 (Istat)*

#### Luxembourg:

Le ménage est constitué, soit par une personne vivant habituellement seule, soit par deux ou plusieurs personnes qui, unies ou non par des liens de famille, résident habituellement dans une même demeure et y ont une vie commune.

Seront considérées comme faisant partie du ménage les personnes temporairement absentes au moment du recensement.

Les domestiques, les employés et les ouvriers qui habitent chez leur employeur font partie du ménage de celui-ci; toutefois si ces personnes retournent au moins une fois par semaine dans leur ménage, elles font partie de ce dernier.

Les ménages sont classés en deux catégories: a) les ménages collectifs, b) les ménages privés

*Source: STATEC 2003*

#### Norway:

A private household is defined as individuals that share food, meaning that they either do not pay for their food or that they share expenses for food. The definition does not require that they eat at the same times or that they are related.

Persons will be considered as household members if they spend most of their nights at the address of the household.

*Source: Andersen, Normann and Ugreninov (26-03-07)*

**Portugal:****Agregado Doméstico Privado:**

Definição: Conjunto de pessoas que residem no mesmo alojamento e cujas despesas fundamentais ou básicas (alimentação, alojamento) são suportadas conjuntamente, independentemente da existência ou não de laços de parentesco; ou a pessoa que ocupa integralmente um alojamento ou que, partilhando-o com outros, não satisfaz a condição anterior.

Notas: Os hóspedes com pensão alimentar, os casais residindo com os pais e os filhos/hóspedes, bem como outras pessoas, são incluídos no agregado doméstico privado, desde que as despesas fundamentais ou básicas (alimentação, alojamento) sejam, habitualmente, suportadas por um orçamento comum. São ainda considerados como pertencentes ao agregado doméstico privado o(a)s empregados domésticos que coabitem no alojamento.

*Source: Instituto Nacional de Estatística, 2003*

**Romania:**

Persons living together, generally relatives, with a common income and expenditure budget

*Source: Census 2002 (IECM and IPUMS, 2006)*

**Slovenia:**

A household is a group of people living together and sharing their income for covering the basic costs of living (accommodation, food, other consumer goods, etc.) or a person living alone.

*Source: Census 2002 (IECM and IPUMS, 2006)*

**Spain:**

Se considera hogar al conjunto de personas que residen habitualmente en la misma vivienda. Las diferencias entre hogar y familia son:

- a) El hogar puede ser unipersonal, mientras que la familia tiene que constar, por lo menos, de dos miembros.
- b) Los miembros de un hogar multipersonal no tienen necesariamente que estar emparentados, mientras que los miembros de una familia sí.

*Source: Census 2001 (Instituto Nacional de Estadística de España 12-07-06)*

## 1.2 Central elements of the definition of private household in EU member states

A closer look at the various definitions of private household reveals four separate elements:

- common housekeeping in a financial sense
- common housekeeping in an organisational sense
- co-residence
- family.

The operationalisation of the housekeeping dimension yields ten categories, five for the superordinate concept of housekeeping in a financial sense and five for the concept of housekeeping in an organisational sense, thereby providing a multi-faceted picture of a private household. The operationalisation of the residential dimension also yields five categories. Family can be operationalised in two ways: firstly via the degree of legal relationship by blood, marriage etc, and secondly via affective ties. Table 1 shows the 17 categories which can be extracted from the definitions given above.

Table 1: Operationalisations of private household: dimensions and categories

	Dimension	Category
1.	Housekeeping: financial	
1.1		share common budget
1.2		share income
1.3		share expenses
1.4		share costs of living (partly or in full)
1.5		contribute jointly to essentials of living
2.	Housekeeping: organisational	
2.1		common housekeeping,
2.2		common living room
2.3		share food
2.4		share meals
		a) daily / b) at least once a week
2.5		common living arrangements

Dimension	Category
3. (Co-)Residence	
3.1	live together
3.2	share a dwelling
3.3	have the same address
3.4	the same address in the population register
3.5	the address where most nights are spent
4. Family	
4.1	degree of legal relationship by blood, marriage, adoption or guardianship
4.2	affective ties

In Table 2, the 16 national definitions quoted above are expressed in terms of the categories from Table 1.

Table 2: Definitions of private household in 16 EU member states

Country	Categories	included
all except Italy		all persons living alone; where there is more than one person, irrespective of whether related or not, the defining categories employed are:
Austria	2.1 (until 1991) + 3.2 (since 2001)	common housekeeping and share dwelling
Czech Republic	1.3 + 3.2	share expenses and dwelling
Denmark	3.4	registered at the same address
England	2.4a + 3.3  or: 2.2 + 3.3	share meal (daily) plus living together alternatively: common living room plus same address
France	3.2	share a dwelling
Germany	1.1 + 3.1	common budget and live together
Greece	2.4b + 3.2	share meal (at least once a week) and dwelling
Hungary	1.4 + 3.1	share costs of living and dwelling

Country	Categories	included
Ireland, Republic	2.4a + 3.3 or: 2.2 + 3.3	share meal (daily) and same address alternatively: common living room and same address
Italy	4	family (irrespective of common dwelling)
Luxembourg	2.5 + 3.2	common living arrangements and share dwelling
Austria	2.1 (until 1991) + 3.2 (since 2001)	common housekeeping and share dwelling
Norway	2.3 + 3.5	share food plus: the address where most nights are spent
Portugal	1.1 + 3.2 1.3 + 3.2	share common budget and dwelling alternatively: share expenses and dwelling
Romania	1.2 + 3.1	share income and live together
Slovenia	1.2 + 3.1	share income and live together
Spain	3.2	share dwelling

Where a pair of categories (one from the housekeeping dimension and one from the residential dimension) are used for categorisation purposes, there are 50 possible category pairs. If one subsumes under co-residence all the categories which can be paraphrased using the term "the same address", this leaves 30 pairs of categories. None of these pairs is used by more than two countries in their national definition. Even when the 10 categories on the housekeeping dimension are subsumed under the two categories common housekeeping in a financial sense and common housekeeping in an organisational sense, this leaves six matrix cells, of which only one has four entries.

When one also considers all those countries that define private household using only one category, it becomes evident that the number of necessary definitions cannot be reduced to three or four. The diversity of cultures and of national statistical offices yields a correspondingly broad range of definitions which cannot be reduced by making the definition less restrictive.

### 1.3 Central elements of the different definitions of private household used in European Commission projects

On the level of official European statistics, different definitions of private household are used, depending on the survey in question. We will deal here with

- (a) the Household Budget Survey (HBS), whose definition of household is used as a reference for most Eurostat projects,
- (b) the European Community Household Panel (ECHP), from the point of view of European social researchers the first major comparative socio-economic project. Being input harmonised, it allowed participant countries little scope to use their own definitions, and
- (c) the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) project, a cross-sectional survey which replaced the ECHP after eight waves. It is the European Union's current socio-economic project.

Household Budget Survey (HBS):

"The basic unit of data collection and analysis in Household Budget surveys is the household. Increasingly restrictive definitions of what constitutes a household can be achieved by adding criteria from (1) to (4) below:

- (1) Co-residence (living together in the same dwelling unit)
- (2) Sharing of expenditures including joint provision of essentials of living
- (3) Pooling of income and resources
- (4) The existence of family or emotional ties"

*Source: European Commission & Eurostat, 2003*

Of these four criteria, Eurostat considers the first two to be the central ones to isolate the units which are important for measuring income, expenditures and consumption.

European Community Household Panel (ECHP)

"For the purpose of the ECHP, a household is defined at the Community level in terms of two criteria:

- the sharing of the same dwelling,
- and the common living arrangements.

All individuals considered by the household to form part of the household are taken into account, even if they are temporarily absent for reasons of work, study or sickness."

*Source: Eurostat 1996*

## EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC)

"A person shall be considered as a usually resident member of the household if he/she spends most of his/her daily rest there, evaluated over the past six months. Persons forming new households or joining existing households shall normally be considered as members at their new location; similarly, those leaving to live elsewhere shall no longer be considered as members of the original household. The abovementioned 'past six month' criteria shall be replaced by the intention to stay for a period of six months or more at the new place of residence."

The following is a list of the persons who, "if they share household expenses, (must) be regarded as members of the household:

- (1) persons usually resident, related to other members;
- (2) persons usually resident, not related to other members;
- (3) resident boarders, lodgers, tenants;
- (4) visitors;
- (5) live-in domestic servants, au-pairs;
- (6) persons usually resident, but temporarily absent from the dwelling (for reasons of holiday travel, work, education or similar);
- (7) children of the household being educated away from home;
- (8) persons absent for long periods, but having household ties: persons working away from home;
- (9) persons temporarily absent but having household ties: persons in hospital, nursing homes or other institutions.

Further conditions for inclusion as household members are as follows:

- (a) Categories 3, 4 and 5:

Such persons must currently have no private address elsewhere; or their actual or intended duration of stay must be six months or more.

- (b) Category 6:

Such persons must currently have no private address elsewhere and their actual or intended duration of absence from the household must be less than six months.

Categories 7 and 8:

Irrespective of the actual or intended duration of absence, such persons must currently have no private address elsewhere, must be the partner or child of a household member and must continue to retain close ties with the household and must consider this address to be his/her main residence.



(c) Category 9:

Such persons must have clear financial ties to the household and must be actually or prospectively absent from the household for less than six months."

Eurostat does, however, allow exceptions, as indicated in the following footnote:

"Those Member States using in EU-SILC the common household definition defined in their national statistical system, shall be allowed to define the 'household membership' according to that definition."

*Source: European Commission 2003a*

One criterion used in HBS and ECHP, and probably also in EU-SILC, is the sharing of the same dwelling. However, each of the three surveys formulates this criterion differently. HBS: "Co-residence (living together in the same dwelling unit)", ECHP: "the sharing of the same dwelling", EU-SILC: "resident". In EU-SILC, however, the term resident is restricted further: "... if he/she spends most of his/her daily rest there". The surveys differ with regard to the second criterion employed: HBS stresses expenditures for the essentials of living, whereas ECHP emphasises common living arrangements. Both second criteria serve to delimit the number of persons in the "same dwelling", but each does so in a slightly different way.

## **2. The structures underlying the individual definitions of private household**

Having determined that the diversity of the definitions of private household cannot be reduced by standardisation, we shall now endeavour to uncover the structures which underlie the definitions in order to determine whether it is possible to harmonise the term private household. For this purpose, we shall limit the range of private household definitions to those of six countries, each representing a different definition type: Denmark, England, France, Germany, Italy and Luxembourg. Firstly, we shall determine what types of household are covered by the respective definitions. In a second step we shall use data from the European Social Survey (ESS) and the European Community Household Panel (ECHP) to uncover the structures concealed in the empirical data and to investigate whether these differ from the expected structures.

### **2.1 Theoretically possible private household structures**

The address as a defining element of private household means that the persons constituting a household may be spread over several dwellings located at the same address. Where the dwelling, as opposed to the address, is a defining element, the number of persons constituting a household is restricted to those who share a common dwelling unit entrance door. Both the address and the dwelling are clearly defined units to which a number of persons can objectively be assigned. However, a private household which is defined via a spatial unit can be further specified using an additional restricting criterion.

Most countries' definitions feature both a spatial and an economic criterion. Two possibilities come into question:

- (a) different monetary units, defined in a way which is meaningful in the country concerned and
- (b) different organisational units, also defined in a country-specific way.

Living together and common housekeeping define in a very exact way the group which constitutes a private household. However, living together, determined by a common address, although clearly defined and delimitable, is more difficult to capture empirically than where it is defined in terms of the spatial unit "dwelling".

Except in the case of an exclusively spatial definition in terms of an entry in an address-based population register, the assignment of temporarily

absent or present persons to a household represents a problem. Their inclusion usually requires a second criterion, for example economic dependence. As an alternative to a second criterion, the household definition can be supplemented by instructions which describe how specific groups should be dealt with. Persons who are difficult to assign include trainees, students, boarding school pupils, conscripts and those doing civilian service, weekly commuters, workers absent from home on construction jobs and seasonal workers. The temporary absences of these groups vary in length and interval.

The definitions of private household in the six selected countries differ considerably from one another and, therefore, provide an overview of the range of criteria employed. Denmark takes the address and France the dwelling as the central defining element. In addition to the spatial aspect (address or dwelling), Germany, England and Luxembourg use a further criterion to delimit common housekeeping. And Italy defines private household in terms of the family (see Table 3).

Table 3: Selection of countries for the analysis of the structure of a private household

Country	Category	included
Denmark	3.4	registered under the same address
France	3.2	share dwelling
Luxembourg	2.5 + 3.2	common living arrangements, plus share dwelling
Germany	1.1 + 3.1	common budget, plus live together
England	2.4a/2.2 + 3.3	meal (daily) or common living room plus the same address
Italy	4	family (irrespective of common dwelling)

*Denmark* defines household in terms of the criterion registered at the same address. This means that, depending on the size and the partitioning of the house, there can be several dwellings at one address. Not all population registers are dwelling-unit-based. Therefore, in a house with several dwellings, the assignment of persons to a particular dwelling unit is only possible if a register of dwellings is available. The Danish definition neither distinguishes between address and dwelling unit nor does it equate the two. As a result, not only do the residents of a shared dwelling which is partitioned and rented out room by room become a

dwelling-share (with common living and housekeeping arrangements) but also house communities of all kinds (all residents of a house irrespective of the number of dwelling units) become private households. The assignment of boarding school pupils, students or seasonal workers to private households is done on the basis of population register data.

- Several dwellings = one household;
- connecting element is the common address;
- the number of persons can be large;
- absent pupils, students and seasonal workers are counted in.

*France* defines household in terms of sharing the same dwelling, thereby limiting it to one dwelling. All those residing in the dwelling are assigned to one private household. Since the criterion which specifies the household group is the entrance door to the dwelling, the scope which the French definition offers is smaller than that which the Danish definition would permit, given comparable cultural conditions. However, in France too, no distinction is made between a partitioned dwelling rented out room by room and a dwelling-share with common housekeeping. The assignment of boarding-school pupils, students or seasonal workers to private households requires a second criterion which specifies the minimum periods of absence permitted.

- One dwelling = one household;
- connecting element is the common dwelling;
- the number of persons may go beyond members of economic units;
- absent pupils, students and seasonal workers are not included in the household.

*Luxembourg* defines household in terms of the sharing of the same dwelling and common living arrangements. This means that household is first of all restricted to a dwelling. Within the dwelling, the defining criterion is common living arrangements or membership of a household community. For example, there could be several such communities in a shared dwelling which could each be classified as private households. Since common living arrangements have a large subjective component, a dwelling-share with common housekeeping may be perceived differently depending on the individual resident's point of view. Depending on the prevailing atmosphere, a shared dwelling with a common entrance door may, in one case, constitute a number of small households and, in another instance, it may represent a single household. Weekly commuters are assigned to the household, whereas the classification of boarding school pupils, students and seasonal workers as members of this type of

private household depends on the person's self-assignment to the household community.

- One dwelling = one or several households;
- connecting element is the subjective perception of belonging to a household community within a dwelling;
- while the number of household members is restricted via common living arrangements and co-residence, it is not clearly delimited;
- the inclusion of absent pupils, students and seasonal workers depends on their self-assignment as members.

*Germany* defines household in terms of living together and common housekeeping (in a financial sense). This means that a household is first of all limited to a dwelling and then restricted to an economic unit. As a result, several households may share one dwelling entrance door. Despite a common entrance door, a shared dwelling is regarded as a number of small households consisting of one or two persons (rarely more), with each spatial unit (e.g. room) constituting a separate economic unit. Weekly commuters are classified as members. The assignment of boarding school pupils or seasonal workers to this type of private household depends on a third criterion – either financial dependence or a maximum permitted period of absence.

- One dwelling = one or more households;
- connecting element is common housekeeping within the dwelling;
- the number of members is narrowly restricted by the residential and economic-unit criteria;
- absent pupils, students and seasonal workers cannot be unequivocally assigned.

*England* defines household in terms of the same address and a daily shared meal or, alternatively, a common living room. As a result, a household is first of all restricted to an address. As shown in the case of Denmark, such a household can comprise several dwellings. It is further restricted by the criterion one shared meal daily (or a common living room). A daily shared meal presupposes common housekeeping and a regular daily routine. What connects the members of the household is not a common entrance door to the dwelling but rather the shared regular daily routine. The common living room also supports this view, implying as it does joint social activities. Therefore, a private household can be spread over more than one dwelling on condition that the dwellings are located at the same address and that the various dwelling entrance doors do not interfere with regular common housekeeping. Boarding

school pupils, students and seasonal workers are not included in the household if they do not participate in the daily routine.

- One or more dwellings = one household;
- connecting element is regular common housekeeping at a shared address;
- the number of persons is narrowly restricted by the dwelling and regular housekeeping criteria.
- absent pupils, students and seasonal workers are not included.

*Italy* defines household in terms of the family, irrespective of a common dwelling. This means that, irrespective of whether it lives in a self-contained dwelling, the family is, on the one hand, defined via the degree of legal relationship by blood, marriage etc. On the other hand, affective ties determine inclusion or exclusion. Neither operationalisation of family is precise. As a rule, the family concept which serves as a synonym for household implies spatial proximity and is based on the idea of the atrium where a group delimited by family and affective ties lives together in the immediate vicinity of each other. However, absent pupils, students and seasonal workers are assigned to the household as long as they are emotionally included in the family. Since the group of household members is more or less subjectively defined, the group size cannot objectively be determined. Although this household definition is not dependent on the dwelling or even on spatial proximity, even in Italy modern housing construction exercises a considerable influence on the size of the household group.

- One or more dwellings = one household;
- besides legal family relationship, the connecting element is the existence of affective ties or economic dependence;
- because of the subjective nature of the definition and the possible spread over various spatially distant dwellings, the number of household members is very open-ended;
- as a rule, if not emotionally excluded, pupils, students and seasonal workers are considered members of the household.

As can be seen from the above, every definition can embody a different private household composition. And the less criteria employed in the definition, the more imprecise the household composition is. It is true that the bulk of households will not differ significantly from each other across cultures, at least not where assignment is carried out using two criteria. The widespread standardisation of urban residential construction in

Europe alone sees to that. Nonetheless, to ignore possible differences in household composition represents a violation of comparability rules.

## **2.2 Private household structures observed in surveys**

As can be seen from Table 4, different household compositions can be found in different countries. However, the table also shows that the household size per country varies considerably by survey. The projects which we have selected for discussion here are Round 1 of the European Social Survey (ESS) fielded in 2002 and Wave 8 of the European Community Household Panel survey (EHCP) which took place in 2001.

The ESS is an academically-driven project. Since 2002, this cross-sectional survey has been carried out biennially in some 24 European countries. One reference person per household is questioned. The reference person is selected either from the population register or by Kish table or other instrument of random selection. In all participating countries, a controlled random sample is drawn. However, the survey does have a considerable non-response rate which varies from country to country. The proportion of non-respondents is particularly high among hard-to-reach interviewees who live mainly in small households.

The ECHP was an annual panel survey coordinated by the statistical office of the then 15 EU members, Eurostat. Its eighth and last wave took place in 2002. In the EHCP, all household members aged 15 and over were questioned using a personal questionnaire. In addition, a household questionnaire was filled out by a reference person. Like the ESS, the ECHP was based on a controlled random-sample design. Being a panel survey, it lost and gained respondents. Panel attrition occurs when, for example, household members die or withdraw from the panel. Accretion happens when new households branch off from existing households, for example when children leave home to set up their own household. As a result, a panel survey has a higher percentage of one-person-households than a cross-sectional survey. And those who were still participating in the panel by the eighth wave were willing respondents who were familiar with the annual procedure and considered themselves part of the project. In once-off cross-sectional survey, larger households are over-represented because they are easier to reach.

Because the two surveys differ in design, private household structures embodied in the ESS and EHCP national data also differ. Therefore, a comparison by country between the two surveys is not meaningful. Since, however, the conditions for each project are the same for all six countries, it is worthwhile comparing for example the ECHP data for the

six countries dealt with here. This comparison documents the culturally-determined difference in structures, although it is arguable whether these differences are due only to differences in private household definitions.

In Denmark, the assignment of persons to a household is done on the basis of population register data. If respondents were conscious of this definition, then they applied it to one dwelling unit. This is evidenced by the fact that the proportion of one-person households is very high. However, the proportion of family households with two adults and at least one child is also relatively high.

Table 4: Household composition – adults and children in the countries: DK, FR, LU, DE, UK, IT

Country		ESS1	ECHP8
DK Denmark	1 adult no child	18.4	25.2
	1 adult plus children	2.9	1.7
	2 adults no child	40.3	37.8
	2 adults plus children	25.6	24.0
	at least 3 adults no child	6.9	6.3
	at least 3 adults plus children	5.9	5.1
	total	100.0	100.0
FR France	1 adult no child	12.6	25.1
	1 adult plus children	2.5	2.6
	2 adults no child	30.9	29.0
	2 adults plus children	32.3	23.3
	at least 3 adults no child	11.5	13.6
	at least 3 adults plus children	10.1	6.5
	total	100.0	100.0
LU Luxembourg	1 adult no child	14.0	27.1
	1 adult plus children	2.5	1.5
	2 adults no child	19.9	30.4
	2 adults plus children	35.5	22.8
	at least 3 adults no child	16.0	13.0
	at least 3 adults plus children	12.2	5.2
	total	100.0	100.0



Country		ESS1	ECHP8
DE Germany	1 adult no child	18.9	38.5
	1 adult plus children	3.2	2.2
	2 adults no child	35.0	23.3
	2 adults plus children	22.8	15.9
	at least 3 adults no child	11.7	13.8
	at least 3 adults plus children	7.5	6.3
	total	100.0	100.0
UK United Kingdom	1 adult no child	18.7	31.1
	1 adult plus children	3.6	4.7
	2 adults no child	34.1	31.6
	2 adults plus children	22.4	19.5
	at least 3 adults no child	14.6	9.0
	at least 3 adults plus children	6.6	4.2
	total	100.0	100.0
IT Italy	1 adult no child	8.8	21.4
	1 adult plus children	1.0	1.1
	2 adults no child	21.9	21.8
	2 adults plus children	22.4	20.5
	at least 3 adults no child	31.8	26.3
	at least 3 adults plus children	14.1	9.0
	total	100.0	100.0

All household members under 18 are defined as "children";  
 "plus children" means that there is at least one child

Source: ESS, Round 1, ESS, Round 2 and ECHP, authors' own calculations

The figures given in Table 4 for France, Luxembourg and Germany in that order show that the proportion of one-person households successively increases. This ascending order reflects the increasing restriction of the definition of private household to smaller units from France through Luxembourg to Germany. The United Kingdom's definition of private household is about as unrestrictive as Luxembourg's.

Focussing only on the ECHP data, it can be observed that both household types "1 adult, no child" and "2 adults plus children" occur in approximately the same percentage. However, there is a difference in the case of two-and-more-person households without children. In Denmark smaller households are more predominant, while in France there is a greater proportion of larger households. This tendency is comparable in both surveys.

As can be seen from the ESS data, the proportion of one-person households in France is very low, which could be due to that country's unrestrictive definition of private household. Germany has the highest proportion of one-person households which could also be attributable to its private household definition which emphasizes small households.

Both surveys show that Italy, which defines household in terms of family, has the smallest proportion of small households and the largest proportion of large households with at least three adults. Here the trend towards a large family is most in evidence, which cannot be explained only by the fact that Italy is more rural than other countries. The definition of household used also plays a decisive role.

Table 5: Average number of persons per household in DK, FR, LU, DE, UK, IT in ESS 1, ECHP Wave 8 und the census (in DE microcensus)

Country	ESS1	ECHP8	Census /Microcensus
Denmark	2.6	2.4	
France	3.1	2.6	2.4
Luxembourg	3.3	2.5	2.5
Germany	2.6	2.3	2.1
United Kingdom	2.7	2.3	
Italy	3.2	2.9	2.6

Source: ESS, Round 1, ESS, Round 2 and ECHP, authors' own calculations  
Official data for DK, FR, LU, UK, IT = Census 2000/01, for DE = Microcensus 04/2002

As Table 5 shows, the average household size per country in ECHP Wave 8 varies between 2.3 and 2.9 persons per household. In Round 1 of ESS, the range of variation is just as large, however the average household size starts at an average of a half a person more than in ECHP. The official census or microcensus data confirm that ECHP comes closer to the true value than ESS where large households are over-represented because their members are easier to reach.

The ECHP8 data clearly indicate that different household sizes exist and that they increase in size from country to country in the expected direction. This finding is confirmed by the official census statistics. Nonetheless, it is not possible to infer that the difference in average household sizes is due to the influence of the definition of private household, because household size is not only influenced by the definition but also by culture. Thus, a different approach to the cultural use of the private household concept must be found.

As can be seen from the household composition in ESS (see Table 6), in France (48%) and Italy (49%) the proportion of households with children is particularly large, while it is relatively small in Luxembourg (26%). Compared to other countries, almost twice as many respondents live with at least one parent in Luxembourg (27%) and Italy (25%). In Luxembourg (19 %) and Italy (20 %) too, the proportion of households in which other relatives and nuclear family live is at least twice as high as in the other countries. Table 6 clearly shows that the proportion of households featuring persons unrelated by blood, marriage etc is very low, with a maximum of 4% in the United Kingdom and a minimum of 1% in France.

Table 6: Person type in the household, in %, for the countries DK, FR, LU, DE, UK, IT

Person type	DK	FR	LU	DE	UK	IT
lone person	18	13	12	19	17	9
partners	68	69	58	62	62	61
child(ren)	35	48	26	35	35	49
parents	8	12	27	13	13	25
other relatives	5	9	19	9	11	20
not related	2	1	2	2	4	2

Data: ESS Round 1, authors' own calculations

A typification of the persons resident in the respondent households in ESS, Round 1, shows clearly that the great majority of households comprise members of the nuclear family, in other words partners, children and parents, and siblings. The latter are probably quite often the persons behind *other relatives* (the population consists of persons aged over 18). Therefore, the distinction made, for example, in Germany between a shared dwelling without common housekeeping and a dwelling-share with a common housekeeping does not yield a lot of additional information. However, what is interesting is the fact that in Germany, Denmark, the United Kingdom and Italy non-relatives in the sense of dwelling-shares with common housekeeping arrangements are most often to be found in two-person households (in Italy in two or three-person households), whereas in Luxembourg they are most often found in large households with five or more persons.

Question F1 aims at enumerating the persons in the household ("Including yourself, how many people – including children – live here regularly as members of this household?"). Although it operationalises household merely as "live here regularly as members of this household" and the surveys in the above six countries furnish neither a country-specific nor a

general definition, they nonetheless appear to limit respondents to the nuclear family and the immediate residential environment.

Such a limitation could, on the one hand, be due to the definition of household assumed to be behind the question or, on the other hand, to the survey participants' subjective definitions.

### **2.3 The different household concepts in the ESS' national questionnaires**

The European Social Survey requires all participant national research groups to use the definition from the blueprint in their national surveys. In the main questionnaire, the question regarding the number of persons in the respondent household is phrased as follows:

"And finally, I would like to ask you a few details about yourself and others in your household.

F1 Including yourself, how many people – including children – live here regularly as members of this household?

Write in number: \_\_\_\_\_

Don't know = Code 88"

The ESS project instructions for interviewers provide the following explanation of the household concept:

"One person living alone or a group of people living at the same address (and have that address as their only or main residence), who either share at least one main meal a day or share the living accommodation (or both).

Included are: people on holiday, away working or in hospital for less than 6 months; school-age children at boarding school; students sharing private accommodation.

Excluded are: people who have been away for 6 months or more, students away at university or college, temporary visitors."

*(European Social Survey, 2002: Project Instructions (PAPI), p.11).*

Assuming they read the project instructions, interviewers are aware of what household means in the context of the survey. However, respondents are not. They only hear the question and the interviewers are not supposed to give the definition unless the respondents so request. A closer look at the definition given in the project instructions reveals that it is that used by England's Statistical Office (Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe et al. 2005, p.8). However, in the last two census rounds, even the English Statistical Office further reduced

this definition to the common address, a criterion which in the 1991 round was still restricted by a general common-housekeeping criterion (United Kingdom 1991). This was, however, no longer the case in 2001 (National Statistics 2001). Apart from England, the criterion *common meal* is used only in the Greek definition (National Statistical Service of Greece 2003). Even the criterion *share the living accommodation* as an accepted alternative to *share one main meal a day*, is a defining element only in a small number of countries (see Appendix A1).

In the participant countries' translations of the ESS questionnaire, household is defined as follows:

- In Germany, the household question reads:  
"Wie viele Personen leben ständig in diesem Haushalt, Sie selbst eingeschlossen?  
Denken Sie dabei bitte auch an alle im Haushalt lebenden Kinder."
- The German-speaking part of Switzerland uses its own translation of the blueprint:  
"Wenn Sie sich selbst dazuzählen, wie viele Personen – Kinder eingeschlossen – leben regelmäßig als Mitglieder in Ihrem Haushalt?"
- The question is translated as follows in the French-speaking part of Switzerland:  
"Combien de personnes, vous même et les enfants y compris, vivent régulièrement comme membres de votre ménage?"
- The Italian-speaking part of Switzerland uses the following wording:  
"Quante persone, i bambini e Lei inclusi - vivono qui regolarmente, quali membri della Sua economia domestica?"
- In Italy, there is a different household definition behind the text of question F1:  
"Compresi Lei ed eventuali bambini, quante persone vivono regolarmente in questa casa come membri della famiglia?"
- Coming back to a German-language translation of the blueprint, we see that, in Luxembourg too, the wording used in Germany is not automatically adopted:  
"Wie viele Personen leben ständig in diesem Haushalt, Sie selbst eingeschlossen?  
Denken Sie dabei bitte auch an alle im Haushalt lebenden Kinder."
- Bilingual Luxembourg's French-language text is very similar to French text used by trilingual Switzerland:  
"Y compris vous-même – et vos enfants – combien de personnes vivent ici de façon régulière comme membres de votre ménage?"

- The Portuguese-language text for Luxembourg's largest minority reads:  
"Incluindo-o(a) a si e aos seus filhos – quantas pessoas residem aqui de forma regular como membros do seu agregado?"
  - Central elements of this text differ considerably from the wording used in Portugal itself :  
"Contando consigo, quantas pessoas – incluindo crianças – vivem habitualmente nesta casa?"
- (Source: ESS1 Appendix A3\_e6: Variables and Questions; ESS1-2002 Questionnaires and other fieldwork documents.)*

The instructions in the blueprint at least include a household definition, even if it is one which is not normally used in most of the participant countries. However, as a rule, if one looks for household definitions in the national interviewer instructions one is in for a disappointment:

- Germany: Explanations of individual variables are provided in the field instructions, however no household definition is given.
- Switzerland – German and French-speaking: No explanations of individual variables and, thus, no definition of household.
- Switzerland – Italian-speaking: No field instructions available.
- Luxembourg: Fieldwork instructions available only in French. No definition of household given.
- Portugal: Explanations of individual variables are provided in the "Instruções de apoio ao preenchimento do questionário". The following information is given on questions F1 to F4:

"As perguntas F1, F2 , F3 e F4 permitem identificar a composição do agregado familiar. Note que aqui as crianças devem ser incluídas ao contrário da folha de contacto onde só se referiam as pessoas com mais de 15 anos. Ou seja, pretende-se aqui identificar a idade, o sexo e a relação de parentesco de todas as pessoas que vivem no agregado familiar. Note ainda que em cada coluna se regista o laço familiar partindo do inquirido. Por exemplo, se a pessoa mais velha no lar é o pai da inquirida, ele deve constar na coluna 2 e deve ser registado como laço familiar na linha "pai/mãe..."). Não devem ser incluídas nesta grelha as empregadas domésticas." (ESS1-2002, Portugal: Instruções, p. 10).

What elements of the household definition are to be found in the text of question F1?

The persons to be included represent the first element:

- the respondent him/herself,
- any other residents, including
- children.

As a second element, a time period is given for which the statement should be valid.

However, different cultures take different reference periods:

- regularly
- normally
- permanently
- habitually
- usually.

Household is defined using one or two words. In most national definitions – and, accordingly, also in the blueprint –, household is defined in terms of two dimensions. However, as a rule, in question F1 of the national questionnaires it is defined only in terms of one dimension:

- household
- dwelling
- house
- economic unit
- family.

Respondents are not provided with any proper clarification of the household definition. To a large extent, therefore, they are free to use their own definitions, unhindered by the interviewers.

#### **2.4 Different definitions of private household held by the various participants in a survey**

In the research process, it is generally assumed that all participants in a survey (researchers, interviewers and target persons) define private household in exactly the same way – at least provided they share a common culture. However, this assumption must be critically examined because, even in a national context, it is likely that, in the case of a tacitly understood household concept, researchers, interviewers and respondents nonetheless have different definitions and, accordingly, different perceptions of household composition. Indeed, even among respondents, there is probably no consensus as to what household means. Despite this, social research surveys often fail to provide any definition of the household concept, as evidenced by the following excerpts from two

German demographic research projects which serve as models for national surveys:

"Demographische Standards 2004", the survey guidelines issued by the German Federal Statistical Office, phrased the question as follows:

"Wie viele Personen leben ständig in Ihrem Haushalt, Sie selbst eingeschlossen?"

Denken Sie dabei bitte auch an alle im Haushalt lebenden Kinder."

*How many persons live permanently in your household, including yourself? Please remember to include any children living in the household.*

The 2006 German General Social Survey (Allbus) used the following wording:

"Wohnen AUSSER IHNEN noch weitere Personen in diesem Haushalt?"

Zählen Sie dazu bitte auch Kleinkinder bzw. Personen, die normalerweise hier wohnen, aber zur Zeit abwesend sind, z.B. im Krankenhaus oder in Ferien."

*APART FROM YOURSELF, do any other persons live in this household? Please also include infants and persons who normally live here but who are absent at the moment – for example in hospital or on holidays.*

If we assume that researchers adhere to the official definition used by their national statistical office, then what must be investigated are the elements of the definition held by respondents and interviewers. To this end, we conducted a survey of both these groups. First of all, three different sub-populations of survey target persons – students, academics and a random selection of citizens of the city of Mannheim – were asked the following questions:

- What do you understand by the term household?
- What persons are part of your household? If you are a student, then please give these details for your parents' household.
- Why are these people included in the household in question?
- Where do the persons whom you include in your household usually live? Do they all live in the same dwelling? Or in two neighbouring dwellings? Or in a house with various different dwellings? Or are they spread over a greater distance?
- If you are a student, what is your situation? Of what household do you consider yourself a member? Of your own household? Or of your parents' household?
- Please give reasons for your self-assignment.



The following elements of a conceptualisation of household emerge from the replies given by the **potential-respondent group** which comprised 46 students of Gießen and Mannheim Universities and 25 academics resident in Mannheim:

- The first element is the *dwelling unit*. This is described in terms of *living under one roof*, having an *entrance door* and/or a *rental agreement*, representing a *self-contained living situation*.
- The second element is the *dwelling-share with common housekeeping*, described in terms of *living together with common housekeeping* or *common housekeeping*. *Dwelling-shares for convenience purposes* is the term often used to describe such living arrangements.
- The third element is *the family*. *Being related to each other* and *living together in one house* are the characteristics used to describe family; this often means *first-degree family*.
- As a fourth element, some respondents stress *affective ties* which are also described using the words *being very close*.
- A fifth element is provided by the emphasising of *common activities*. The *common* aspect is broken down into three dimensions:
  - (a) *common housekeeping* with the emphasis on *shopping, kitchen, cooker, fridge, washing machine*. Especially for students, having their own washing machine is what constitutes having their own household.
  - (b) *working together* with the emphasis on *sharing housework*;
  - (c) *common living arrangements* with the emphasis on *eating and sleeping*.The *permanent* or *common main place of residence* is also mentioned in this regard.
- As a sixth element, *financial dependence* is emphasised. This is expressed in terms of *common financial budget*, the *sharing of the costs of living*, of *living costs* and the maintenance of a *common household kitty*
- The seventh element cited is *common planning* or *life planning*. This not only entails *taking care of each other, sharing tasks and responsibilities*, but also the sharing of *rooms* and *daily consumer goods*. *Shared meals* are also emphasised.
- The eighth element is *residence*. The important feature here is either the registration as *principal residence* or *the same address*. The *same key to the dwelling* is also used as a synonym for the address. With

regard to the time dimension of the household concept, the length of stay is given as *always, mostly, or frequently*.

A standardised definition cannot be constructed using these eight elements. They diverge to a considerable extent from the definition employed by the statistical offices, and, therefore, we surmise that they also deviate from the definition held by researchers.

When asked whether a household could be spread across several dwellings, respondents argued as follows:

Of course a household could encompass several dwellings where the additional dwellings served to enlarge the original one, for example in the case of a so-called "granny-flat" or two adjacent apartments with a connecting door. However, the precondition in all such cases is that the dwellings in question should all be in the same house.

Several spatially-distant dwellings are considered by some respondents to be one household:

- (1) where cohabitation in a long-distance relationship is defined in terms of affective ties;
- (2) in the case of persons such as students who, as a result of *financial dependence* on their parents, become members of two households, the parental and their own;
- (3) in the case of persons who pay a *financial contribution* to and/or *contribute to the (house)work* in two spatially-distant dwelling units.

The assigning of a person to two different households is supported by respondents when, for example, students assign themselves to their own household while, at the same time, their parents consider them to be members of the parental household. For seasonal workers and weekly commuters, the temporary absence from the family household can also lead, in their own perception, to membership of a second household.

The **interviewer group** comprised 118 telephone interviewers employed by the Institute for Applied Social Sciences GmbH (infas) in Bonn. For our survey they took on the role of respondents and gave their private opinions on the subject of the household. The following elements for a conceptualisation of the term can be extracted from their replies:

- For the interviewers too, the first element is the *dwelling unit*, described primarily in terms of *living under one roof*. However, in addition to having its *own entrance door*, the identifying features are *own doorbell* and *own letterbox*.
- As in the case of the potential-respondent group, the interviewers consider the *dwelling-share with common housekeeping* to be the second

defining element. However, we detected a greater variety of categories in the interviewers' replies. These range from *dwelling-share* through *household with common economy* and *cohabitation/household community* to a *joint tax return*.

- A large group of interviewers cites the third element: *family* and *being related to each other*. Twenty-eight interviewers use the term *family* as a central defining element, and a further ten use *family* to explain their choice of other defining elements. Some of the participants use a broader definition of family by including *cohabitations*. Belonging to the family is described in terms of *managing*, *participation in family life*, *routine of family life* and *family or strong social ties*.
- Interviewers express the fourth element, *affective ties*, primarily in terms of *private life*, *belonging* and *feeling at home*.
- Like the potential-respondent group, the interviewers also stress *common activities* as a fifth element. Here too, this element is broken down into
  - a) *common housekeeping*,
  - b) *doing (house)work together*, and
  - c) *common living arrangements*.

In this case, however, the list features an additional category: *partnership of convenience for the purpose of raising children together*. What is very surprising is the fact that the *common cooker*, which is an element of the statistical offices' definition, is not mentioned once by members of the interviewer group.

- *Financial dependence*, as a sixth element, also represents a central constituent of the interviewer group's household definition. To the list of characteristics produced by the potential-respondent group, the interviewers not only added *own financial responsibility*, *shared costs*, *joint capital*, but also *pay the rent and/or receive housing benefit together*.
- The seventh element, *common planning*, is based heavily on *taking care of each other*, *helping each other out*, *responsibility for each other* and *joint responsibility for apartment or house*. Hence, its main focus diverges slightly from that of the definition provided by the potential respondents group.
- The eighth element is *residence*. This is described in terms of *the entry in the population register*, *the main residence*, *the address* and *the rental agreement*. The telephone-laboratory interviewers also

included the characteristics *shared telephone connection* and the availability of *self-contained living quarters*.

With regard to the time dimension, the length of stay, which is a constituent of the household concept, is handled more strictly by the interviewers than by the potential respondents. The former allow only *lasting* or *permanent*.

Temporary absence is accepted in the case of the somewhat longer absence from the household because of military or civilian service and weekly commuters' regular short absences from the family residence.

The respondent interviewers cannot imagine a household spread over several dwellings. A household of this type would only make their job harder.

All things considered, in their role as respondents the interviewers have a lot in common with the potential target persons. They provide a multifaceted and individually-oriented range of definitions, not one of which coincides with that employed by the German statistical offices. Nor are their definitions geared towards making their task of obtaining field access easier. As the great variety of defining elements cited by the interviewers clearly shows, it is essential that researchers precisely define and communicate the household concept to be used in their survey. They cannot simply rely on the interviewers' and respondents' knowing what household means in the context of the research question. In the absence of a precise definition explicitly communicated to the survey participants, both interviewers and respondents have to resort to their own individual definitions.

### 3. The influence of the size of private households on total household income

On the basis of the interviews with the potential target persons for social surveys about their concept of household, we expected that:

- (1) the defining element *one roof, own four walls* or the *dwelling* would be reflected in the survey data;
- (2) that the family concept, and especially the idea of a typical family with parents and children would manifest itself in replies to questions regarding household size.

These expectations were borne out in the survey of interviewers. Here too, the *dwelling* was the main element cited when determining the existence of a household, and family relations were used to establish household membership.

Since different countries use different national concepts of household in their respective official surveys, and since we assume that these official conceptualisations reflect the national usage of household definitions, we also expect there to be trans-national differences. In countries which use the family element as a central feature (e.g. Italy), the proportion of small dwelling units comprising one person or two adults and no children will be relatively small since these household members will assign themselves to the family household. Where the dwelling is the central defining criterion, residents of the dwelling will be considered a household despite their having family ties with persons living in spatially separate dwelling units. In these countries (e.g. Denmark), one-person households will be relatively frequent. In countries such as Germany, in which financial dependence is a significant feature of household membership, persons who are in education or training will be relatively under-represented in one-person households.

A comparison of household sizes in Denmark, where the dwelling element is a central defining element of household, and Italy, whose definition focuses on the family, illustrates this effect. The Danish 2007 census reports that 39% of households comprise one person and 33% are two-person units. The corresponding figures for Italy are 25% one-person and 27% two-person households. The Italian 2001 census classified 26.5% of households as having four or more persons, in contrast to 16.5% in Denmark. In France, another country which emphasises the household-dwelling concept, 31% of households are one-person units and 31% consist of two persons.

If one looks at the one-person households in Wave 8 of the EHCP whose members are attending an educational institution (including industrial and commercial vocational training) one can clearly see that, in Germany, this group accounts for only 3.7% of all one-person households, whereas in Denmark, persons in training make up 13.1% of such households.

The following table shows the distribution of households by number of persons for a selection of countries in the European Survey of Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) and for a sample constructed from this data on the basis of the ESS distribution. To this end, a sample with the same number of observations and the same distribution of household size as in the second round of the ESS was drawn from the 2005 wave of the EU-SILC (income reference year 2004).

The distribution of household sizes in the respective censuses, shows that the EU-SILC gives an accurate picture of the national household compositions. This is due to the detailed and sophisticated correction and extrapolation procedures – including margin adjustment – employed in the EU-SILC <sup>1</sup>. "The household cross-sectional weights (target variable DB090) will be used to draw inference from the effective sample to the target population of private households. Those weights had to be corrected for household non-response and possibly calibrated to external data source(s)." (European Commission 2005: p.28)

At the same time, however, we are convinced that the correction for non-response by extrapolation to merely produces cosmetic effects and does not adjust the results for bias (Schnell 1993).

In all countries there are only marginal differences between the census and EU-SILC findings. In Denmark, the one-person households are more prevalent in the EU-SILC than in the country's official statistics (43% compared to 39%). In France, the proportion of two-person households differs only slightly. The most obvious discrepancies between the census and EU-SILC results are to be observed in Italy. However they are not statistically significant.

If we compare the unweighted distribution of the sample constructed on the basis of the ESS distribution to the EU-SILC data, significant discrepancies can be observed. The unweighted distribution of the constructed sample corresponds to the design-weighted distribution of the second ESS round.

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<sup>1</sup> See also Commission Regulation on sampling and tracing rules (N°1982/2003 of 21 October 2003, §7.4)

Table 7: Household size in five categories comparing EU-SILC, unweighted and weighted, with a constructed sample of ESS Round 2, unweighted and weighted

country	hh-size	unweighted ESS2 sample		weighted ESS2 sample		unweighted EU-SILC		weighted EU-SILC	
		valid %	cum. %	valid %	cum. %	valid %	cum. %	valid %	cum. %
DK	1	20,4	20,4	45,3	45,3	19,4	19,4	43,6	43,6
	2	40,0	60,5	31,2	76,5	39,1	58,4	30,8	74,4
	3	14,3	74,8	9,2	85,6	15,7	74,1	10,6	85,1
	4	16,5	91,3	9,2	94,8	18,6	92,7	10,7	95,8
	5	8,7	100,0	5,2	100,0	7,3	100,0	4,2	100,0
	total	100,0		100,0		100,0		100,0	
FR	1	12,7	12,7	15,0	15,0	27,3	27,3	31,4	31,4
	2	34,6	47,2	37,8	52,8	32,7	60,0	34,0	65,4
	3	19,0	66,2	18,6	71,5	15,7	75,7	14,5	79,9
	4	19,7	85,9	19,3	90,8	16,0	91,7	14,8	94,7
	5	14,1	100,0	9,2	100,0	8,3	100,0	5,3	100,0
	total	100,0		100,0		100,0		100,0	
IT	1	8,7	8,7	10,6	10,6	25,1	25,1	28,3	28,3
	2	22,7	31,4	20,9	31,5	28,2	53,2	27,1	55,4
	3	25,0	56,4	25,0	56,5	21,7	75,0	20,5	75,9
	4	29,6	85,9	28,5	85,0	18,8	93,8	18,2	94,1
	5	14,1	100,0	15,0	100,0	6,2	100,0	5,9	100,0
	total	100,0		100,0		100,0		100,0	
LU	1	9,1	9,1	12,7	12,7	22,2	22,2	29,3	29,3
	2	23,1	32,2	23,0	35,7	30,3	52,5	28,2	57,6
	3	21,8	54,0	18,9	54,5	20,4	72,9	17,0	74,6
	4	27,0	81,0	27,1	81,7	17,1	90,0	15,9	90,5
	5	19,0	100,0	18,3	100,0	10,0	100,0	9,5	100,0
	total	100,0		100,0		100,0		100,0	
PT	1	8,0	8,0	7,9	7,9	17,2	17,2	16,6	16,6
	2	27,6	35,6	24,7	32,5	30,5	47,7	27,9	44,5
	3	27,7	63,3	32,0	64,5	23,6	71,2	27,2	71,7
	4	23,3	86,6	23,9	88,5	19,2	90,4	19,9	91,6
	5	13,4	100,0	11,5	100,0	9,6	100,0	8,4	100,0
	total	100,0		100,0		100,0		100,0	
UK	1	13,8	13,8	14,8	14,8	30,6	30,6	32,7	32,7
	2	34,5	48,2	33,1	47,9	36,6	67,2	34,5	67,2
	3	19,6	67,8	20,4	68,3	14,2	81,3	14,6	81,9
	4	17,5	85,3	17,4	85,7	12,8	94,1	12,5	94,4
	5	14,7	100,0	14,3	100,0	5,9	100,0	5,6	100,0
	total	100,0		100,0		100,0		100,0	

In the case of one-person households, the significant deviation from EU-SILC – and thus from the national censuses – in most countries is immediately obvious. Only in Denmark is this discrepancy corrected by weighting. In all countries in the ESS sample, the proportion of large households with five or more persons is higher than the EU-SILC survey would lead one to expect. In the case of the other household sizes, discrepancies are negligible.

### 3.1 Household income

In the following section we shall show how the number of members in a sample household influences the information on the income of this household. For this purpose, a sample was drawn from the EU-SILC 2005 (income reference year 2004) with the same number of observations and the same household-size distribution as in the second round of the ESS. Since the EU-SILC, like its predecessor the ECHP, collects very detailed and comprehensive data on the income of all household members (aged 16 and over), it serves here as a benchmark for the quality of information on income.

The income components recorded in EU-SILC add up to a gross and a net sum on the individual level:

- employee cash or near cash income
- non-cash employee income
- employers' social insurance contributions
- cash benefits or losses from self-employment (including royalties)
- value of goods produced for own consumption
- unemployment benefits
- old-age benefits
- survivor's benefits
- sickness benefits
- disability benefits
- and education-related allowances

plus income constituents on the household level

- imputed rent
- income from rental of a property or land
- family/children related allowances
- social exclusion payments not elsewhere classified
- housing allowances
- regular inter-household cash transfers received
- interests, dividends, profit from capital investments in unincorporated business



- income received by people aged under 16 minus
- employee's social insurance contributions
- interest paid on mortgage
- regular taxes on wealth
- regular inter-household cash transfer paid
- tax on income and social insurance contributions (this item could include: repayment/receipt for tax adjustments, income tax at source and social insurance contributions)

In all countries except Denmark, the median household income of all households in the constructed sample (see Table 8 below) is above the median values of the EU-SILC reference data. In Denmark, the median household income of one and two-person households drops in the sample with the ESS2 distribution. In this sample, five-and-more-person households also have a lower income than the EU-SILC data would lead one to expect whereas the median income in three or four-person households is higher.

In France, the ESS2 household size distribution accurately reflects the EU-SILC income distribution. Only three and four-person households have a slightly higher median income. In Italy, the median income of four-person-households rises, whereas that of households with five or more persons drops. In Luxembourg, the median income of all households in the ESS2 distribution is lower than that of the EU-SILC. There are no differences between the two distributions in the case of one-or-two-person households in the United Kingdom. However, slight discrepancies can be observed in the case of other household sizes

Table 8: Total disposable household income

	ESS2 hh size distribution				EU-SILC2005			
	median	mean	stan- dard dev.	coeff. of var. in %	median	mean	stan- dard dev.	coeff. of var. in %
<b>Denmark</b>								
all hh	26866	31994	24151	75,49	27547	32984	27547	83,51
1 person	11788	17980	11788	65,56	17020	18400	9661	52,51
2 persons	33854	36877	17004	46,11	35138	38202	21386	55,98
3 persons	48443	51352	31473	61,29	47194	49136	24650	50,17
4 persons	54603	54627	24793	45,39	51540	52908	21097	39,88
5 plus p.	51658	50723	40904	80,64	53600	54353	33963	62,49

	ESS2 hh size distribution				EU-SILC2005			
	median	mean	stan- dard dev.	coeff. of var. in %	median	mean	stan- dard dev.	coeff. of var. in %
<b>France</b>								
all hh	27927	31819	19651	61,76	24346	28461	19911	69,96
1 person	14214	16752	10279	61,36	14239	16595	12258	73,87
2 persons	25220	29096	18428	63,33	25674	29577	19015	64,29
3 persons	33132	35603	16045	45,07	31465	35007	19690	56,25
4 persons	36302	40140	20241	50,43	35705	39968	20843	52,15
5 plus p.	36505	42419	23629	55,70	36172	41470	22325	53,84
<b>Italy</b>								
all hh	27791	34565	34864	100,86	22303	27815	25404	91,33
1 person	13605	15717	9254	58,88	12382	14788	12947	87,55
2 persons	21818	26464	23154	87,49	21946	26330	19542	74,22
3 persons	30647	38619	36849	95,42	30887	34859	24650	70,71
4 persons	34786	39313	24607	62,59	33163	37703	25059	66,46
5 plus p.	30003	43364	58215	134,25	33503	42045	53139	126,39
<b>Luxembourg</b>								
all hh	53344	59902	38388	64,08	46993	54050	34507	63,84
1 person	26387	29697	17698	59,59	29728	33105	20384	61,57
2 persons	45717	52301	32609	62,35	46175	53292	29155	54,71
3 persons	55124	63290	50803	80,27	56957	63425	40944	64,56
4 persons	60846	66546	32683	49,11	63009	69034	33742	48,88
5 plus p.	71315	76975	34350	44,62	74849	79088	36040	45,57
<b>Portugal</b>								
all hh	14322	19649	21501	109,43	12731	17785	20756	116,70
1 person	4748	6515	5315	81,58	4808	6932	6562	94,67
2 persons	10696	14895	13895	93,29	10332	14679	14683	100,03
3 persons	15217	19918	17385	87,28	15046	20632	21275	103,12
4 persons	17614	26369	31545	119,63	16928	24244	28349	116,93
5 plus p.	19186	24086	19822	82,29	19562	24971	22660	90,74
<b>United Kingdom</b>								
all hh	32609	40554	44357	109,38	26134	33858	35222	104,03
1 person	14717	20013	19578	97,82	15379	19535	16122	82,53
2 persons	28457	35218	31662	89,90	28598	35216	34489	97,94
3 persons	40801	46041	32410	70,39	39218	45688	32932	72,08
4 persons	44103	49268	26590	53,97	45214	51587	42900	83,16
5 plus p.	46893	62828	91688	145,93	44516	56568	68516	121,12

hh = household, standard dev. = standard deviation, coeff. of var. = coefficient of variation

As can be seen from a comparison of the EU-SILC and the ESS2 distribution of income by household size the poverty rates are broadly comparable (households with less than 60% of the national median equivalised household income are considered poor<sup>2</sup>). A chi-square goodness-of-fit test where the distribution of poor versus not poor in the EU-SILC represents the expected values and the distribution in the simulated ESS2 sample represents the observed values, shows that the ESS2 household-size distribution does not correspond to expectations in any of the countries concerned<sup>3</sup>. This is also true for the poverty indicators based on the number of persons in the household.

Table 9: Poverty indicator: 60% of the national median equivalised household income

		ESS2 sample	EU-SILC	chi <sup>2</sup>
		valid percent	valid percent	
DK	not poor	83,80	84,35	
	poor	16,20	15,65	
	total	100,00	100,00	53,740**)
FR	not poor	87,85	86,02	
	poor	12,15	13,98	
	total	100,00	100,00	5,474**)
IT	not poor	81,80	79,94	
	poor	18,20	20,06	
	total	100,00	100,00	12,055**)
LU	not poor	85,52	87,73	
	poor	14,48	12,27	
	total	100,00	100,00	26,572**)
PT	not poor	80,13	77,47	
	poor	19,87	22,53	
	total	100,00	100,00	1,390 *)
UK	not poor	80,77	79,89	
	poor	19,23	20,11	
	total	100,00	100,00	2510,000**)

\*\* )  $p < .001$ , \*)  $p > .05$

<sup>2</sup> see also: Atkinson et al, 2002

<sup>3</sup> In fact, in order to carry out the significance and chi-square tests, 100 samples with the ESS2 household-size distribution of the respective countries were drawn from the data of the EU-SILC user database version 27-06-07.

Table 10 shows that, in Italy, the poverty rate among one-person households is lower in the ESS2 sample than in the EU-SILC. This is also the case in the UK. In Italy and Portugal, the ESS2 distribution shows less poverty among two-person households than the EU-SILC would lead one to expect. The ESS2 distribution underestimates the poverty rate among three-person households in Denmark and France. In the EU-SILC data for Italy and Portugal, four-person households are worse effected by poverty than in the data constructed on the basis of the ESS2 distribution. The constructed data underestimate the risk of poverty on the part of five-and-more-person households in the United Kingdom.

Table 10: Poverty rate by household size and country

		ESS sample				EU-SILC
		unweighted	weighted			
country		column percent	column percent	country		column percent
<b>one-person-households</b>				<b>one-person-households</b>		
<b>DK</b>	not poor	77,6	73,4	<b>DK</b>	not poor	74,2
	poor	22,4	26,6		poor	25,8
<b>FR</b>	not poor	82,1	82,7	<b>FR</b>	not poor	80,4
	poor	17,9	17,3		poor	19,6
<b>IT</b>	not poor	76,2	76,4	<b>IT</b>	not poor	72,1
	poor	23,8	23,6		poor	27,9
<b>LU</b>	not poor	77,2	82,6	<b>LU</b>	not poor	86,3
	poor	22,8	17,4		poor	13,7
<b>PT</b>	not poor	61,2	61,6	<b>PT</b>	not poor	61,8
	poor	38,8	38,4		poor	38,2
<b>UK</b>	not poor	70,9	70,5	<b>UK</b>	not poor	73,5
	poor	29,1	29,5		poor	26,5
<b>two-persons-households</b>				<b>two-persons-households</b>		
<b>DK</b>	not poor	93,4	91,9	<b>DK</b>	not poor	91,7
	poor	6,6	8,1		poor	8,3
<b>FR</b>	not poor	89,4	87,7	<b>FR</b>	not poor	88,7
	poor	10,6	12,3		poor	11,3
<b>IT</b>	not poor	84,7	86,2	<b>IT</b>	not poor	84,1
	poor	15,3	13,8		poor	15,9
<b>LU</b>	not poor	90,5	90,7	<b>LU</b>	not poor	92,3
	poor	9,5	9,3		poor	7,7
<b>PT</b>	not poor	78,1	79,9	<b>PT</b>	not poor	76,8
	poor	21,9	20,1		poor	23,2
<b>UK</b>	not poor	81,6	82,2	<b>UK</b>	not poor	82,2
	poor	18,4	17,8		poor	17,8

		ESS sample				EU-SILC
		unweighted	weighted			
country		column percent	column percent	country		column percent
<b>three-persons-households</b>				<b>three-persons-households</b>		
<b>DK</b>	not poor	97,7	96,8	<b>DK</b>	not poor	94,1
	poor	2,3	3,2		poor	5,9
<b>FR</b>	not poor	92,4	92,6	<b>FR</b>	not poor	89,6
	poor	7,6	7,4		poor	10,4
<b>IT</b>	not poor	86,4	84,7	<b>IT</b>	not poor	85,8
	poor	13,6	15,3		poor	14,2
<b>LU</b>	not poor	86,3	87,7	<b>LU</b>	not poor	88,2
	poor	13,7	12,3		poor	11,8
<b>PT</b>	not poor	82,4	82,7	<b>PT</b>	not poor	84,4
	poor	17,6	17,3		poor	15,6
<b>UK</b>	not poor	84,4	84,1	<b>UK</b>	not poor	86,8
	poor	15,6	15,9		poor	13,2
<b>four-persons-households</b>				<b>four-persons-households</b>		
<b>DK</b>	not poor	96,3	92,5	<b>DK</b>	not poor	93,4
	poor	3,7	7,5		poor	6,6
<b>FR</b>	not poor	91,3	91,4	<b>FR</b>	not poor	90,3
	poor	8,7	8,6		poor	9,7
<b>IT</b>	not poor	86,0	84,3	<b>IT</b>	not poor	81,4
	poor	14,0	15,7		poor	18,6
<b>LU</b>	not poor	83,2	83,9	<b>LU</b>	not poor	84,8
	poor	16,8	16,1		poor	15,2
<b>PT</b>	not poor	83,3	83,5	<b>PT</b>	not poor	81,6
	poor	16,7	16,5		poor	18,4
<b>UK</b>	not poor	84,9	85,5	<b>UK</b>	not poor	86,5
	poor	15,1	14,5		poor	13,5
<b>five-and-more-persons-households</b>				<b>five-plus-persons-households</b>		
<b>DK</b>	not poor	93,1	88,0	<b>DK</b>	not poor	87,8
	poor	6,9	12,0		poor	12,2
<b>FR</b>	not poor	78,7	79,7	<b>FR</b>	not poor	80,5
	poor	21,3	20,3		poor	19,5
<b>IT</b>	not poor	78,8	69,9	<b>IT</b>	not poor	73,4
	poor	21,2	30,1		poor	26,6
<b>LU</b>	not poor	75,6	81,2	<b>LU</b>	not poor	82,6
	poor	24,4	18,8		poor	17,4
<b>PT</b>	not poor	73,8	79,0	<b>PT</b>	not poor	78,3
	poor	26,2	21,0		poor	21,7
<b>UK</b>	not poor	79,2	79,5	<b>UK</b>	not poor	76,2
	poor	20,8	20,5		poor	23,8

The variations in household income and poverty rates between the EU-SILC, which served as the reference dataset, and the data constructed on the basis of the ESS2 household distribution, cannot be attributed solely to survey-specific factors such as different selection probability and different rates of reachability on the part of the various household-size categories. Intra-household compositions determined by national criteria governing the inclusion and exclusion of members play a key role.

The following fictional example of a group of ten people illustrates clearly the connection between household composition (number of persons in the household) and the observed socio-economic structure of societies. This example of an extended family and its classification on the basis of the household definition in five countries shows the extent to which different definitions lead to different household compositions and, thus, to different poverty lines.

The fictional extended family comprises 10 persons:

- a married couple (*grandfather* and *grandmother*)
- with two adult sons (one is an *uncle*, the other is a *father*)
- of whom one is married (to wife/*mother*) with three children (*children nos. 1, 2, 3*);
- the eldest of these children, a daughter, is also married (to *son-in-law*) and has one child (the *grandchild*)

This fictional extended family is spread over five to six dwellings:

- The grandparents live in their own apartment but in the same house and at the same address as their son and daughter-in-law – the father and mother.
- The father and mother and their youngest child (child no. 3, under 14) live in the one apartment. However, the father is home only at the weekends because his place of work is a four-hour drive from the family dwelling. The father has a secondary residence at his place of work.
- Child no. 1, a daughter, has her own family and lives with her husband – the son-in-law – and their child – the grandchild.
- Child no. 2 (14 and over) is a student and lives at the place of study in a student residence .
- The uncle has his own dwelling in the same city as the grandparents but in a different quarter.

Looking at the fictional family in terms of the household definitions in the five countries selected to show the range of definitions in use, one obtains the following picture:

- The *Italian* definition assumes that those who are emotionally included in the family are members of the household, irrespective of they live in the same dwelling or have the same address. So, employing the Italian definition, we have a ten-person household spread over four dwellings.
- The *Danish* definition includes in the household all persons registered at the same address. In this case, the extended family is spread over three households. The core household comprises six persons: The grandparents in a so-called granny flat, the mother and father (since the family dwelling is registered as the father's primary residence), child no. 3 (lives with the parents) and child no. 2 for whom the student residence is not the primary residence.
- The *French* definition, based on a common dwelling, spreads the extended family over four households. The core household comprises the father and mother and children nos. 2 and 3
- *Luxembourg's* definition which restricts household to living together in a common dwelling, spreads the extended family over 5 households. Only the father, the mother and child no. 3 live in the core household.
- On the one hand, the criterion *daily shared meal* in *England's* definition of household very narrowly restricts household size. On the other hand, however, the use of the criterion *same address* instead of *same dwelling* makes it broader again. As a result, there are several possible configurations for the family in our example: What we actually have here are six households, with the core household comprising two persons, the mother and child no. 3. However, if the mother regularly cooks for the grandparents, then we could also have a four-person household spread over two dwellings at the same address. As an alternative to the shared-meal criterion, the English allow a *common living room*. Under this condition, the father could also be included in the household and the grandparents would constitute their own household.

Table 11: Number and size of households as a function of household definition

Country definition	Households No.	Persons in the core household
Italy	1	10
Denmark	3	6
France	4	4
Luxembourg	5	3
England	6 (5)	2 (4) (shared meals)

If one takes a look at the distribution of income per person in the various household configurations, and weights the respective totals using the OECD-modified equivalisation scale, the following picture emerges:

Table 12: Household composition and average household income in *Italy*

HH No.	Persons	Income	OECD-modified Equivalisation Scale	equivalised HH income
HH1	uncle	1500	0.5	
	grandfather	1800	0.5	
	grandmother	0	0.5	
	father	2500	1.0	
	mother	500	0,5	
	child no. 1	400	0.5	
	son-in-law	2500	0.5	
	grandchild	0	0.3	
	child no. 2	1000	0.5	
	child no. 3	600	0.3	
	total	10800	5.1	2118

Table 13: Household composition and average household income in *Denmark*

HH No.	Persons	Income	OECD-modified Equivalisation Scale	equivalised HH income
HH1	uncle	1500	1.0	1500
HH2	grandfather	1800	0.5	
	grandmother	0	0.5	
	father	2500	1.0	
	mother	500	0.5	
	child no. 2	1000	0.5	
	child no. 3	600	0.3	
	total	6400	3.3	1939
HH3	child no. 1	400	0.5	
	son-in-law	2500	0.1	
	grandchild	0	0.3	
	total	2900	1.8	1611
average household income				1683



Table 14: Household composition and average household income in *France*

HH No.	Persons	Income	OECD-modified Equivalisation Scale	equivalised HH income
HH1	uncle	1500	1.0	1500
HH2	grandfather	1800	1.0	
	grandmother	0	0.5	
	total	1800	1.5	1200
HH3	father	2500	1.0	
	mother	500	0.5	
	child no. 2	1000	0.5	
	child no. 3	600	0.3	
	total	4600	2.3	2000
HH4	child no. 1	400	0.5	
	son-in-law	2500	1.0	
	grandchild	0	0.3	
	total	2900	1.8	1611
average household income				1578

Table 15: Household composition and average household income in *Luxembourg*

HH No.	Persons	Income	OECD-modified Equivalisation Scale	equivalised HH income
HH1	uncle	1500	1.0	1500
HH2	grandfather	1800	1.0	
	grandmother	0	0.5	
	total	1800	1.5	1200
HH3	father	2500	1.0	
	mother	500	0.5	
	child no. 3	600	0.3	
	total	3600	1.8	2000
HH4	child no. 1	400	0.5	
	son-in-law	2500	1.0	
	grandchild	0	0.3	
	total	2900	1.8	1611
HH5	child no. 2	1000	0.1	1000
average household income				1462

Table 16: Household composition and average household income in *England*

HH No.	Persons	Income	OECD-modified Equivalisation Scale	equivalised HH income
HH1	uncle	1500	1,0	1500
HH2	grandfather	1800	1,0	
	grandmother	0	0,5	
	total	1800	1,5	1200
HH3	father	2500	1,0	2500
HH4	mother	500	1,0	
	child no. 3	600	0,3	
	total	1100	1,3	846
HH5	child no. 1	400	0,5	
	son-in-law	2500	1,0	
	grandchild	0	0,3	
	total	2900	1,8	1611
HH6	child no. 2	1000	0,1	1000
average household income				1443

The more households into which the fictional extended family is divided, the lower the average household income is. However, if the average household income in a country drops, so too does its poverty line. Viewed in this light, the definition of the household concept helps to raise or lower the national poverty line.

### 3.2 The socio-economic status of the household members

In social science analyses, it is now customary to assign all household members the socio-economic status of the member with the highest status. In the ESS, data on occupations and jobs are collected only in respect of the interviewee, his/her partner and their parents. Therefore, we have to resort to the above-mentioned fictional example to illustrate the dependence of status on household composition. Purely to simplify matters and to keep the complexity of the illustration to a minimum, we will concentrate on the male household members, their occupation (in ISCO-88) and their social status which is coded using ISEI<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> see Ganzeboom and Treiman 2003. Key for conversion from ISCO-88 into ISEI, see: <http://www.fss.uu.nl/soc/hg/ismf>

In our fictional example, the group of persons observed comprises 10 persons:

- a grandfather and grandmother: the grandfather is an assembler of wood products: ISCO-88 = 8285. This yields an ISEI score of 30;
- with two adult children: an uncle who is a cabinet maker (ISCO-88 = 7422, ISEI = 33) and a father who works as a civil engineering technician (ISCO-88 = 3112, ISEI = 45);
- The mother works as a handicraft worker in wood (ISCO-88 = 7331, ISEI = 29);
- The father has a married daughter (housewife); his son-in-law is a civil engineer. (ISCO-88 = 2142, ISEI = 69)
- The father's child no. 2 is a student, child no. 3 is still at school.

As already mentioned above, this extended family is spread over five to six dwellings, whereby the grand-parents live in a separate dwelling at the same address as the father and mother. The father and mother live in a dwelling unit with their youngest child (child no. 3, under 14). The father has a secondary residence at his place of work. The daughter has a family of her own and lives with the son-in-law and the grandchild in a separate dwelling near her parents' dwelling. During the week, child no. 2 lives in a student residence at her place of study. The uncle has his own dwelling in the same city as the grand-parents but in a different quarter.

Viewed in terms of the various national household concepts, this means:

Table 17: Socio-economic status (ISEI) of the household members\* in *Italy*

HH No.		ISCO-88	ISEI	overall status
HH1	uncle	7422	33	
	grandfather	8285	30	
	father	3112	45	
	mother	7331	29	
	son-in-law	2142	69	69

\*) All persons who are not employed and who, therefore, have no status of their own (ISEI), are not listed.

Table 18: Socio-economic status (ISEI) of the household members\* in  
*Denmark*

HH No.		ISCO-88	ISEI	overall status
HH1	uncle	7422	33	33
HH2	grandfather	8285	30	
	father	3112	45	45
	mother	7331	29	
HH3	son-in-law	2142	69	69

\*) All persons who are not employed and who, therefore, have no status of their own (ISEI), are not listed.

Table 19: Socio-economic status (ISEI) of the household members\* in  
*France*

HH No.		ISCO-88	ISEI	overall status
HH1	uncle	7422	33	33
HH2	grandfather	8285	30	30
HH3	father	3112	45	45
	mother	7331	29	
HH4	son-in-law	2142	69	69

\*) All persons who are not employed and who, therefore, have no status of their own (ISEI), are not listed.

Table 20: Socio-economic status (ISEI) of the household members\* in  
*Luxembourg*

HH No.		ISCO-88	ISEI	overall status
HH1	uncle	7422	33	33
HH2	grandfather	8285	30	30
HH3	father	3112	45	45
	mother	7331	29	
HH4	son-in-law	2142	69	69
HH5	child no. 2	studying	n/a	see father

\*) All persons who are not employed and who, therefore, have no status of their own (ISEI), are not listed.

Table 21: Socio-economic status (ISEI) of the household members\* in England

HH No.		ISCO-88	ISEI	overall status
HH1	uncle	7422	33	33
HH2	grandfather	8285	30	30
HH3	father	3112	45	45
HH4	mother	7331	29	29
HH5	son-in-law	2142	69	69
HH6	child no. 2	studying	n/a	see father

\*) All persons who are not employed and who, therefore, have no status of their own (ISEI), are not listed.

In Italy, all ten members of our fictional extended family are assigned a high socio-economic status as a result of the household composition because the person with the highest status determines the status of the group as a whole. In our example this person is the son-in-law, who works as a civil engineer.

Since in England the socio-economic status of the core household is based on that of the working mother when the father is absent on work-days and has a residence at his place of work, her status and that of the child who lives with her drops to that of a handicraft worker in wood which has an ISEI score of 29. If the mother was not working, in other words if she did not have her own status, then she would probably be assigned her husband's status thereby bringing her up to an ISEI score of 45.

Although this example is fictional, it does realistically demonstrate the dependence of the SES variable and structural analyses on the household concept prevailing in a particular country.

#### **4. An attempt to harmonize the household concept for the purposes of national and international comparison**

As our findings clearly show, survey research, whether on a national or international level, calls for an explicit household definition which must be communicated to both the interviewers and the respondents. This is because every individual has his own implicit subjective definition which, as a rule, deviates from the definition which the researcher assumes. However, one should also offer researcher a standard. And, in the interests of comparability, the use of this standard should be compulsory, unless, of course, the research question calls for deviation therefrom.

##### **4.1 Harmonisation of the household concept for the purpose of national comparison**

For years, the "Demographische Standards" issued by the German Federal Statistical Office failed to provide a definition of household when phrasing survey questions. The authors assumed that the interviewers were trained in the household concept used in the microcensus by the statistical offices because the microcensus is the reference dataset for survey researchers and they use it as a benchmark to which the quality of their own projects is aligned by weighting. In order to select the target person, all household members belonging to the survey population have first to be listed, and the interviewer and the informant in the household are supposed to have already reached a consensus as to what household means.

As our surveys of potential respondents and professional interviewers showed, people do not use a standard definition of household. Therefore, it is important to define the concept for all survey participants – researchers, interviewers and respondents alike –, and to communicate this definition to them. This must be done before the initial counting of household members for selection via Kish table or before measuring household income.

We suggest that the household definition used should be that employed at the time in question by the national statistical office in its surveys since this definition serves as a reference for researchers. However, the new definition required as a result of the switch to a register-based census poses a problem in this regard since population registers are sorted by address and it is not possible to arrange the records according to criteria relating to household composition, irrespective of what that might be. In

Germany, the statistical offices use additional details such as the same name, the date on which the person moved in, the number of dwellings per address etc in order to assign persons to dwellings. Hence the census' defining criterion for household is *registered as having the principal residence in the same dwelling*. Other countries whose last census 2000/2001 was already register-based restrict their definition to the common address. However, as a sociological variable, it is important to employ two dimensions: (co-)residence and common housekeeping.

The 2008 edition of the German "Demographische Standards" will suggest the wording:

"Zu diesem Haushalt zählen alle Personen, die hier gemeinsam wohnen und wirtschaften"

*(All persons who live here together with common housekeeping are members of this household)*

This definition allows a certain amount of leeway which the researcher either consciously accepts or removes.

Without such a standardisation of the household concept for all surveys, group sizes and memberships are arbitrarily defined. And no one can accurately measure the extent of this arbitrariness.

#### **4.2 Harmonisation of the household concept for purposes of international comparison**

When it comes to international comparisons of survey findings, national standardisation is not enough. It is necessary to define explicitly what is meant by *(co-)residence* and *common housekeeping* because, to a greater or lesser extent, each country has its own definition of household and each of these definitions can entail a different group composition or size. In international comparisons, it is also important to list the groups of persons who should be included or excluded because researchers, interviewers and respondents are also influenced by their own understanding of household and by their culture.

The list of the household members to be regarded as a unit in accordance with the criteria of co-residence and common housekeeping firstly details all those who are all too often forgotten, such as children, especially infants. Furthermore, persons who are temporarily absent due to education, training or work, or persons who are temporarily away from the household because of illness, holidays or other reasons are assigned to the household. The maximum permissible length of the absence – 6 months – is based on the period used in many countries' definitions. In

the next step, resident domestic staff, au-pairs, nursing staff and caregivers are classified as household members. All family members or former household members who live in collective accommodation are excluded, as are those who have been absent for longer than six months and persons who are present temporarily such as visitors. It is true that this list represents a massive intervention in the definition because temporarily absent persons are re-assigned to the household. Nonetheless, only a definition like this, which can be accepted by as many cultures as possible, allows for comparative analysis.

Finally, we now endeavour to assign the number of persons listed to dwelling units because the household definition is not always restricted to one dwelling. So-called self-contained "granny flats" adjacent to the main dwelling which could be occupied by children or parents are common. Where household is defined in terms of a *dwelling entrance door*, these flats should to be regarded as separate dwelling units. Weekly should also be included in the central household. This can lead to a problem where the survey population is defined in terms of the resident population because, in this case, weekly commuters and students can be located in two places and included in two households. However, this dilemma can be solved only by means of an appropriate definition of the survey population.

Questionnaire questions for a harmonised and comprehensive survey of the private household :



**Question 1: A household consists of all persons living together with common housekeeping.**

<b>These are ...</b>	<b>Number of persons</b>
Please fill in the number of persons	
yourself	1
all other adults living here permanently	
all children, including infants, living here permanently	
all persons in education or training, such as boarding-school pupils and students, who are temporarily absent at the moment	
persons absent at the moment because of their job, such as weekly commuters, seasonal workers and persons away on construction jobs	
persons absent because of community and civilian service or military service	
persons absent for a maximum of six months because of sickness or holidays	
persons absent for a maximum of six months because of other reasons, such as imprisonment on remand	
also included are resident domestic staff, au-pairs and caregivers/nurses	

Total \_\_\_\_ please fill in the total number of persons

<b>Persons not counted as household members:</b>	<b>Number of persons</b>
Please fill in the number of persons	
regular professional soldiers and policemen living in barracks	
family members living in nursing homes and homes for the elderly	
persons absent for more than six months	
visitors, including long-term visitors	

Total \_\_\_\_ please fill in the total number of persons

**Question 2:** Is this household spread over more than one dwelling?

yes            no

***If yes:***

**Question 2a:** How many different dwellings?

Please, fill in the number of dwellings:

**Question 2b:** In this dwelling, how many people share common house-keeping?

Please count again all persons including children and persons absent for a maximum of six months because of work, education, illness, holidays, civilian or military service, imprisonment etc.

Please enter the number of persons:

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**Appendix A1:  
Definition of "private household" in the national censuses  
or in surveys by the official Statistical Offices  
for all 27 EU-countries including Norway and Switzerland**

- Austria, Census 2001
- Belgium, General Socio-Economic Survey 2001
- Bulgaria, Census 2001
- Cyprus, Census 2001
- Czech Republic, Census 2001
- Denmark, Household Budget Survey 2004
- Estonia, Census 2000
- Finland, Household Budget Survey, European Community Household Panel
- France
- Germany, Micro-Census 1997, 1998, 2004
- Greece, Census 2001
- Hungary, Population Census 2001
- Ireland, Census of Population 2002
- Italy, Census 2001
- Latvia, National household concept used in the EU Labour Force Survey
- Lithuania, Census 2001
- Luxembourg, Census 2001
- Malta, Census of Population and Housing 2005
- Netherlands, Census 2001
- Norway, Census 2001
- Poland, Household budget survey 2003
- Portugal, Census 2001
- Romania, Census 2001
- Slovakia, Census 2001
- Slovenia, Census 2002, Survey Information 1997
- Spain, Census 2001
- Sweden, Census 2000
- Switzerland, Census 2000
- United Kingdom, England, Census 1991/2001

## **Austria, Census 2001**

### *Was ist ein Haushalt?*

Einen Haushalt bilden alle Personen, die miteinander wohnen und zusammen eine gemeinsame Hauswirtschaft führen. (Zum Haushalt gehört auch z. B. Hauspersonal, wenn es in Kost und Quartier ist.) Ein Haushalt kann auch aus einer einzigen Person bestehen.

Mitbewohner/innen (z. B. Untermieter/innen), die eine eigene Hauswirtschaft führen, können eigene Zählungslisten ausfüllen.

Als ersten Schritt bitten wir Sie, zu überlegen, wer in die Zählungsliste (Spalte 1) aufzunehmen ist.

### *Wer ist in die Zählungsliste einzutragen?*

Personen, die in dieser Wohnung ihren Hauptwohnsitz oder Nebenwohnsitz haben. (Dies gilt auch dann, wenn sie am Tag der Zählung vorübergehend abwesend sind.)

Der für die Aufnahme in die Zählungsliste entscheidende Zeitpunkt ist 1 Uhr morgens am 15. Mai 2001.

Die Personen sind familienweise, in der Reihenfolge Eltern – Kind(er), einzutragen.

### *Wer ist nicht einzutragen?*

1. Personen, die vor dem 15. Mai 2001, 1 Uhr morgens, gestorben sind oder nach diesem Zeitpunkt geboren wurden.
2. Personen, die sich nur vorübergehend, z. B. zu Besuch oder im Urlaub, in dieser Wohnung aufhalten.
3. Exterritoriale Personen (Personal mit ausländischer Staatsangehörigkeit bei ausländischen Vertretungsbehörden und internationalen Organisationen) sowie deren Familienangehörige.

### *Angabe des Hauptwohnsitzes*

(da das Volkszählungsgesetz die Personen an ihrem Hauptwohnsitz zählen will ...)

Wir bitten Sie daher, in einem nächsten Schritt zu prüfen, wer in ihrem Haushalt mit Hauptwohnsitz bzw. nur mit Nebenwohnsitz lebt (Spalte 3)

*Source: Republik Österreich, 2001: Zählungsliste für einen Haushalt. Volkszählung am 15. Mai 2001*

## **Belgium, General Socio-Economic Survey 2001**

The interviewed population is composed of all people who are registered in the population or foreigner registers held by the municipalities of the country on the 1st of October 2001.

### *Ménage:*

Le ménage est constitué, soit par une personne vivant habituellement seule, soit par deux ou plusieurs personnes qui, unies ou non par des liens de parentés, occupent habituellement un même logement et y vivent en commun.

*Source: Institut National de Statistique 2002 : Population et Ménages. Ménages et Noyaux familiaux au 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2001. Bruxelles*

## **Bulgaria, Census 2001, definitions and classifications**

*Population (resident population, de facto population, temporary absent and temporary present population)*

The "permanent population" includes all persons, who live permanently in a given settlement, irrespectively of whether they are present on its territory at a crucial moment of the census, or have temporarily left to another settlement. The permanent place of residence is the settlement in which the person usually lives.

The "present population" includes all persons who are present in the settlement at the crucial moment of the census, irrespectively of whether they live there permanently, or are temporarily present in it for some reason.

"Temporarily absent persons" are those who live permanently in a given dwelling belonging to the settlement under census, but in the crucial moment – 0 o'clock on 1 March 2001, have been in another settlement on business, vacation, visiting, holidays, etc.

"Temporarily present persons" are those who live permanently in another settlement, but have come on business, vacation, visiting, holidays in the dwelling, hotel, holiday house, etc., belonging to the territory of the settlement under census and at the crucial moment of the census have been there.

### *Place of Residence*

The permanent and current addresses will be recorded (country, region, Municipality and settlement).

For persons-Bulgarian citizens, who have already changed their old personal documents (passports) with new ones (identity cards), the permanent and current addresses will be recorded according to their identity cards.

*Source: Republic of Bulgaria, National Statistical Institute, 2001: Population, Housing and Agricultural Holdings Census at 1 March 2001. Census Definitions and Classifications*

## Cyprus, Census 2001

### *List of Household Members*

#### *Household Composition*

(a) please give me the names of persons who usually live with this household. First the name of the head of household.

#### *Include:*

- Persons temporarily away for less than one year.
- Pupils / students.
- Soldiers.
- Seamen.
- Household members who have been staying or intend to stay in institution for less than one year.
- Spouse even if away from their family for one year or more.
- Persons temporarily employed in Arab countries.
- Household members who passed away between October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001 and the day of interview.
- Domestic employee residing with the household.

#### *Exclude:*

- Guests or other persons who have their usual place of residence elsewhere.
- Household members who have been staying or intend to stay in institution for one year or more.
- Children born after October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001.

(b) Are there any infants or small children or other persons e.g. domestic employee who belong to this household and have not been listed above?

(c) Are there any persons who belong to this household and who are absent temporarily such as: in the National Guard, pupils, students or working abroad and not listed above?

(d) Are there any persons apart from those you have just mentioned that used to stay with you on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2001 and now are not staying with you?

*Source: Republic of Cyprus, Statistical Service, 2001: Census of Population 2001. Questionnaire.*

## Czech Republic, Census 2001

### *Census Questionnaire Housing Units*

#### *question 18*

List all persons in the dwelling – including all persons having a permanent residence but temporarily absent and all persons temporarily present

#### *question 19*

Common housekeeping by household members

Persons in common housekeeping

Please, write in the number of those persons (according to question 18) who live together in one household, including all children belonging to that household.

1. household includes persons with number:
2. household includes persons with number:
3. household includes persons with number:
4. household includes persons with number:
5. household includes persons with number:

If there are more than 10 persons or more than 5 households in your dwelling, continue filling in ...

*Explication what common housekeeping means:*

Common housekeeping means that main costs of the household (food, living costs, operational costs and others) are paid for jointly.

*Source: Czech Statistical Office, 2001: Census Questionnaire Housing Units*

## Denmark, Household Budget Survey 2004

*From 1981 and each year onwards information that corresponds to a population and housing census is retrieved from registers. Denmark was the first country in the world to conduct these censuses from administrative registers.*

### *A private household*

is defined as an *economic unit*: A group of persons living together and having a high degree of common economy – that is sharing incomes and expenses. In 2004, there were 2.553 million private households in Denmark (estimated by the Household Budget Survey).

Persons living in different kinds of shared households (prisons, hospitals, some institutions etc.) are excluded, since it is typically impossible to distinguish the private economy from the shared economy. For some of the survey variables, it is important to have this exclusion in mind, e.g. for analyses of the use of hospital services (as more permanent hospitalized persons are not covered).

*Source: Statistics Denmark, 2004: Household Budget Survey*

*[http://www.dst.dk/HomeUK/Statistics/focus\\_on/focus\\_on\\_show.aspx?sci=404](http://www.dst.dk/HomeUK/Statistics/focus_on/focus_on_show.aspx?sci=404)  
(07-11-07)*

## **Estonia, Census 2000**

### *Census rules for 2000 Population and Housing Census*

Census covers natural persons (hereinafter: persons), households and dwellings and buildings containing dwellings. Persons who live together and are linked by a common use of all available household facilities form a Household comprises persons who live together at one address and who are connected by joint housekeeping (shared budget and shared food). A person living alone is also considered a household. Relationship or kinship between household members is not necessarily required. If a person shares a dwelling with some other person but buys food himself/herself and has a separate budget, then he/she is considered a separate household. Persons staying in social welfare, health care, recreational and other institutions, in correctional and penal and other institutions institution and in military service and who are have their meals provided for by that institution (hereinafter: institution) shall be considered form an institutional household. For the purposes of these instructions Census rules, dwelling is a family dwelling, apartment or other separate room suitable for all-the-year-round habitation. Dwelling is also every room where at the Census moment at least one person is residing permanently, regardless of whether it has been constructed as a dwelling or not (for example, dwelling may also be a storeroom, garage, trailer, etc.).

*Source:: Statistical Office of Estonia, 1999: Approval of the Census questionnaire, forms of Census questionnaires and Census rules for the 2000 Population and Housing Census. Regulation No. 82 of the Government of the Republic of 5 March 1999 (RT\* I 1999, 32, 431)*



## Finland

*population and housing census is retrieved from registers*

### **Household Budget Survey, main concepts and classifications**

#### *Household*

According to the definition, a household is formed by persons who fully or partially share meals or otherwise use their income together. A household is a broader concept than a family. A household also differs from a household-dwelling unit, which is comprised of persons who reside permanently in the same dwelling.

General delimitations have been made to the definition of a household, so that its members performing compulsory military or non-military service, residing at another locality or working temporarily abroad, or temporarily hospitalised or away on business or holiday are always counted into the household. Students studying at another locality also belong to the household of their parents if they mainly live on their parents' income. Students living on their own income, such as the state study aid, form households of their own.

#### *Reference person of household*

A household can be composed of one or more persons. In the interview the household member with the highest personal income during the last 12 months is defined as the reference person of the household. Some of the classification data of households are also determined according to the reference person, such as the socio-economic group and educational level of the household.

*Source: Statistics Finland, 2003: Composition and concepts of the Household Budget Survey*

*[http://www.stat.fi/tk/el/kulutustutkimus/kulutust\\_kasitteet\\_en.html](http://www.stat.fi/tk/el/kulutustutkimus/kulutust_kasitteet_en.html) (07-11-07)*

## **European Community Household Panel 2001, central concepts**

### *Household*

Households are formed by persons living alone or by persons who live and eat or otherwise use their incomes together.

### *Reference person of a household*

Some of the classified, household-specific data, such as those on main activity or level of education are formed on the basis of data on the reference person of a household. The reference person of a household is generally the person who has the highest income in the household. Where household members have equal incomes, the member who is employed is primarily selected as the reference person.

*Source: Statistics Finland, 2004: Data collection and central concepts*  
*[http://www.stat.fi/tk/el/echp\\_data\\_collection.html](http://www.stat.fi/tk/el/echp_data_collection.html) (07-11-07)*

## France

*Ménage (au sens de l'enquête de recensement)*

### *Définition*

Un ménage (ou encore "ménage ordinaire"), au sens de l'enquête de recensement, désigne l'ensemble des personnes qui partagent la même résidence principale sans que ces personnes soient nécessairement unies par des liens de parenté (en cas de cohabitation, par exemple).

### *Remarque*

Les personnes vivant dans des habitations mobiles (y compris les marinières les sans-abri) ou résidant en collectivité (foyers de travailleurs, maisons de retraite, résidences universitaires, maisons de détention...) sont considérées comme vivant "hors ménages ordinaires". C'est aussi le cas, dans les enquêtes de recensement, des élèves majeurs vivant en internat, ainsi que des militaires vivant en caserne sans leur famille, alors qu'ils étaient rattachés au ménage ordinaire de leur famille dans les précédents recensements de la population

*Source: INSEE: Nomenclatures, Définitions Méthodes*

*[http://www.insee.fr/fr/nom\\_def\\_met/definitions/html/menage-recensement.htm](http://www.insee.fr/fr/nom_def_met/definitions/html/menage-recensement.htm) (08-11-07)*

## Germany, Micro-Census 1997, 1998, 2004

### Mikrozensus 1997

#### *Fragebogen – Erläuterung zu Frage 2*

"Ein Haushalt ist eine Personengemeinschaft, die zusammen wohnt und wirtschaftet, für die also im Haushalt gemeinsam gekocht wird, die ihren Lebensunterhalt gemeinsam finanziert. Wer alleine wirtschaftet, bildet einen eigenen Haushalt."

#### *Frage 5*

Wie viele Personen haben am 23. April 1997 in Ihrem Haushalt gelebt? Bitte auch die Personen mitzählen, die nur vorübergehend abwesend sind: Z. B. Studenten/-innen, Grund-/Zivildienstleistende!

Source: [http://www.gesis.org/dauerbeobachtung/gml/Daten/MZ/mz\\_1997/frabo97.pdf](http://www.gesis.org/dauerbeobachtung/gml/Daten/MZ/mz_1997/frabo97.pdf) (08-11-07)

### Mikrozensus 1998

Als Haushalt (Privathaushalt) zählt jede zusammenwohnende und eine wirtschaftliche Einheit bildende Personengemeinschaft sowie Personen, die allein wohnen und wirtschaften (z. B. Einzeluntermieter). Zum Haushalt können verwandte und familienfremde Personen gehören (z. B. Hauspersonal). Gemeinschafts- und Anstaltsunterkünfte gelten nicht als Haushalte, können aber Privathaushalte beherbergen (z. B. Haushalt des Anstaltsleiters). Haushalte mit mehreren Wohnungen werden unter Umständen mehrfach gezählt (s. Bevölkerung in Privathaushalten).

Die Zahl der Haushalte stimmt mit derjenigen der Familien nicht überein, weil es bei Haushalten zu Doppelzählungen kommen kann. Ferner ist zu beachten, dass in einem Haushalt mehrere Familien wohnen können.

Source: *Bevölkerung und Erwerbstätigkeit. Fachserie 1, Reihe 3 Haushalte und Familien 1996 (Ergebnisse des Mikrozensus)*. Stuttgart: Metzler-Poeschel. [StBA 1998, Reihe 1, Fachserie 3].

## **Mikrozensus 2004**

### *Haushalt*

Als (privat-)Haushalt zählt jede zusammen wohnende und eine wirtschaftliche Einheit bildende Personengemeinschaft (Mehrpersonenhaushalte) sowie Personen, die alleine wohnen und wirtschaften (Einpersonenhaushalte, z. B. Einzeluntermieter). Zum Haushalt können verwandte und familienfremde Personen gehören (z. B. Hauspersonal). Gemeinschafts- und Anstaltsunterkünfte gelten nicht als Haushalte, können aber Privathaushalte beherbergen (z. B. Haushalt des Anstaltsleiters). Haushalte mit mehreren Wohnungen werden unter Umständen mehrfach gezählt (siehe Bevölkerung in Privathaushalten). In einem Haushalt können mehrere Lebensformen (z. B. ein Ehepaar ohne Kinder sowie eine allein erziehende Mutter mit zwei Kindern) leben.

*Source: Statistisches Bundesamt 2005: Leben und Arbeiten in Deutschland – Mikrozensus 2004*

## Greece, Census 2001

### *Household*

Household is defined as either one person living alone or a group of persons, not necessarily related, living at the same address with common housekeeping – i.e. sharing a meal on most days or sharing a living or sitting room etc. More specifically:

### *One-person household*

- One person living alone in one dwelling or in one room of the latter and does his own housekeeping
- Two or more persons living at the same address, related or not, without common housekeeping and each one of them has the exclusive use of at least one room.

### *Multi-person household*

- One couple or parents with their children or one parent with children
- One couple with or without children, parents of the couple and the resident servant, if any
- Two or more persons, not necessarily related, living at the same address with common housekeeping
- One or less than 5 boarders residing within a private household.

Person responsible for the household, present members, members temporarily away of the household

*Person responsible for the household* is the member, taking all significant decisions concerning it. From this person, when present, or any other person aged 18 and over, we ask information concerning data on the rest members of the household.

*Present member* is considered every person who stayed overnight (Saturday 17/3/01 night) in the household. Even if a person, during the visit of the enumerator, is away from home, being at work, in church, at the café or visiting relatives/friends, is considered as present. Also, present members are considered, the members of the household who overnight were working as night guards, workers etc., or maybe were entertained themselves or were at their farms in the country yard. Also, persons traveling within the country, who haven't been enumerated anywhere else and intend to return to their household. Finally, as present member of the household is considered any guest (member of another household), who stayed overnight in the household.

*Person temporarily away from the household* is considered the member of the household, who stayed overnight on 17th to 18th March, elsewhere and is absent during the enumeration. The absence is due to being in vacation, hospitalized, working in another place or in jail. As an exception, sailors and fishermen, as always, independently of time of absence, considered as being *temporarily away*, but cannot be considered as *responsible* for the household. As temporarily away are not considered prisoners, hospitalized for a long time, or persons studying abroad or in another city within Greece.

*Source: National Statistical Service of Greece, 2003: Population and Housing Census 2001. Definitions - Concepts*

## Hungary, Population Census 2001

### *Household*

A (private) *household* is a group of persons living together in a common housing unit or in a part of it, bearing together, at least partly, the costs of living (i.e. daily expenses, meals). Persons living in the same dwelling but on the basis of independent tenure status, are not considered as persons living in the same household even if the above conditions are fulfilled. Consequently, owners or tenants (partner tenants) do not form a common household with their subtenant, night-lodger, the former persons (the members of a family, if so) always are grouped as an independent family.

If the household consists of one family, the family and the household are practically identical, i.e. a one-family household. The one-family household differs from the family insofar as the number of family members does not include relatives and/or non-relatives (including children under state-care) living together with the family, while the number of household members does. If several families manage a common household, this is a two-, three- or multi-family household. In case of households consisting of two or more families, the number of household members contains, besides the number of the members of families forming the household, the number of relatives and/or non-relatives living with the families but forming no separate family, too. One- and multi-family households make up the category of *family-households*.

*Non-family household* is the one in which no family relations exist. The following types can be specified:

- one-person household, i.e. household of a lone person
- household of other compositions in which relatives and/or non-relatives constituting no family live, such as:
  - (a) relatives (e.g. brothers and sisters, a father or mother living alone with his/her married or formerly married child, one grandparent with his/her grandchild of any marital status),
  - (b) household of non-relatives (e.g. friends),
  - (c) household consisting of relatives forming no family and of non-relative(s) living with them (e.g. two siblings with their friend).



The rows of one-family households *with relative and/or non-relative* in table 1.3.8 contain also one-family households with ascending relative. At the same time, the table also shows in a separate row one-family households with ascending relative (irrespective of having or not other relative/non-relative person in the household).

*Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office, 2001: Population Census 2001. Explanation of the concepts used*

*<http://www.nepszamlalas.hu/eng/volumes/concepts.html> (07-11-07)*

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## Ireland, Census of Population 2002, definitions

### *Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas*

The population in the Aggregate Town Area is defined as those persons living in population clusters of 1,500 or more inhabitants. For this purpose a town with a legally defined boundary is classified on the basis of its total population including any suburbs or environs.

The population residing in all areas outside clusters of 1,500 or more inhabitants is classified as belonging to the Aggregate Rural Area. The Aggregate Rural Area is a statistical concept and is not related to the former Rural District administrative unit.

### *Private Household*

A *private household* comprises either one person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping arrangements – that is, sharing at least one meal a day or sharing a living room or sitting room.

A *permanent private household* is a private household occupying a permanent dwelling such as a dwelling house, flat or bedsitter.

A *temporary private household* is a private household occupying a caravan, mobile home or other temporary dwelling and includes travelling people and homeless persons living rough on census night.

The details in Part 1 relate to all private households while the information in Part 2 refers to *private households in permanent housing units* and excludes households occupying caravans or other temporary dwellings (covered separately in Part 3). Cases where the type of accommodation was not stated are included in Part 2 with the *private households in permanent housing units*.

### *Non-private Household (Communal Establishment)*

A *non-private household* is a group of persons enumerated in a boarding house, hotel, guest house, hostel, barrack, hospital, nursing home, boarding school, religious institution, welfare institution, prison or ship, etc. A non-private household may include usual residents and visitors. However, proprietors and managers of hotels, principals of boarding schools, persons in charge of various other types of institutions and members of staff who, with their families, occupy separate living accommodation on the premises are classified as private households.

*Size of Household*

The number of persons in a household consists of the total number of persons usually resident there on the night of Sunday, 28 April 2002, including those absent from the household for less than three months. Visitors present in the household on census night are excluded.

*Source: Statistics Ireland: Ireland Census of population 2002, vol 3: housing and household, Appendix 2*

## **Italy, Census 2001**

### **14<sup>th</sup> General Population Census and General Housing Census. 21 October 2001**

#### *Household Form*

The term household refers to:

A group of people, bound by marriage, kinship, affinity, adoption, guardianship or by emotional ties, who are partners and live in the same Municipality (even if still not registered in the Population Register residing in that Municipality).

A household may also be composed of one individual only.

*Source: National Institute of Statistics, 2001: 14<sup>th</sup> General Population Census and General Housing Census. 21 October 2001. Household Form*

## Latvia

### **National household concept used in the EU Labour Force Survey**

A household is defined as a group of two or more persons living together in a house or a part of a house and share expenses for common living and eating. The person stating that he/she does not belong to any household and that he/she lives on his/her own budget is considered as a single person household.

*Source: Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), Conference of European Statisticians, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 2005: Overview of the efforts underway in the UNECE region to measure emerging forms of families and households. Working Paper No 5. 21 September 2005: p. 9 [unece.org/stats/documents/2005/09/social/wp.5.e.pdf](http://unece.org/stats/documents/2005/09/social/wp.5.e.pdf) (07-11-07)*

### **Household Budget Survey 2003**

The household member considered as such by the other household members.

Aggregated data for 1999 were calculated using the concept of reference person recommended by Eurostat.

*Source: European Communities, 2004: Household budget survey in the Candidate Countries. Methodological analysis 2003. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, p. 26*

## Lithuania, Census 2001

### *Instructions for Compiling list of Residents of the Dwelling by Households*

The household is either a group of persons living together who have a common budget and make common provisions for food, or one person living alone. Members of a multi-person household need not be related by birth or marriage.

Persons who, at the time of the census, have arrived to the dwelling under enumeration which is neither their place of usual residents nor the place where present at the moment of the census are not included in the list.

*The list comprises all persons who:*

were present in the dwelling at 24:00 on 5 April 2001, including temporarily present persons;  
are usual residents of the dwelling but were temporarily absent at the moment of the census.

All persons to be listed are entered in numerical order in the column Person's No. of order.

Households are entered in the column Household No. Each household is given a separate number.

Before compiling the list, the enumerator needs to find out in which order the persons making up the household are to be entered, i.e. to identify the reference person. The recommendation to be followed is to write as the reference person:

- husband or wife (preferably from the medium generation if the household comprises several generations);
- one of the cohabitants in a household with no family nucleus;
- father/mother with one or more children of any age;
- adult member of the household if none of the above is appropriate.

If the Household consists of one member he/she is entered as the reference person.

*Source: Government of the Republic of Lithuania, Department of Statistics, 2000: General Instructions*

## Luxembourg, Census 2001

### *Définition RP2001*

#### Ménage

Le ménage est constitué, soit par une personne vivant habituellement seule, soit par deux ou plusieurs personnes qui, unies ou non par des liens de famille, résident habituellement dans une même demeure et y ont une vie commune.

Seront considérées comme faisant partie du ménage les personnes temporairement absentes au moment du recensement.

Les domestiques, les employés et les ouvriers qui habitent chez leur employeur font partie du ménage de celui-ci ; toutefois si ces personnes retournent au moins une fois par semaine dans leur ménage, elles font partie de ce dernier.

Les ménages sont classés en deux catégories:

Les ménages collectifs les ménages privés.

#### Ménage collectif

Un ménage collectif est un ensemble de personnes logeant dans certaines institutions en chambres individuelles ou collectives et qui, souvent, prennent leur repas ensemble et se plient à certaines règles communautaires. Ces institutions peuvent être des maisons de retraite, des hôpitaux, des établissements pour enfants handicapés, des orphelinats, des couvents, des foyers pour étudiants ou travailleurs, des établissements pénitentiaires etc.

Font partie d'un ménage collectif les personnes recensées dans les institutions en question et qui ont répondu 'Oui' à la question 'Avez-vous votre résidence habituelle dans ce logement? En cas de réponse négative, elles ont été reclassées dans leur ménage (privé) d'origine. Lorsque ce ménage d'origine n'a pu être retrouvé, elles ont quand-même été comptées parmi la population de résidence de l'institution.

Ne font pas partie du ménage collectif les personnes qui, tout en ayant leur résidence habituelle dans les bâtiments de l'institution, y ont leur propre ménage, p.ex. le ménage du directeur ou celui du concierge. Ces ménages sont classés parmi les ménages privés.

## Ménage privé

### *Ménages d'isolés et ménages multiples*

D'après le nombre de membres, les recommandations de l'ONU distinguent les ménages d'isolés et les ménages multiples.

### *Ménage d'isolé*

Un ménage d'isolé est formé par une personne qui vit seule dans une unité d'habitation distincte ou qui occupe, en qualité de sous-locataire, une ou plusieurs pièces d'une unité d'habitation, mais qui ne forme pas, avec d'autres occupants de l'unité d'habitation, un ménage multiple (répondant à la définition ci-après) :

### *Ménage multiple*

Un ménage multiple est un groupe de deux personnes ou plus qui s'associent pour occuper une unité d'habitation, en totalité ou en partie, et pouvoir en commun à leurs besoins alimentaires et éventuellement aux autres besoins essentiels de l'existence. Les membres du groupe peuvent, dans une mesure variable, mettre leurs revenus en commun. Le groupe peut se composer, soit uniquement de personnes apparentées, soit de personnes non apparentées, soit de personnes appartenant à l'une et l'autre de ces deux catégories ; il peut comprendre des pensionnaires, mais non des sous-locataires. La distinction entre 'pensionnaire' et 'sous-locataire' appelle une explication. Les pensionnaires prennent leur repas avec le ménage et, en général, sont admis à utiliser toutes les installations ménagères disponibles. Les sous-locataires sont des personnes qui ont loué une partie de l'unité d'habitation pour leur usage exclusif.

A noter que dans les hôtels ayant un personnel égal ou supérieur de six personnes qui habitent dans l'établissement, les membres de ce personnel sont à considérer chacun comme formant un ménage à part (ménage d'une personne ou, lorsqu'il s'agit p.ex. d'un couple marié avec ou sans enfants, un ménage à plusieurs personnes) ; lorsqu'il s'agit d'un personnel comptant cinq personnes au plus, celles-ci sont à considérer comme faisant partie du ménage du propriétaire ou du gérant de l'hôtel.

*Source: STATEC (Ed.) 2003 : 'Recensement de la population 2001 - Résultats détaillés' (Novembre 2003) ISBN 2-87988-041-6*



## Malta, Census of Population and Housing 2005

### *Private household.*

This consists of either:

- (a) One person who lives alone in a separate housing unit or who occupies, as a lodger, a separate room (or rooms) of a housing unit but does not join with any of the other occupants of the housing unit to form part of a multi-person household.
- (b) A multi-person household, i.e. a group of two or more persons, who combine to occupy the whole part of a housing unit and to provide themselves with food and possibly other essentials for living. Members of the group may pool their incomes to a greater or lesser extent.

### *Boarders and lodgers*

Boarders take meals with the household and generally are allowed to use all the available household facilities. Normally these are included with the household. Lodgers are sub-tenants who have hired part of the housing unit for their exclusive use and are considered as a private one person household, even though they live in the same dwelling with other persons.

### *Residents in collective accommodation establishments*

Persons who normally reside in hotels, guest houses, etc. are considered as separate one-person or multi-person households, depending on their situation.

### *Institutional household*

Refers to persons whose need for shelter and subsistence are being provided by an institution. An institution is understood as a legal body for the purpose of long-term habitation and provision of institutionalised care given to a group of persons. The institution's accommodation is by nature of its structure intended as a long-term accommodation for an institutional household.

*Multiple households in the same dwelling*

There are some instances where a number of households (consisting of either one member or multi-person) might be living together in the same dwelling. In such instances it is important to complete separate questionnaires for each household.

*Source: National Statistical Office Malta, 2005: Census of Population and Housing 2005. Manual.*

## Netherlands, Census 2001

### *Huishouden*

Een verzameling van één of meer personen die een woonruimte bewoont en daar zichzelf voorziet, of door derden wordt voorzien, in dagelijkse levensbehoeften.

### Household

Group of people living in one accommodation who provide for their own housing and daily needs or whose housing and daily needs are provided for by others.

*Source: Statistics Netherlands, Voorburg/Heerlen.*

*[http://www.cbs.nl/en-GB/menu/methoden/begrippen/default.htm?wbc\\_purpose=Basiccijferspublicatiescijfers?Start=h](http://www.cbs.nl/en-GB/menu/methoden/begrippen/default.htm?wbc_purpose=Basiccijferspublicatiescijfers?Start=h) (08-11-07)*

### *Household statistics*

The household statistics of Statistics Netherlands are based on the GBA-information and are derived every year. Household statistics contain the number of households divided into household types, and persons living in households divided into household positions, in the Netherlands on 1 January. Data on households refer to the population in private and institutional households.

### *Directly derived households*

The main input for household statistics is integral data on the Dutch population which Statistics Netherlands obtains from municipal population registers. First, all persons living in an institutional household are classified as such based on address information. After this, persons in private households are derived. For every single identifiable address the persons living on that address are identified together with their (family) relationships. Register information gives information about family ties. Every personal record contains information on parent(s) and of all children born, irrespective of their present residence. There is also information about the partner of the person. Together with the detailed address information it is possible to identify all traditional nuclear families.

Obviously, persons living alone at an address form a one person household.

When more than one person lives at an address either:

- (1) all persons at the address are related to each other;
- (2) one or more persons are not related to other persons living at the address. In the first case the household position and composition is derived directly from the family composition.

These are married couples with and without children, single parent households, most other households and some non-married couples with children. (Partners in) registered partnerships are classified as (partners in) married couples.

There are a number of specific cases in which the household composition is derived by taking certain decisions. The most important decisions are:

- Other persons related to the family nucleus, that is brothers/sisters or grandparent(s): if such a relationship can be identified such persons become part of the household. As a general rule these persons are classified as other members of the household. In the case of two related families the youngest couple is considered the family-nucleus. The other family members are classified as other members of the household. Thus multifamily households are not identified.
- Addresses where two brothers/sisters live together are classified as other households. Linking these two persons is possible because the information on the parents is the same.
- Persons aged 15 or younger living at an address without an identifiable parent are classified as other household members in case there is one other family living at an address.
- When two non-related persons came to live at an address at the same day these two persons are classified as a two-person household.
- At addresses with more than one family unit, the household composition is the same as for the separate families living at the address. If, for example, a couple with children, grandmother and two non-family persons live at an address, the households at that address are the couple with children with one other household member, and two one-person households.
- Persons aged 15 or younger living at an address without an identifiable parent are classified as child. The household type of these chil-

dren is classified as 'Household type not stated', even in case there is another family living at the same address.

### *Households derived by imputation*

Most of the household information is derived from the population registers. However, these registers do not contain all the information that is required to distinguish all the different types of households. The position in the household and the composition of the household can be established if the relationships between persons living at the same address are clear. This is the case for roughly 93 percent of the inhabitants of the Netherlands. The remaining 7 percent of the population in households is imputed on the basis of a logistic regression model. For this purpose six groups of addresses are made:

- (1) Two 'unattached' 1 persons living at an address;
- (2) Three 'unattached' persons living at an address;
- (3) Four to nine 'unattached' persons living at an address;
- (4) One single-parent family and a 'unattached' person living at an address;
- (5) One couple and one 'unattached' person living at an address;
- (6) Addresses as mentioned above with a postal classification identifying more than one separate postal unit (a kind of substitute for households) at the address.

Overall 11 percent of the households is determined by imputation. Unmarried couples without children are the most difficult group to determine. About half of these couples are based on estimation rather than observation. About three quarters of the unmarried couples with children are based on observation. Most of the remaining quarter comes from addresses containing a single parent and an 'unattached' person.

*Source: Eric Schulte Nordholt, Marijke Hartgers, Rita Gircour 2004: The Dutch Virtual Census of 2001. Analysis and Methodology. Statistics Netherlands, Voorburg/ Heerlen*

## Norway, Census 2001

### *Household*

A household consists of persons that are permanently resident in the same private dwelling or institution. These households are known as *dwelling households*. Census 2001 does not include any information on *housekeeping units*, i.e. persons living in the same dwelling with joint board.

A *private household* comprises persons resident in the same dwelling, where this dwelling is not an institution. An *institutional household* comprises persons who have board, lodgings, care or nursing at an institution. Employees that are resident in an institution are always considered resident in a private household. Census 2001 does not provide any statistics for institutional households; however the number of persons not living in private households is given. This group is referred to as resident in *other households* and comprises persons resident in institutional households as well as persons of no fixed abode.

In Census 2001, most statistics that are produced are based on legal residence (i.e. address according to the National Population Register). However, information is also collected on actual place of residence.

### *Households according to legal address*

The composition of households according to legal address is based on information given in the dwelling form and information on addresses retrieved from the National Population Register. Households can consist of one or more families. Persons belonging to the same family also belong to the same household. If persons who do not belong to the same family are to be considered a household, they have to be registered at the same address in the National Population Register and they need to have confirmed in the questionnaire that they live together. This means that unmarried students living away from home but registered at their parents' address are considered part of their parents' household. Only persons that are registered in the National Population Register as resident at an institution are regarded as belonging to an institutional household. Many persons who live in institutions, e.g., homes for the elderly and nursing homes, are registered as resident in a private dwelling (together with their spouse).

*Households by actual place of residence*

In Census 2001, information was gathered on actual address at the place of study for students living away from home, and institution address for persons actually residing at homes for the elderly and nursing homes (no corresponding information was collected on persons residing in other types of institutions). When compiling *households by actual place of residence*, the place of study/institution address is used for these persons. This means that students are considered belonging to a household at the place of study (alone or with others according to the answer given in the questionnaire). This also affects the composition of the parents' household. Everyone permanently residing at a home for the elderly or nursing home is counted in institutional households, regardless of whether they have a spouse residing in a private household or not.

Source: Statistics Norway, Harald Utne, 2005: *The Population and Housing Census Handbook. Documents*. [www.ssb.no/emner/02/01/doc\\_200502/doc\\_200502.pdf](http://www.ssb.no/emner/02/01/doc_200502/doc_200502.pdf) (07-11-07)

## **Poland**

### **Household Budget Survey 2003**

One-person household is defined as a self-sufficient person, i.e. not sharing his/her income with any other person, whether living alone or not.

Multi-person household is defined as a group of persons living together and sharing their income and expenditure.

*Source: European Communities, 2004: Household budget survey in the Candidate Countries. Methodological analysis 2003. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, p. 26*

### **National household concepts used in the EU Labour Force Survey**

The household is a group of relatives or other people living together and maintaining a joint unit. Persons not belonging to any household and living and managing the household all by themselves are considered as single person households.

*Source: Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), Conference of European Statisticians, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 2005: Overview of the efforts underway in the UNECE region to measure emerging forms of families and households. Working Paper No 5. 21 September 2005: p. 9*  
*unece.org/stats/documents/2005/09/social/wp.5.e.pdf (07-11-07)*



## Portugal, Census 2001

### *Agregado doméstico privado*

#### *Definição:*

Conjunto de pessoas que residem no mesmo alojamento e cujas despesas fundamentais ou básicas (alimentação, alojamento) são suportadas conjuntamente, independentemente da existência ou não de laços de parentesco; ou a pessoa que ocupa integralmente um alojamento ou que, partilhando-o com outros, não satisfaz a condição anterior.

#### *Notas:*

Os hóspedes com pensão alimentar, os casais residindo com os pais e os filhos/ hóspedes, bem como outras pessoas, são incluídos no agregado doméstico privado, desde que as despesas fundamentais ou básicas (alimentação, alojamento) sejam, habitualmente, suportadas por um orçamento comum. São ainda considerados como pertencentes ao agregado doméstico privado o(a)s empregados domésticos que coabitam no alojamento.

*Source: Instituto Nacional de Estatística, 2003: Aprovado pelo Conselho Superior de Estatística desde. 11.04.03*

## Romania, Census 2001

*By household it is understood* the group of two or more persons, living usually together, having generally relative relations and are commonly managing their economy (together are sharing the food supply and consumption, and other essential for living) and are participating entirely or partially to the incomes and expenditures budget.

It is considered, also, household, a group of two or more persons, having no relative relations among them, but stating that throughout understanding, they are living and managing together, sharing entirely or partially the incomes and the expenditures of the household.

he persons stating at the census moment, that they are living alone and are managing alone, they are forming one person households and will be recorded on *the PL form separately*.

The persons having the legal residence in other locality than where is enumerated, and is declaring that they do not have common household with the other persons living in the dwelling, will be recorded on *separate PL forms*.

Also, whether in a dwelling there are several households, for each of them will be filled in a *separate PL form*.

The foreign citizens, who arrived in Romania for more than one year prior to the census moment and:

- they have the residence in Romania or/and are married with Romanian citizens – will be registered on *the PL form* of the household where they are belonging (together with other Romanian citizens forming the household);
- they are singles or together with their families (formed, also, by foreign citizens) – will be recorded on a *separate PL form* (with no Romanian citizen on it), regardless whether persons having Romanian citizenship are living in that dwelling, for whom a *separate PL form e* will be completed, also.

*Source: Central Commission, 2001: Romania, Population and Housing Census 2002. The Handbook of the Census Staff. Enumerators, Chief Enumerators, District Supervisors.*

## Slovakia, Census 2001

The relations between persons living in the same dwelling served as a basis for processing the census and jointly managed households.

*Census household* includes all related or unrelated persons living together in one dwelling within one jointly managed household. It is a basic unit not to be divided further.

*Census household* consisted of:

(1) *family households*:

(a) *complete family* ? married couples (or common-law partners) without children or with children (regardless of their age, unless the adult children constitute a separate census household);

(b) *incomplete (single-parent) family* ? one of parents with at least one child (regardless of child's age, but taking into account joint management);

(2) *other households*

(a) *non-family (group) household*, consisting of two or more jointly managing persons, relatives or non-relatives, who, however, do not constitute a family household;

(b) *lone-person household* ? one natural person occupying the dwelling either alone or as subtenant or together with another census household, but managing independently.

*Subtenants* have always constituted a separate census household.

*Social group* of a household is determined according to the social group of the household head; it is always the husband (de facto partner) in complete families, and, as a rule, the parent in two-generation incomplete family and the member of the middle generation in three-generation incomplete families.

*Jointly managed households* consists of persons living together in one dwelling and jointly covering the greater part of main household expenditure (housing, food, household maintenance, heating, electricity, gas, etc.). The amount of shared household expenditure coverage is not relevant. A jointly managed household can also consist of one or more census households.

The data on jointly managed household were processed on the basis of declarations on joint management made by persons surveyed.

Households of subtenants are always referred to as independently managed households.

Jointly managed households and census households are made up of people permanently resident in dwellings or units other than dwellings. Households are represented by persons with temporary residence in the dwellings due to work or study in case they were the only dwelling occupants.

*Dwelling household* are made up of persons living together in the dwelling.

*Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, 2007: Selected indicators - Methodological notes <http://portal.statistics.sk/showdoc.do?docid=4486> (07-11-07)*

## **Slovenia, Census 2002,**

### **Survey Information 1997**

#### *Definition of Household*

A private household (household) is a group of people living together and sharing their income for covering the basic costs of living (accommodation, food, other consumer goods, etc.) or a person living alone.

Data on households refer to private households if not otherwise stated.

*Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, 2001: POPIS 2002. Methodological explanations. Definitions and explanations - Households*  
*[http://www.stat.si/Popis2002/en/definicije\\_in\\_pojasnila\\_4.html](http://www.stat.si/Popis2002/en/definicije_in_pojasnila_4.html) (07-11-07)*

### **Slovenia 1997: Survey information**

#### *Definition of the survey units: Household:*

A household as observation unit is a community of persons who live together and share their income for covering the basic costs of living (food, accommodation, etc.). A member of a household can however temporarily live apart because of work, school etc.

#### *Members of household:*

The following categories of persons should not be included in the household:

- resident borders and tenants
- persons normally being long term absent but present during recording period
- visitors
- hospitalised persons, if they are members of an institutional household, or if they do not maintain an economic link with the household

#### *Reference person:*

The reference person of the household is the person with the highest income.

*Source: Slovenia 1997: Survey Information*  
*[www.lisproject.org/techdoc/si/si97survey.pdf](http://www.lisproject.org/techdoc/si/si97survey.pdf) (07-11-07)*

## Spain, Census 2001

### *Hogar*

Se considera hogar al conjunto de personas que residen habitualmente en la misma vivienda. Las diferencias entre hogar y familia son:

- (a) El hogar puede ser unipersonal, mientras que la familia tiene que constar, por lo menos, de dos miembros.
- (b) Los miembros de un hogar multipersonal no tienen necesariamente que estar emparentados, mientras que los miembros de una familia sí.

*Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística: INEbase, Censos de Población y Viviendas 2001. Resultados definitivos*

*<http://www.ine.es/censo/es/glosario.htm> (08-11-07)*

## Sweden, Census 2000

### *Definition of the survey units*

Data were collected both at the person and household level. For the first time in 2000, there are two different types of populations in the survey: housekeeping units and family units (until 1999 only the family unit was considered). The data delivered to LIS are for housekeeping units.

### *Housekeeping unit*

A housekeeping unit is a household of individuals who live together in the same dwelling, prepare and have meals together, and who share the housekeeping.

### *Family unit*

The family unit is a nuclear family concept.; according to this concept, the family unit consists of either, cohabiting with children under the age of 18, cohabiting with no children, singles with children under the age of 18 or singles with no children; children over the age of 17 in this population are treated as adults in a separate household.

### *Reference person*

A housekeeping unit can contain one or several family units. If there is only one family unit, the reference person is the person who has the highest earnings including pensions; if there is more than one family unit the reference person of the housekeeping unit is the reference person from the "dominated" family unit (family unit with children or cohabiting).

*Source: Statistics Sweden, 2000: Sweden 2000. Survey Information.  
[www.lisproject.org/techdoc/se/se00survey.pdf](http://www.lisproject.org/techdoc/se/se00survey.pdf) (07-11-07)*

## Switzerland, Census 2000

### *Definition für Haushalt*

Eine Gruppe von Personen, die in der Regel zusammen wohnen, d. h. eine gemeinsame Wohnung teilen. Die Haushalte werden unterschieden nach Privat- und nach Kollektivhaushalten (Heime, Spitäler, Gefängnisse, Internate usw.). Privathaushalte sind entweder Einpersonen- oder Mehrpersonenhaushalte. Die Mehrpersonenhaushalte werden wiederum unterteilt in Familienhaushalte und Nichtfamilienhaushalte. Familienhaushalte sind Privathaushalte mit mindestens einem Familienkern. Als Familienkern gilt ein Vorstands(-Ehe-)Paar (mit oder ohne Kinder), ein Vorstand (ohne Partner) mit Kind(ern) oder ein solcher mit Eltern (bzw. einem Elternteil). Bei den Paarhaushalten wird zwischen Ehepaaren und Konsensualpaaren unterschieden. Konsensualpaare bestehen aus nicht miteinander verheirateten Personen, die in einer eheähnlichen Gemeinschaft leben.

*Source: Bundesamt für Statistik, Neuchatel*

*<http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/de/index/infothek/definitionen.html> (07-11-07)*

*Aus dem Haushaltsfragebogen in der Rubrik: "List of inhabitants"*

All persons living in the same dwelling:

- "All persons" also covers people who rent rooms, subtenants, boarders, foster children, flat-share members, non-related apartment partners and further co-residents, as well as people living in separate areas (e.g. attics)
- Include also in this list people who use the dwelling as their second residence (e.g. those who only reside there during the week).

*Source: Swiss Federal Statistical Office, 2000: Federal Population Census 2000, Household Questionnaire*



## United Kingdom, England, Census 1991/2001

### 1991 Census: definitions and concepts

A household is either

- (a) a person living alone; or
- (b) a group of people (who may or may not be related) living, or staying temporarily, at the same address, with common housekeeping.

Source: United Kingdom, 1991: 1991 Census: definitions and concepts  
[http://census.ac.uk/guides/Qf.aspx/1991\\_Definitions\\_and\\_Concepts.pdf](http://census.ac.uk/guides/Qf.aspx/1991_Definitions_and_Concepts.pdf) (07-11-07)

### England 2001 Census: household form.

#### Questionnaire, Table 1: Household Members

List all members of your household who usually live at this address, including yourself.

- Start with the householder or joint householders.
- Include anyone who is temporarily away from home on the night of 29 April 2001 who usually lives at this address.
- Include schoolchildren and students if they live at this address during school, college or university term.
- Also include schoolchildren and students who are away from home during the school, college or university term and for whom only basic information is required.
- Include any baby born before 30 April 2001, even if still in hospital.
- Include people with more than one address if they live at this address for the *majority of time*.
- Include anyone who is staying with you who has no other usual address.
- Remember to include a spouse or partner who works away from home, or is a member of the armed forces, and usually lives at *this address*.

Source: National Statistics, 2001: count me in. Census 2001. England Household Form.  
<http://census.ac.uk/guides/Qf.aspx> (07-11-07)

## **National household concept used in the EU Labour Force Survey**

A private household comprises one or more persons whose main residence is the same dwelling and/or who share at least one meal per day. Students aged 16 + who live in a collective household but who return to their parents for the holidays are also regarded as being a member of their parents' household.

*Source: Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), Conference of European Statisticians, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 2005: Overview of the efforts underway in the UNECE region to measure emerging forms of families and households. Working Paper No 5. 21 September 2005: p. 8*

*[unece.org/stats/documents/2005/09/social/wp.5.e.pdf](http://unece.org/stats/documents/2005/09/social/wp.5.e.pdf) (07-11-07)*

**Appendix A2:  
Definition of "private household" used by the European  
Commission and Eurostat  
and used by the United Nations**

- European Commission, Household Budget Survey (HBS)
- EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)
- UN definitions, System of national accounts 1993
- United Nations Common Database (UNCDB)

## European Commission

### Household Budget Survey (HBS)

*Definition:*

"Increasingly restrictive definitions of what constitutes a household can be achieved by adding criteria from (1) to (4) below:

- (1) Co-residence (living together in the same dwelling unit)
- (2) Sharing of expenditures including joint provision of essentials of living
- (3) Pooling of income resources
- (4) The existence of family or emotional ties

Eurostat recommends that the definition of the household for the purpose of HBS be based on the first two criteria shown above: co-residence and sharing of expenditures. This definition isolates the units, which from a HBS perspective form a whole for studying patterns of consumption expenditures and income."

*Source: European Commission & Eurostat, 2003: Update of methodological recommendations for harmonisation for the HBS round of 2005. Working Group Household Budget Surveys. Eurostat-Luxembourg. 05-06 May 2003  
Doc.E2/HBS/151-B/2003/EN*

	HBS: Household defined as a group of persons who share ...			
	co-residence	expenditures	income resources	emotional ties
B	X	X		
DK	X	X	X	
D	X	X	X	
GR	X	X		
E	X	X		
F	X			
IRL	X	X		
I	X	X	X	X
L	X	X		
NL	X	X		
A	X	X		
P	X	X		
FIN	X	X	X	
S	X	X	X	
UK	X	X		

Source: European Commission, 2003: Household Budget Surveys in the EU. Methodology and recommendations for harmonisation – 2003, p.17

	HBS: all persons who are included in the definition of private household							
	persons usually resident	servants au-pairs	lodgers	long term absent	visitors	temporarily absent	students	persons in hospital
B	X						X	X
DK	X					X		
D	X					X	X	
GR	X			X	X	X	X	X
E	X				X	X	X	X
F	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
IRL	X	X	X			X	X	X
I	X							
L	X					X	X	X
NL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
A	X			X	X	X	X	X
P	X	X	X			X	X	X
FIN	X					X	X	X
S	X					X		
UK	X				X		X	

Source: European Commission 2003 Household Budget Surveys in the EU. Methodology and recommendations for harmonisation – 2003, p.18

## EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)

### *Definitions of Household Members*

#### 1. Household Members

##### 1.1. Household membership <sup>1)</sup>

Subject to the further and specific conditions shown below, the following persons must, if they share household expenses, be regarded as household members:

- (1) persons usually resident, related to other members;
- (2) persons usually resident, not related to other members;
- (3) resident boarders, lodgers, tenants;
- (4) visitors;
- (5) live-in domestic servants, au-pairs;
- (6) persons usually resident, but temporarily absent from the dwelling (for reasons of holiday travel, work, education or similar);
- (7) children of the household being educated away from home;
- (8) persons absent for long periods, but having household ties: persons working away from home;
- (9) persons temporarily absent but having household ties: persons in hospital, nursing homes or other institutions.

Further conditions for inclusion as household members are as follows:

(a) Categories 3, 4 and 5:

Such persons must currently have no private address elsewhere; or their actual or intended duration of stay must be six months or more.

(b) Category 6:

Such persons must currently have no private address elsewhere and their actual or intended duration of absence from the household must be less than six months.

Categories 7 and 8:

Irrespective of the actual or intended duration of absence, such persons must currently have no private address elsewhere, must be the partner or child of a household member and must continue to retain close ties with the household and must consider this address to be his/her main residence.

(c) Category 9:

Such person must have clear financial ties to the household and must be actually or prospectively absent from the household for less than six months.

Footnote <sup>1)</sup> Those Member States using in EU-SILC the common household definition defined in their national statistical system, shall be allowed to define the 'household membership' according to that definition.

Source: L 298/2 EN Official Journal of the European Union 17.11.2003

### *Shares in household expenses*

Shares in household expenses include benefiting from expenses (e.g. children, persons with no income) as well as contributing to expenses. If expenses are not shared, then the person constitutes a separate household at the same address.

### *'Usually resident'*

A person shall be considered as a usually resident member of the household if he/she spends most of his/her daily rest there, evaluated over the past six months. Persons forming new households or joining existing households shall normally be considered as members at their new location; similarly, those leaving to live elsewhere shall no longer be considered as members of the original household. The abovementioned 'past six month' criteria shall be replaced by the intention to stay for a period of six months or more at the new place of residence.

### *'Intention to stay for a period of six months or more'*

Account has to be taken of what may be considered as 'permanent' movements in or out of households. Thus a person who has moved into a household for an indefinite period or with the intention to stay for a period of six months or more shall be considered as a household member, even though the person has not yet stayed in the household for six months, and has in fact spent a majority of that time at some other place of residence. Similarly, a person who has moved out of the household to some other place of residence with the intention of staying away for six months or more, shall no longer be considered as a member of the previous household.

### *'Temporarily absent in private accommodation'*

If the person who is temporarily absent is in private accommodation, then whether he/she is a member of this (or the other) household depends on the length of the absence. Exceptionally, certain categories of persons with very close ties to the household may be included as members irrespective of the length of absence, provided they are not considered



members of another private household. In the application of these criteria, the intention is to minimise the risk that individuals who have two private addresses at which they might potentially be enumerated are not double-counted in the sampling frame. Similarly, the intention is to minimise the risk of some persons being excluded from membership of any household, even though in reality they belong to the private household sector.

*Source: European Commission 2003: Commission Regulation (EC) No 1980/2003 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 definitions and updated definitions*

## Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

### The definition of household and family used in the 2000 census round

Examining the household definition used in 24 ECE countries in the 2000 round of census, it can be noted that the great majority (15 countries) used the housekeeping concept. As it can be seen in Appendix 1, the housekeeping definitions are not all standardized, but they all include the main ideas of common housekeeping arrangements and/or share of income. The relationship among the members of the households is not a necessary condition in the definition of household with the exception of Italy where one criterion was added on "being bound by marriage, kinship, affinity, adoption, guardianship or by affective ties". In some of the South-European countries (Italy and Portugal), there is no distinction between the words "family" and "household" and the terminology used for household is "familia classica" (Portugal) or "simply famiglia" (Italy). While for family the terminology used is "nucleo familiar" (Portugal) or "nucleo familiare" (Italy).

The trend of using the housekeeping concept in the 2000 Round of censuses was also confirmed by the results of a questionnaire that UNECE sent to countries to review the practices in their last census. About two third of the 45 responding countries declared the use of the housekeeping concept. While among the 15 countries that reported the use of the household-dwelling concept, only three declared that they could provide household data based on the housekeeping concept. Among the countries that used the household-dwelling concept, the large majority carried out a register-based census \*).

\*) *"Families and Households in the 2000 round of censuses in ECE member countries"*, paper prepared by the ECEEurostat

Task Force on Families and Households for the Joint UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Population Censuses, Geneva 23-25 November 2004

*Source: Statistical Commission and Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), Conference of European Statisticians, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 2005: Overview of the efforts underway in the UNECE region to measure emerging forms of families and households. Working Paper No 5. 21 September 2005: p. 5.*

[unece.org/stats/documents/2005/09/social/wp.5.e.pdf](http://unece.org/stats/documents/2005/09/social/wp.5.e.pdf) (07-11-07)

## UN definitions

### System of national accounts 1993:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/sna1993/glossary.asp>

Term	Household
Definition	A household is a small group of persons who share the same living accommodation, who pool some, or all, of their income and wealth and who consume certain types of goods and services collectively, mainly housing and food.
Paragraphs	4.123, 4.20

Note: References in [ ] are not as significant as references without them.

## United Nations Common Database (UNCDB)

UNCDB provides selected series from numerous specialized international data sources for all available countries and areas.

Source: [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cdb/cdb\\_list\\_dicts.asp](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cdb/cdb_list_dicts.asp) (01-12-07)

### Definition of household [code 327]

Either a one-person household, defined as an arrangement in which one person makes provision for his or her own food or other essentials for living without combining with any other person to form part of multi-person household or a multi-person household, defined as a group of two or more persons living together who make common provision for food or other essentials for living. The persons in the group may pool their incomes and have a related or unrelated persons or a combination of persons both related and unrelated. This arrangement exemplifies the housekeeping concept. In an alternative definition used in many countries exemplifying the so-called household-dwelling concept, a household consists of all persons living together in a housing unit.

Source: *United Nations, 1998: Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1. Series M, No. 67, Rev. 1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.1). (para. 2.61)*

Code	Series Name	Data Availability
1060	Household heads, percentage women (Wistat)	113 countries, 1985-1997
29946	Poverty, percentage of population below \$1 (1993 PPP) per day consumption (WB)	99 countries, 1979-2003
29948	Poverty, percentage of population below national poverty line, total, urban and rural	88 countries, 1984-2002
29949	Poverty gap ratio: mean percentage distance below 1 dollar (PPPs) per day (WB estimates)	99 countries, 1977-2003
29950	Poorest quintile's share in national income or consumption, per cent (WB estimates)	124 countries, 1981-2003

*Definition of household composition [code 328]*

One-person household; nuclear household, consisting entirely of a single family nucleus; extended household, consisting of a single family nucleus and other persons related to the nucleus, or married couple with other relative(s) only; or two or more family nuclei related to each other without any other persons; or two or more persons related to each other, none of whom constitute a family nucleus; composite household consisting of any household which includes one or more persons unrelated to other members including two or more unrelated family members.

*Source: United Nations, 1998: Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1. Series M, No. 67, Rev. 1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.1). (para. 2.82)*

*Definition of household size [code 183]*

Population by number of persons in households.

*Source: United Nations, 1998: Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1. Series M, No. 67, Rev. 1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.1). (tabulations P2.4 and P2.5)*

Code	Series Name	Data Availability
1070	Household size, average (Wistat)	186 countries, 1965-1994

## Appendix A3: Definition of "private household" in comparative survey research: European Social Survey, Round I

Wording of the question relating to private household in the national questionnaires

ESS, Round 1, question F1 in the questionnaires of the six countries DK, FR, LU, DE, GB, IT:

- from the Danish questionnaire: "Hvor mange mennesker – iberegnet dig selv og evt. børn – bor her fast som en del af husstanden?"
- from the French questionnaire: "Combien de personnes vivent dans votre foyer, y compris vous même et les enfants ?"
- from the Luxembourg questionnaire: "Y compris vous-même – et vos enfants – combien de personnes vivent ici de façon régulière comme membres de votre ménage?"
- from the German questionnaire: " Wie viele Personen leben ständig in diesem Haushalt, Sie selbst eingeschlossen? Denken Sie dabei bitte auch an alle im Haushalt lebenden Kinder."  
*Including yourself, how many people live permanently in this household. Please remember to include all the children living in the household.*
- from the English questionnaire: "Including yourself, how many people - including children - live here regularly as members of this household?"
- from the Italian questionnaire: "Compresi Lei ed eventuali bambini, quante persone vivono regolarmente in questa casa come membri della famiglia?"

Fieldwork instructions, page 19: "This question asks for the total number of people in the household (including children)."

A definition of household is not given.

Source: *ESS1 Appendix A3\_e06: Variables and Questions*  
*ESS1 Source Fieldworkinstructions*

## **Appendix A4: Interviewers' and respondents' subjective definitions of a "private household"**

### **Survey of students and academics = target persons (46 students and 25 academics)**

Elements of the definition with corresponding categories

1.

*a dwelling unit, living under one roof  
an entrance door, a rental agreement, self-contained living situation  
for an extended period*

my apartment with all the people who live in it  
my house, (the house) in which I live  
all the people who live under one roof, in one dwelling unit  
a group of people (living) in a dwelling for an extended period  
all the people with whom one lives directly  
all the people in the same dwelling with the same entrance door  
household = dwelling = rental agreement  
self-contained living situation

2.

*group of people sharing a common dwelling and housekeeping  
living together and sharing housekeeping*

*group of people living together for convenience purposes*

dwelling-share with common housekeeping  
living together and providing for each other  
living together with common housekeeping  
living and keeping house together  
living together and sharing household tasks  
group of people living together for convenience purposes  
domestic community

3.

*family, related to each other, living together, in one house**first-degree family*

family

family and economic unit at the same time

first-degree family

family living in one house

family group living together

common dwelling **and** related to each other

being related to each other

personal ties of a family nature

4.

*affective ties*

when people consider themselves to be a social entity

a community of people who are very close

affective ties (leads to membership of more than one household)

5.

*common housekeeping: shopping, kitchen, cooker, refrigerator, washing machine**working together: share house work**living together: food, sleep**habitual abode/centre of vital interests: permanent or common*

common housekeeping (kitchen, shopping, meals, bathroom)

doing the shopping together

sharing contents of the refrigerator

doing the washing together / washing machine

keeping the kitchen tidy together

common housekeeping can be organised in an economically sensible way

share cooker

cook together

participate actively in tasks (in the household)

common kitchen and washing machine

share food and sleeping quarters

common habitual abode/centre of vital interests

permanent habitual abode/centre of vital interests

cohabitation for purpose of satisfying primary needs



6.

*financial dependence, physical dependence*

*joint financial budget, share costs of living, living costs, common household kitty*

financial dependence

economic dependence

financial network

financial and physical dependence

financial independence

joint financial budget

common household kitty for foodstuffs

pool income

common income

share income = share expenditure

share common expenses

share costs of living

share rent

bear living costs together

(economic) organisation from an economic, time and personal point of view

7.

*common planning or life planning (also temporary), take care of each other,*

*shared tasks and duties*

*sharing of rooms, goods, meals*

common life planning

common planning (for a certain period of time), making decisions together

joint provision of essentials of living

shared tasks and duties

shared tasks, duties and costs

take care of each other

food and board

share the rooms

share goods

share meals (even occasionally)

8.

*length of stay: always, most of the time, frequently*

*registration: primary residence*

*same address, same key to dwelling*

spend most of the year there

live there always

spend time there frequently

registered there

main residence / primary residence

same address

same key to dwelling

### **Special cases:**

One dwelling / several dwellings:

- spread over several dwellings, when the second dwelling serves to enlarge the first
- spread over several dwellings when the second dwelling is in the same house

Spread over several spatially-distant dwellings:

- *long-distance relationship* but living together in the sense of having *affective ties*
- *financial dependence* can lead to membership in two households (student, parents)
- make financial contribution to and perform tasks (cleaning etc) in both dwellings
- when influence can be exerted on both units

Special cases: double-counting:

- student: I consider myself a member of my household, my parents include me in their household
- family ties and *temporary nature of stay* make membership in two households possible (weekly commuters / seasonal workers)

**Survey of Interviewers  
(118 telephone interviewers with the Institute of Applied Social  
Sciences GmbH (infas) in Bonn)**

Elements of the definition and the corresponding categories

1.

*dwelling unit*

dwelling

own entrance door, a bell and a letterbox

common dwelling

under one roof

all residents of the same dwelling

people who live in their "own four walls"

own dwelling

2.

*dwelling-share with common housekeeping*

live in a community

considerable length of time in the house

cohabit

co-reside

dwelling-share

household with common economy

economically independent

co-residence with common housekeeping

cohabitation and joint provision of essentials of living

joint tax return

persons with economic ties who live permanently in one dwelling

cohabitation or household constituting an economic unit residing

under one roof

together in one dwelling and sharing income

economic unit at one and the same address

3.

*family*

manage the family  
family under one roof  
family in one house/apartment  
participate in family life  
own family  
family or strong social ties  
persons who belong to the inner family circle  
family life with daily routine  
family community  
related to each other or cohabiting  
family's common economy

4.

*affective ties*

private unit  
relations and friends  
private life  
persons who belong together  
being at home, feeling at home  
private life as opposed to professional or educational dependence

5.

*common activities*

managing  
organisation and shared tasks  
centre of vital interests  
place where housekeeping is done  
a family's centre of vital interests  
family, money, provision of essentials of living, orderliness,  
cleanliness  
persons who contribute to orderliness  
cleaning  
persons in a dwelling unit who reside, eat and live (sleep) together  
make a living together  
common food supplies  
common refrigerator with supplies  
community of convenience for the purpose of bringing up joint children  
or other children living in the household  
share meals  
keep house  
joint provision of essentials of living

6.

*financial dependence*

financial dependence  
finance oneself and one's family  
own financial responsibility  
common income and rent  
shared costs  
contribute income to housekeeping  
share burdens such as telephone, electricity, food costs.  
pay rent together and/or receive housing benefit jointly  
common capital

7.

*common planning / life planning*

share same living quarters  
take care of each other  
help each other out  
joint decisions on daily essentials  
cohabitation with responsibility for each other  
plan common tasks  
shared responsibility for apartment or house

8.

*the residence*

dwelling with an address  
address  
permanently resident at a certain address  
live together permanently  
live together permanently in one dwelling  
permanent configurations of persons  
permanent residence and adjoining rooms  
self-contained quarters  
main residence  
registered  
telephone connection  
registered with the registry office  
named in the rental agreement  
living together permanently  
a legal entity  
main place of residence

**Special cases:**

temporary absence e.g. military service or weekly commuters  
but nevertheless at home now and then.

## Survey of 16 citizens of Mannheim

### Elements of definition and corresponding categories

1.

*a residential unit, living under one roof*  
together under one roof  
fixed abode with long-term prospects  
dwelling which one takes care of

2.

*dwelling-share with common housekeeping, co-residence and common housekeeping*  
use rooms together  
together in one dwelling  
economic community

3.

*family, related to each other, living together, in one house*  
belong to a family or other similar configuration  
my family living under one roof

4.

*affective ties*  
do something together on a daily basis – have a close relationship

5.

*common housekeeping: shopping, kitchen, cooker, refrigerator, washing machine*  
common housekeeping  
run a household  
shared food  
common kitchen  
shared food, shopping, living  
do housework together

6.

*financial dependence, physical dependence, common household kitty*  
share costs of living  
common household kitty

7.

*common planning / life planning (even on temporary basis), take care of each other*

live life together

support each other

8.

*residence*

registered

**Note:**

Household can be in one house in different dwelling units.

It can also be possible over a long distance, e.g. weekly commuting.

It is possible to live in two households at the same time.



## Appendix A5: Sample designs in ESS Round II

M. Ganninger (2006) summarises the sample designs of the countries participating in the ESS as follows. The response rates of the individual surveys calculated by the ESS specialists are in brackets:

### Address-based samples

Czech Republic (55%): stratified, clustered, 4-stage sample design obtained addresses

France (43%): stratified, clustered, 3-stage sample design for selecting addresses

Greece (78%): stratified, clustered, 3-stage sample design for selecting addresses

Ireland (62%): stratified, clustered, 3-stage sample design for selecting addresses

Netherlands (64%): stratified, unclustered random sample that lists addresses

Portugal (70%): a stratified, clustered, 3-stage sample design selected addresses

Switzerland (46%): a stratified, clustered, 2-stage sample design selected addresses

United Kingdom (50%): in Great Britain a stratified, clustered, 2-stage sample design for addresses was used; in Northern Ireland a simple random sample gave addresses

Ukraine (66%): a stratified, clustered, 4-stage sample design selected addresses.

### Household-based samples

Austria (62%): stratified, clustered, 3-stage sample design selecting household units

Israel (ESS round I): stratified, clustered, 3-stage sample design for selecting households

### Person-based samples

Belgium (61%): in the cities, a simple random sample was used; in the rest of the country, persons were selected using stratified, clustered, 2-stage sample design.

Denmark (65%): used a simple random sample with persons

Estonia (79%): a systematic random person-based sample

Finland (70%): a systematic random person-based sample

Germany (52%): stratified, clustered, 2-stage sample design for selecting persons

Hungary (66%): in the cities, a simple random sample was used; in the rest of the country, persons were selected using stratified, clustered, 2-stage sample design.

Iceland (51%): used a simple random sample with persons as selected units.

Italy (ESS round I): stratified, clustered, 4-stage sample design for selecting addresses

Luxembourg (50%): stratified, unclustered random sample that lists persons

Norway (66%): simple random person-based sample

Poland (74%): in cities, a simple random person-based sample was used; in the rest of the country, persons were selected using a stratified, clustered, 2-stage sample

Slovakia (63%): simple random person-based sample

Slovenia (70%): a stratified, clustered, 2-stage sample design selected persons

Spain (54%): a stratified, clustered, 2-stage sample design selected persons

Sweden (65%): a simple random person-based sample

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Die Reihe ZUMA-Nachrichten-Spezial dient dazu, den Forschungsstand größerer Arbeits- oder Forschungsbereiche bei ZUMA zu dokumentieren oder die Ergebnisse von Konferenzen und Symposien vorzustellen ([http://www.gesis.org/Publikationen/Zeitschriften/ZUMA\\_Nachrichten\\_spezial/](http://www.gesis.org/Publikationen/Zeitschriften/ZUMA_Nachrichten_spezial/)). Bisher sind dreizehn Bände erschienen.

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### *ZUMA- Nachrichten Spezial Band 1 (vergriffen)*

#### **Text Analysis and Computers**

**Hrsg. von Cornelia Züll, Janet Harkness und Jürgen H.P. Hoffmeyer- Zlotnik  
Mannheim, ZUMA, 1996, 132 Seiten, ISBN 3-924220-11-5**

Das Heft entstand im Anschluß an eine internationale Tagung zur computerunterstützten Textanalyse, bei der sich Wissenschaftler aus den verschiedensten Disziplinen trafen. Die hier abgedruckten Papiere der eingeladenen Hauptredner dokumentieren den Forschungsstand in vier Bereichen: Computer-Assisted Content Analysis: An Overview (*E. Mergenthaler*); Computer-Aided Qualitative Data Analysis: An Overview (*U. Kelle*); Machine-Readable Text Corpora and the Linguistic Description of Language (*Chr. Mair*); Principle of Content Analysis for Information Retrieval (*J. Krause*). Der Band ist auch als PDF-Datei im Internet verfügbar ([http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma\\_nachrichten\\_spezial/](http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma_nachrichten_spezial/)).

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### *ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial Band 2 (vergriffen)*

#### **Eurobarometer. Measurement Instruments for Opinions in Europe**

**Hrsg. von Willem E. Saris und Max Kaase  
Mannheim: ZUMA 1997, ISBN 3-924220-12-3**

In der Empirischen Sozialforschung finden in Europa Telefoninterviews anstelle von face to face-Interviews zunehmende Verbreitung. Im Rahmen der zweimal jährlich für die Europäische Kommission in Brüssel durchgeführten Repräsentativbefragungen in den Mitgliedsländern der Europäischen Union, den sogenannten Eurobarometern, ergab sich für die Erhebung vom Frühjahr 1994 (EB 41.0) die Möglichkeit, durch eine zeitgleich mit einem weitgehend identischen Fragenprogramm stattfindende Telefonbefragung in den damaligen zwölf Mitgliedsländern der EU, systematisch Effekte der unterschiedlichen Stichprobenansätze und Erhebungsmethoden zu untersuchen. Dabei konnte das Analysespektrum noch durch eine Telefon-Panelkomponente in dreien der zwölf EU-Länder für das face to face-Eurobarometer erweitert werden. Die Beiträge im vorliegenden Buch untersuchen auf dieser Grundlage methodische und methodologische Fragestellungen, die insbesondere für die international vergleichende Sozialforschung, aber auch für die Markt- und Meinungsforschung in Europa von großer Bedeutung sind. Der Band ist auch als PDF-Datei im Internet verfügbar ([http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma\\_nachrichten\\_spezial/](http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma_nachrichten_spezial/)).

*ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial Band 3*  
**Cross-Cultural Survey Equivalence.**

**Hrsg. von J. Harkness**

**Mannheim: ZUMA 1998, 187 Seiten, ISBN 3-924220-13-1**

This volume, the third in the ZUMA-Nachrichten-Spezial series on methodological issues in empirical social science research, is devoted to issues of cross-cultural methodology. The focus is on issues of equivalence, the key requirement in cross-national and cross-cultural comparative research. As the contributions indicate, equivalence is, however, better thought of in terms of equivalencies - in social science surveys and in other standardised instruments of measurement. Contributors come from different countries and continents and from widely differing research backgrounds, ranging from linguistics to survey research and its methodologies, to cultural anthropology and cross-cultural psychology. They are: Timothy P. Johnson, Fons J.R. van de Vijver, Willem E. Saris, Janet A. Harkness and Alicia Schoua-Glusberg, Michael Braun and Jacqueline Scott, Ingwer Borg: Peter Ph. Mohler, Tom W. Smith and Janet A. Harkness. This volume can be downloaded as a PDF file ([http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma\\_nachrichten\\_spezial/](http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma_nachrichten_spezial/))

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*ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial Band 4 (vergriffen)*

**Nonresponse in Survey Research**

**Hrsg. von A. Koch und R. Porst**

**Mannheim: ZUMA 1998, 354 Seiten, ISBN 3-924220-15-8**

This volume, the fourth in the ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial series on methodological issues in empirical social science research, takes up issues of nonresponse. Nonresponse, that is, the failure to obtain measurements from all targeted members of a survey sample, is a problem which confronts many survey organizations in different parts of the world. The papers in this volume discuss nonresponse from different perspectives: they describe efforts undertaken for individual surveys and procedures employed in different countries to deal with nonresponse, analyses of the role of interviewers, the use of advance letters, incentives, etc. to reduce nonresponse rates, analyses of the correlates and consequences of nonresponse, and descriptions of post-survey statistical adjustments to compensate for nonresponse. All the contributions are based on presentations made at the '8th International Workshop on Household Survey Nonresponse'. The workshop took place in September 1997 in Mannheim, Germany, the home base of the workshop host institute, ZUMA. Twenty-nine papers were presented and discussed, of which twenty-five are included here.

*ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial Band 5*  
**A review of software for text analysis**  
**Alexa Melina & Cornelia Zuell**

**Mannheim: ZUMA 1999, 176 Seiten, ISBN 3-924220-16-6**

The book reviews a selection of software for computer-assisted text analysis. The primary aim is to provide a detailed account of the spectrum of available text analysis software and catalogue the kinds of support the selected software offers to the user. A related, more general, goal is to record the tendencies both in functionality and technology and identify the areas where more development is needed. For this reason the presented selection of software comprises not only fully developed commercial and research programs, but also prototypes and beta versions. An additional aspect with regards to the kinds of software reviewed is that both qualitative and quantitative-oriented types of research are included. Depending on research purposes and project design the text analyst can profit from available tools independently of their orientation. The following fifteen programs are reviewed: AQUAD, ATLAS.ti, CoAN, Code-A-Text, DICTION, DIMAP-MCCA, HyperRESEARCH, KEDS, NUD\*IST, QED, TATOE, TEXTPACK, TextSmart, WinMAXpro, and WordStat and the criteria and methodology used for selecting them are delineated. Der Band ist auch als PDF-Datei im Internet verfügbar ([http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma\\_nachrichten\\_spezial/](http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma_nachrichten_spezial/)).

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*ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial Band 6*  
**Sozialstrukturanalysen mit dem Mikrozensus**  
**Hrsg. von Paul Lüttinger**

**Mannheim: ZUMA 1999, 402 Seiten, ISBN 3-924220-17-4**

Im Oktober 1998 veranstaltete die Abteilung Mikrodaten von ZUMA die Konferenz "Forschung mit dem Mikrozensus: Analysen zur Sozialstruktur und zum Arbeitsmarkt", an der vorwiegend Nutzer des Mikrozensus teilnahmen. Hauptziel dieser ersten Nutzerkonferenz war es, ein Forum für den Informationsaustausch zwischen den Datennutzern und den statistischen Ämtern zu schaffen. Die mehr als 20 Vorträge gingen deutlich über die von den statistischen Ämtern veröffentlichten Standardergebnisse zum Mikrozensus hinaus und sind weitgehend in diesem Band ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial abgedruckt. Die Autoren sind: Walter Müller; Karl Brenke; Esther Hansch und Michael-Burkhard Piorkowski; Friedhelm Pfeiffer; Jürgen Schupp, Joachim Frick, Lutz Kaiser und Gert Wagner; Elke Wolf; Dietmar Dathe; Bernd Eggen; Erich Stutzer; Carsten Baumann; Susanne von Below; Thomas Bulmahn; Martin Groß; Reiner H. Dinkel, Marc Luy und Uwe Lebok sowie Wolfgang Strengmann-Kuhn. Der Band ist als PDF-Datei im Internet verfügbar ([http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma\\_nachrichten\\_spezial/](http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma_nachrichten_spezial/)).

*ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial Band 7*  
**Social and Economic Analyses of Consumer Panel Data**  
**Georgios Papastefanou, Peter Schmidt, Axel Börsch-Supan,**  
**Hartmut Lüdtke, Ulrich Oltersdorf (Eds.)**  
**Mannheim: ZUMA 2001; 212 Seiten; CD-Rom**

Eine von der Abteilung Einkommen und Verbrauch von ZUMA organisierte Arbeitsgruppe hat sich mit datentechnischem Handling und Analysepotential von komplexen Verbraucherpaneldaten, am Beispiel des ConsumerScan Haushaltspanels der Gesellschaft für Marktforschung (GfK, Nürnberg) beschäftigt und die Ergebnisse in einem Symposium im Oktober 1999 vorgestellt. Die überwiegende Zahl der vorgetragenen Arbeiten, die man als Werkstattberichte ansehen kann, sind in diesem Band abgedruckt. Neben einem detaillierten Einblick in die Praxis und das Datenerhebungsprogramm von Verbraucherpanels, wie sie z.B. bei der Marktforschungen der GfK unterhalten werden, enthält der Band z.B. Untersuchungen zu Fragen der Flexibilität von Preisbildungsvorgängen, des Lebensstils im alltäglichen Konsums, der Gesundheitsorientierung im Konsumverhalten, der Umweltorientierung und ihrer Umsetzung im Kauf alltäglicher Haushaltsprodukte. Der Band enthält eine CD-ROM mit Dokumenten und Codebüchern der aufbereiteten ZUMA-Verbraucherpaneldaten 1995. Der Band ist auch als PDF-Datei im Internet verfügbar ([http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma\\_nachrichten\\_spezial/](http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma_nachrichten_spezial/)).

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*ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial Band 8*  
**Von Generation zu Generation**  
**Hrsg. von Jan van Deth**  
**Mannheim: ZUMA 2002, 68 Seiten, ISBN 3-924220-23-9**

Aus Anlass der Ehrung von Prof. Dr. Max Kaase, Prof. Dr. Walter Müller und Prof. Dr. Hansgert Peisert für ihre langjährige und richtungsweisende Mitarbeit in der Mitgliederversammlung des ZUMA e.V. fand am 14. Juni 2002 eine wissenschaftliche Tagung statt. Der Band enthält Beiträge von Jan van Deth, Hubert Feger, Jürgen Rost, Erwin K. Scheuch, Andreas Diekman und Hans-Dieter Klingemann. Die Beiträge sind auch online verfügbar ([http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma\\_nachrichten\\_spezial/](http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma_nachrichten_spezial/)).

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*ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial Band 9*

**QUEST 2003**

**Questionnaire Evaluation Standards**

**Peter Prüfer, Margrit Rexroth, Floyd Jackson Fowler, Jr. (Eds.)**

**Mannheim: ZUMA 2004, 216 Seiten, ISBN 3-924220-27-1**

This volume, the ninth in the ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial series on methodological issues in empirical social science research takes up issues of question and questionnaire evaluation. The papers in this volume discuss practical as well as theoretical aspects of questionnaire evaluation. All contributions are based on presentations made at the fourth QUEST (Questionnaire Evaluation Standards) conference which took place from October 21 - 23, 2003 at ZUMA in Mannheim. There were 26 attendees from 9 countries representing 14 organizations: Bureau of Labor Statistics, USA, Center for Survey Research, University of Massachusetts, USA, Institut für Demoskopie Allensbach, Germany, National Center for Health Statistics, USA, National Center for Social Research, U.K., Office of National Statistics, U.K., Statistics Canada, Statistics Finland, Statistics Netherlands, Statistics New Zealand, Statistics Norway, Statistics Sweden, U.S. Census Bureau, ZUMA, Germany. This volume can be downloaded as a PDF file ([http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma\\_nachrichten\\_spezial/](http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma_nachrichten_spezial/)).

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*ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial Band 10*

**Beyond the Horizon of Measurement**

**Festschrift in Honor of Ingwer Borg**

**Michael Braun & Peter Ph. Mohler (Eds.)**

**Mannheim: ZUMA 2006, 208 Seiten,**

**ISBN 3-924220-28-X / ISBN 978-3-924220-28-0**

This volume was designed as a 'Festschrift' for Ingwer Borg, on the occasion of his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Collaborators and colleagues who work in the research areas of Ingwer Borg (in particular: multidimensional scaling, organizational and employee surveys) were approached to contribute to this book. A pdf version of this volume can also be downloaded from the internet

([http://www.gesis.org/en/publications/magazines/zuma\\_special/index.htm](http://www.gesis.org/en/publications/magazines/zuma_special/index.htm)).

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*ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial Band 11*

**Methodological Aspects in Cross-National Research**

**Jürgen H.P. Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik & Janet A. Harkness (Eds.)**

**Mannheim: ZUMA 2005, 305 Seiten, ISBN 3-924220-29-8**

The idea for this volume was born during the Six<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Social Science Methodology in Amsterdam in August 2004, organised by the International Sociological Association Research Committee 33 on Logic and Methodology. Most of the contributions in this volume are proceeding papers from the Amsterdam conference.

The contributions in this volume are organised in four parts. The first part deals with designing and implementing cross-cultural surveys. The second part consists of three papers that deal with different issues of comparability or “equivalence”. The third part of the volume brings together papers on with harmonising socio-demographic information in different types of surveys. The last section of the volume contains papers that discuss individual socio-demographic variables in cross-national perspective. This volume can be downloaded as a PDF file from December 2007 on ([http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma\\_nachrichten\\_spezial/](http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma_nachrichten_spezial/)).

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*ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial Band 12*

**Conducting Cross-National and Cross-Cultural Surveys**

**Papers from the 2005 Meeting of the International Workshop on**

**Comparative Survey Design and Implementation (CSDI)**

**Janet A. Harkness (ed.)**

**Mannheim: ZUMA 2006, 123 Seiten, ISBN 3-924220-31-X**

The papers in this volume stem from the third annual meeting of the International Workshop on **Comparative Survey Design and Implementation (CSDI)**. Initiated in 2002, the Workshop developed out of cross-cultural symposia held at ZUMA throughout the nineteen nineties. One of CSDI’s primary goals is to promote research into methodological issues of particular and sometimes unique salience for cross-cultural and cross-national survey research. For more information visit the CSDI website ([www.csdi-workshop.org](http://www.csdi-workshop.org)).

The seven papers are good illustrations of the broad spectrum of research fields in which CSDI researchers are engaged. The volume begins and ends with two framework papers, the first discussing what makes cross-national research special, the last on where we begin to draw boundaries between entities to be compared in “comparative” research. The five remaining papers discuss (in order of the volume): the rich information available from the multinational European Social Survey on data collection; socio-demographic measurement and comparability in the cross-national context, again with reference to the Euro-

pean Social Survey; cognitive pre-testing of translated questionnaires; communicative issues across cultures in telephone interviews; and preliminary work on guidelines on using interpreters underway at the U.S. Census Bureau. The last-mentioned papers reflect research concerns in U.S. cross-cultural contexts. This volume can be downloaded as a PDF file from March 2007 on ([http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma\\_nachrichten\\_spezial/](http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zuma_nachrichten_spezial/)).

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*ZUMA-Nachrichten Spezial Band 13*

**Mobilfunktelefonie - Eine Herausforderung für die Umfrageforschung**

**Hrsg. von Siegfried Gabler und Sabine Häder**

**Mannheim: GESIS-ZUMA 2007, 135 Seiten, ISBN 978-3-924220-34-1**

Etwa 45 Prozent aller Interviews in der Marktforschung werden in Deutschland gegenwärtig telefonisch durchgeführt (vgl. ADM 2007). Als Auswahlrahmen hat sich seit Ende der 1990er Jahre in Deutschland ein bei ZUMA entwickelter Frame (Gabler-Häder-Design) durchgesetzt, der sowohl in das Telefonbuch eingetragene wie auch nicht eingetragene Anschlüsse enthält, die über ein Ortsnetz erreichbar sind (Gabler/Häder 2002). In den letzten Jahren hat sich allerdings eine Tendenz angedeutet, die die alleinige Nutzung dieses Auswahlrahmens als unzureichend zur Abdeckung der Gesamtheit der Privathaushalte erscheinen lässt: Ein wachsender Anteil der Haushalte ist lediglich über Mobiltelefon erreichbar. Diese Haushalte haben bei telefonischen Umfragen keine positive Auswahlchance, sofern sie nicht über eine virtuelle Festnetznummer verfügen (z.B. 02). Damit kann es zu systematischen Verzerrungen in den Stichproben kommen, da sich Festnetzhaushalte und Mobilfunkhaushalte hinsichtlich für die Sozialforschung relevanter Merkmale unterscheiden. Deshalb sind Überlegungen über die Integration von Mobilfunkanschlüssen in Telefonstichproben notwendig. Diesem Thema war eine Tagung bei ZUMA im November 2006 gewidmet, deren Beiträge im vorliegenden Band gesammelt sind. Die Beiträge sind auch online verfügbar unter [http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zeitschriften/zuma\\_nachrichten\\_spezial/](http://www.gesis.org/publikationen/zeitschriften/zuma_nachrichten_spezial/).

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*GESIS-Forschungsberichte*

*Reihe: Survey Methodology, Volume No. 1*

**Private Household Concepts and their Operationalisation in National and International Social Surveys**

**Jürgen H.P. Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik und Uwe Warner**

**Mannheim: GESIS-ZUMA 2008, 147 Seiten, ISBN 978-3-86819-002-1**

Different cultures and states use their national definition of 'private household'. In the EU nearly each country has an own definition of household. These definitions correspond to the cultural and national structures of social life. The differences result in diverse household compositions and unequal sizes across European nations. Comparing household measures over countries survey analysts face several inconveniences.

The composition of the surveyed household has direct impact on the respondents answer about the household size.

With regard to the sociological variables "total household income" and "socio economic status" of the individual household members, the composition of the household and, therefore, the definition by means of which this composition is determined, is of central importance.

In a first step we summarize definitions of household used in national surveys across Europe. Same dwelling, sharing economic resources, common housekeeping and family ties are the main and mostly used criteria. In a second step we discuss the possible combinations of these elements and the strategies of operationalization in social surveys. The third part illustrates the findings. We use ESS, ECHP and administrative micro data from official statistics. The country differences become obvious.

Our conclusion is a revised fieldwork instrument measuring household in social surveys that increases data comparability across cultures and countries.

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