

# **Use of EU-LFS attainment data in the calculation of indicators 4.1.2 and 4.4.3 for EU countries: proposal by OECD**

**Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development  
(OECD)**



**Joint Working Group on EMIS and Household Surveys**

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## **PROPOSAL (OECD): Use of EU-LFS attainment data in the calculation of indicators 4.1.2 and 4.4.3 for EU countries**

### **Background:**

- **Indicator 4.1.2: Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)**

In recent years, this indicator has been subject to several changes to increase its comparability and coverage. Since March 2021, the OECD Secretariat has been working with its delegates on the possibility to use EU-LFS data to calculate this indicator.

At the last TCG meeting (March 2022), participants agreed that indicator 4.1.2 would be calculated using the Global Education Monitoring Report (GEMR) estimates. The first results were published in August 2022. While these estimates are currently using EU-SILC as a data source for this indicator, GEMR has confirmed that EU-LFS will be used soon instead of EU-SILC.

### **Differences between EU-SILC and EU-LFS data:**

The OECD Secretariat is reiterating its support to the use of EU-LFS instead of EU-SILC for EU countries, for various reasons. First, the sample age starts one year earlier for the EU-LFS compared to EU-SILC, respectively 15-74 year olds and 16+ year olds. Considering the need to have attainment data at the earliest age for primary level, this is an argument in favour of the use of EU-LFS data. Second, for the age ranges mentioned above, the sample size of the EU-LFS survey is almost four times larger than the one of the EU-SILC survey with respectively 904 000 and 240 000 respondents in 2021, making the former a more robust data source. Lastly, given the constant use of EU-LFS data for education indicators at the European Union level, we consider that such an alignment is necessary for the indicators using attainment data in the SDG4 framework.

- **Indicator 4.4.3: Youth/adult educational attainment rates by age group and level of education**

Indicator 4.4.3 is calculated using data submitted by country representatives through the questionnaire on educational attainment (EA) statistics every two years. Most European countries use EU-LFS data to fill in this questionnaire, but others use household surveys or censuses to provide data for indicator 4.4.3, which limit the accurate comparability across countries.

On a related point, some European countries do not fill the EA questionnaire, which limit the data coverage, with about one third of OECD countries having missing data for 2020.

Since March 2021, the OECD Secretariat is investigating the possibility to directly use EU-LFS data for all EU-countries, to avoid double reporting and increase the data coverage for this indicator.

The option to use EU-LFS data is currently under examination by UIS.

### **Decision point for TCG9:**

Support the use of EU-LFS attainment data in the calculation of indicator 4.1.2 and 4.4.3 for EU countries.

**Advantages:** ensures the harmonisation of the sources used by countries, which in turn will allow data comparability across countries. Specifically for indicator 4.4.3, increase the data coverage with the use of yearly EU-LFS data and avoid double reporting by European OECD countries with the submission of the EA questionnaire.

**Disadvantages:** none