CEGS

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Harmonized European Time Use Surveys (HETUS)

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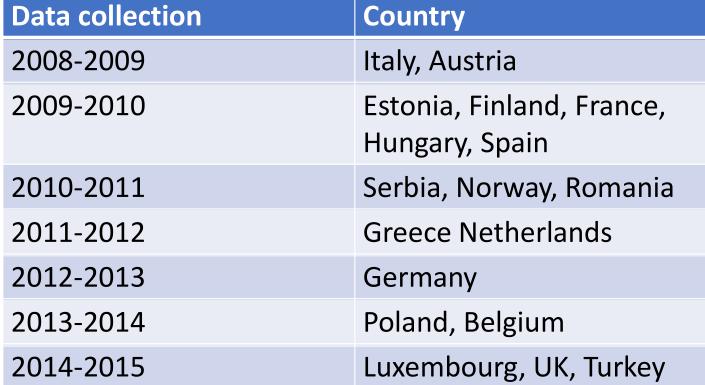
Harmonized European Time Use Surveys (HETUS)

- In the early 1990s the need for increased comparability became recognised
- Pilot surveys 1996 to 1997 supported by Eurostat (18 countries)
- HETUS Guidelines 2000
- Time Use Surveys 1998 to 2004 ≈ "2000" (20 countries)
- HETUS Guidelines 2008
- Time Use Surveys 2008 to 2015 ≈ "2010" (21 countries)
- "Gentleman's agreement", no legislation

HETUS Database 2010

- Statistics Finland collected the data to construct the database with a grant from Eurostat from 2014 to 2017
- Data dissemination by Eurostat with the use of standard Eurostat Tools (Eurobase, online publications, etc.)
- The data files were sent and received using Eurostat's eDAMIS system
- Metadata was collected with the European Statistical System Metadata Handler (ESS-MH) tool
- 18 countries participated

Participating countries

Data collection	Country
2008-2009	Italy, Austria
2009-2010	Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Spain
2010-2011	Serbia, Norway, Romania
2011-2012	Greece Netherlands
2012-2013	Germany
2013-2014	Poland, Belgium
2014-2015	Luxembourg, UK, Turkey

Diary 2010

Adult example page 1/3

Time	What were you doing? Record your main activity for each 10-minute period from 07.00 to 10.00! Only one main activity on each line! Distinguish between travel and the activity that is the reason for travelling.	What else were you doing? Record the most important parallel activity. Indicate if you used, in the main or parallel activity, a computer or internet. You do not need to record the use of a computer or internet during working time.	Where were you? Record the location or the mode of transport e.g. at home, at friends' home, at school, at workplace, in restaurant, in shop, on foot, on bicycle, in car, on motorbike, on bus, …	Were you alone or together with somebody you know? Mark "yes" by crossing					
				Alone	With other household members				Other persons that you know
					Partner	Parent	Household member up to 9 years	Other household member	
07.00-07.10	Woke up the children		At home	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
07.10-07.20	Had breakfast	Talked with my family		☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
07.20-07.30	--"--	--"--		☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
07.30-07.40	Cleared the table	Listened to the radio		☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
07.40-07.50	Helped the children dress	Talked with my children		☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
07.50-08.00	Went to the day care centre	--"--	On foot	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
08.00-08.10	Went to work	Read the newspaper	Bus	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
08.10-08.20	Went to work	--"--	--"--	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
08.20-08.30	Work		Workplace	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
08.30-08.40				☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
08.40-08.50				☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
08.50-09.00				☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
09.00-09.10				☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
09.10-09.20				☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
09.20-09.30				☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
09.30-09.40				☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
09.40-09.50				☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
09.50-10.00				☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Use an arrow, citation marks or the like to mark an activity that takes longer than 10 minutes.

Adult example

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Number of respondents and diary days by country

Country	Individuals	Diary days	Number of diary days per individual
Austria	8,234	8,234	1
Belgium	5,559	11,118	2
Estonia	5,005	9,946	2
Finland	3,795	7,480	2
France	16,242	27,903	2
Germany	9,051	27,143	3
Greece	7,137	14,274	2
Hungary	8,391	8,391	1
Italy	38,234	38,234	1
Luxembourg	2,082	4,162	2
Netherlands	2,005	14,035	7
Norway	3,949	7,882	2
Poland	40,048	78,759	2
Romania	28,257	56,514	2
Serbia	3,431	6,835	2
Spain	19,295	19,295	1
Turkey	25,109	50,218	2
United Kingdom	8,039	16,114	2

Marjut Pietiläinen, Statistics Finland

Metadata – The ESS Standard for Quality Reports Structure (ESQRS)

1. Contact
2. Statistical presentation
3. Statistical processing
4. Quality management
5. Relevance
6. Accuracy and reliability
7. Timeliness and punctuality
8. Coherence and comparability
9. Accessibility and clarity
10. Cost and Burden
11. Confidentially
12. Comment

Deviations

- In background variables (47/77 variables) in at least five countries
- In diary day variables (5/15 variables) in at least five countries
- In general minor deviations in the time use variables compared to the round 2000

Deviations

- Main activities
  - for example: lunch break is not collected in 6 countries
- Secondary activities
  - for example: 5 countries did not collect lunch break and 3 countries did not collect socialising with family
- Location variables
  - for example 4 countries did not use new variables like "shopping centre, market, other shop" and "hotel, guesthouse, camping site"
- "With whom" variables
  - "With parent, living in the household" was not collected in 3 countries
  - "Household member up to 9 years" was not collected in 2 countries
  - Now there is a proposal for changing the age limit of children to 18 years instead of 9 years

Average number of episodes per day (aggregated main activities, 51 categories)

Country	Episodes	Country	Episodes
Austria*	-	Luxembourg	20.6
Belgium	20.8	Netherlands	22.6
Estonia	19.9	Norway	25.1
Finland	25.4	Poland	22.2
France	19.4	Romania	21.4
Germany	21.9	Serbia	22.8
Greece	23.5	Spain	20.1
Hungary	21.5	Turkey	22.5
Italy	21.6	United Kingdom	23.3

* 15 minutes time slots. Not compatible.

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Harmonisation of data at Statistics Finland

- Checking data with SAS programs
- Checking consistency between countries
- Producing control tables
- Aggregation of background variables
- Conversion of the 3-digit HETUS main and secondary activity codes and location codes
- Nonresponse checking
- Calculating quality measures/indicators of diary data
- Analyses of weighting

Methodological issues

- Eurostat is preparing revised guidelines for the 2020 round together with the countries
  - Activity coding will be revised + core background variables will be standardised according to ESS-level standardised core variables.
- Eurostat's Task Force on innovative tools and sources for the HBS and TUS
  - For example, a web diary
  - Unfortunately will not be ready for the next round of the TUS.
  - Harmonisation over time and between countries should be guaranteed as well as possible.
- At the moment there is a Eurostat grant available for offering a common tool.

Conclusions

- Compared to the 2000 wave the surveys were more harmonised, especially the time use variables.
- Variation in the number of days (and time intervals).
- Deviations in the background variables
  - Required plenty of checking and harmonisation.
- Should the number of background variables decrease in the next round / database?
- Eurostat's work on standardisation of social variables will harmonise background variables in the next rounds.

Contact information

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Time Use Survey:
http://tilastokeskus.fi/til/akay/index_en.html