

Revised EU LFS – core social variables and modules approach to better satisfy user needs

Statistics Poland experience

**Session 2: Survey modularization and integration
for work statistics**

Hanna Strzelecka

Outline

- Recent challenges in Labour Market Statistics
- Description of the EU LFS
- EU LFS as part of the implementation of the IESS FR
- Core social variables
- EU LFS modules – what has changed, how they are implemented in Poland, their pros and cons
- National LFS modules and example of realisation
- Conclusions

Recent challenges in Labour Market Statistics

- Detailed analysis of specific groups of people (e.g. young, elderly)
- New phenomena – e.g. digital platform employment
- New ILO resolutions
- The need for taking into account more dimensions in the analysis (e.g. health related problems)
- Increasing labour migration

=> Is the EU or national Labour Force Survey able to deliver data on new user needs?



Description of the EU Labour Force Survey



- Obligatory survey for ESS Member States (EU regulations)
- Conducted by countries as obligatory or voluntary national LFS
- A continuous survey – realised in every week of a year
- Quite big quarterly sample – distributed uniformly in all the weeks of the quarter
- The sample with an infra-annual rotation scheme
- The statistical population - all persons having their usual residence in private households
- The EU LFS is a part of the implementation of the Integrated European Social Statistics Framework Regulation (IESS FR)
- Core social variables common in all domains covered by the IESS FR
- Regular and ad hoc modules as part of the EU LFS

EU LFS as part of the implementation of the IESS FR

- The EU-LFS is conducted in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 October 2019 (IESS FR) establishing a **common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households**, based on data at individual level collected from samples.
- The IESS FR provides a legal basis for a **reliable and consistent methodology** for collecting, developing and sharing information in the field of social statistics. The aim of the Regulation is **to increase the data quality of social statistics, and its comparability both: across EU Member States and across domains in social statistics.**
- Domains (previous 'surveys') covered by the IESS FR:

Labour force

Income and living conditions

Health

Education and training

Use of information and communication technologies

Time use

Consumption



EU LFS as part of the implementation of the IESS FR

- Better harmonisation across domains is to be reached through the inclusion of standardised core social variables in the different data collections.
- **The core social variables (19) common to all domains:**
 - ✓ Sex
 - ✓ Age in completed years
 - ✓ Partners living in the same household
 - ✓ Household size
 - ✓ Household type
 - ✓ Main activity status (self-defined)
 - ✓ Full- or part-time main job (self-defined)
 - ✓ Educational attainment level
 - ✓ Country of birth
 - ✓ Country of main citizenship
 - ✓ Country of birth of the father
 - ✓ Country of birth of the mother
 - ✓ Country of residence
 - ✓ Region of residence
 - ✓ Degree of urbanization
 - ✓ Status in employment in main job
 - ✓ Economic activity of the local unit for main job
 - ✓ Occupation in main job
 - ✓ Limitation in activities because of health problems



EU LFS modules – changes by the IESS FR

- After the implementation of the IESS FR and the revision of the Labour Force Survey, there have been also introduced modifications regarding module surveys carried out with the core LFS.
- **All countries are required to collect module variables over the entire year on a part of quarterly sample**, which is intended to eliminate of the impact of seasonality on the results (previously these surveys were carried out entirely in one, selected quarter, usually the second one).
- **Six regular topics have been established** (from the module surveys conducted until 2020), which from 2021 are to be carried out exactly **every 8 years** each (according to the schedule included in the Regulation 2020/256 concerning multiannual rolling planning).
- The additional "space" obtained in the eight-year schedule has been used for the so-called **ad-hoc modules realized as new topics – one module in every 4 years** (between regular modules).

Description of the EU Labour Force Survey

- 9 broad topics covering in total 91 variables (beside 24 technical ones)
- Core LFS variables (including 19 core social variables) – quarterly (54), yearly (23), biannual (11), 3 derived
- 8-yearly (regular modules) and 4-yearly (ad hoc modules) – max 11 variables
- 1 variable is often translated into more than 1 question
- All modes used – PAPI, CAPI, CATI and CAWI
- Proxy interviews allowed
- Microdata transmission to Eurostat – 8 weeks after each quarter



EU LFS regular and ad hoc modules

Regular EU LFS module surveys

- Labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants (11 variables) – 2021
- Pensions and labour market participation (11 variables) – 2023
- Young people on the labour market and educational attainment – details, including education interrupted or abandoned (7 variables) – 2024
- Reconciliation of work and family life (11 variables) – 2025
- Work organisation and working time arrangements (10 variables) – 2027
- Accidents at work and work-related health problems (11 variables) – 2028

Ad hoc EU LFS module surveys

- Job skills (11 variables) – 2022
- Digital Platform Employment (11 variables) – 2026
- *Employment in the transition towards climate neutrality (11 variables) – planned for 2030*



EU LFS modules – implementation in Poland

- In Poland, the LFS sample for each quarter consists of four elementary samples. The module surveys are carried out simultaneously with the core LFS survey on the elementary sample which is being surveyed for the first time in a given quarter (= **first wave/observation which is 1/4 quarterly sample**). The module surveys are carried in all four quarters of the reference year.
- Questions for the module surveys are elaborated as **a separate section for the individual core LFS questionnaire** – usually placed at the end of the questionnaire.
- Generalisation of the module survey results is subject to the same principles as the core LFS survey.
- Due to usually smaller population covered by the module surveys as compared to the core survey, **separate generalising weights are used, which are adequately corrected (by lack of answers) and calibrated with the core LFS results** (in accordance with the requirements of applicable regulations).

Some pros and cons of the EU LFS modules

- Possibility to use information collected within the core LFS, so no need to ask again the same variables
- Limited number of variables not to overload the survey
- Shorter time of realisation (less staff and respondent burden) comparing to a new survey
- Cheaper and easier to organise than a totally new survey
- Regular modules allow also for longer-term analysis



- The risk of disappointment of the respondent to continue taking part in the core LFS
- Sometimes limited possibilities of data analysis – too small population
- Declining response rate in many countries
- Limited flexibility – the necessity to comply with the EU variables
- Limited data representativeness – especially for small populations

Polish national LFS modules

- Poland has realised national LFS modules since 1993
- As a response to specific user needs
- Rather repeated every 4-5 years
- Mainly with the use of an extra questionnaire only for national needs
- Now there are two LFS national modules conducted:
 - ✓ Unregistered Work
 - ✓ Voluntary Work

Methodological framework of Voluntary Work Module in Poland

2009

- Statistics Poland decided to conduct the first edition of the survey of volunteer work



2011

- European Year of Volunteering + Polish Presidency of the EU Council
- The ILO Handbook on measurement of volunteer work



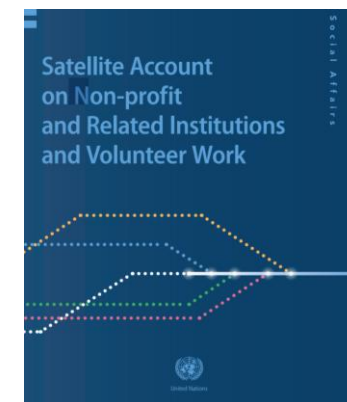
2013

- 19 th International Conference of Labour Statisticians Resolution with volunteering in new definition of work

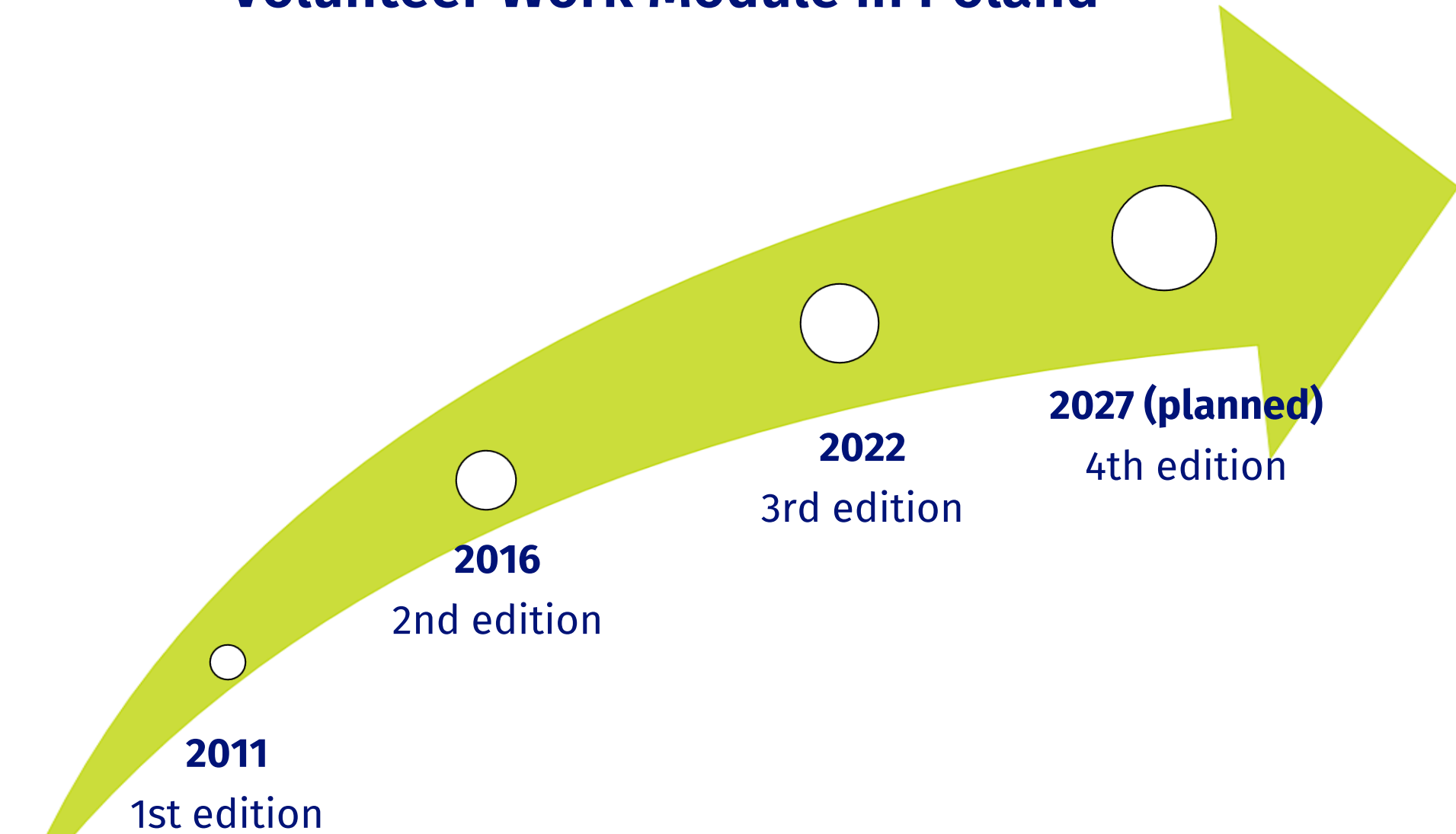


2018

- The United Nations adopts the Satellite account on non-profit and related institutions and volunteer work



Volunteer Work Module in Poland



Volunteer Work Module - scope of the survey

Volunteer work is defined as any voluntary and unpaid activity involving the dedication of one's free time to help/work.

Types of volunteer work

Informal voluntary activities

for people outside one's household and family

community, natural environment, locality

Formal voluntary activities

Information is being compiled on:

- The number and percentage of volunteers in Poland
- The types of work people engage in unpaid voluntary activities
- The amount of time people devote to helping others
- The monetary value of volunteer work

Volunteer Work Module - survey methodology

Sample selection

- 3/4 of the quarterly LFS sample (excluding 1st wave)
- survey in the first quarter of the year

Sample size

- 21,900 people aged 15–89 participated (in 2022), present at home during the LFS implementation (no proxy interviews)

Method

- CAPI interviews conducted using LFS-compliant application

Reference period

- 4 weeks before the interview

Average interview time

- 10 minutes

Volunteer Work Module as a module to Polish LFS

Access to both demographic and socio-economic activity data collected within the core LFS allowing for important analysis together with module data

Significantly shorter interviews:

- reducing the burden on respondents
- reducing the burden on interviewers

Implementation of the module within the LFS provides access to comprehensive, consistent, and internationally comparable data on volunteer work, reduces operational burden, improves the quality of results, and enables analysis of volunteering in a broad social and professional context

Conclusions

- The EU LFS – a survey integrated in the system of social surveys relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples
- Core social variables enable to link data among different domains of social surveys
- Regular modules repeated every 8 years deliver comparable data on specific subjects in the longer-term
- Ad hoc modules respond to new specific user needs
- National modules are tailored for national users needs and national circumstances
- Modules approach is also used in other IESS FR domains

Thank you for your attention!

Hanna Strzelecka

h.strzelecka@stat.gov.pl