
MODULE 2021

HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE

The EU statistics on income and living conditions survey ('EU-SILC survey') is a key instrument for providing information required by the European Semester and the European Pillar of Social Rights, in particular for income distribution, poverty and social exclusion. It also provides information on health care, health determinants, health status and disability from the three-yearly module on Health, and data on well-being and social and cultural participation from the six-yearly module on Quality of life.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND UNMET NEED FOR MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXAMINATION OR TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN

Information on general health and limitations in activities due to health problems, unmet need for medical and dental examination or treatment is to be provided for each **child aged 0 – 15 at the time of the interview**. These questions are answered for each child separately

- ***RCH010 How would you describe your child's health in general?***

The question RCH010 refers to a feeling of general /overall health of the child and not on the current state of health, i.e. it is not intended to affect temporary health problems. It is expected to include different dimensions of health, i.e. physical, social and emotional functioning, mental health (covering psychological well-being and mental disorders) and biomedical signs and symptoms. It is answered in principle. Excluded are momentary and transient conditions.

- ***RCH020 During the last 6 or more months, has your child been restricted in performing his or her usual activities due to a health problem?***

Question RCH020 refers to the existence of restrictions on the performance of normal activities for children, i.e. difficulties with activities that are usually expected to be performed by children of the same age: self-care and mobility, school activities, home and leisure activities. Temporary or short-term restrictions are excluded, as well as restrictions due to financial, cultural or other reasons not related to health.

- ***HCH010: Unmet need for medical examination or treatment (children)***

Included:

- Health care provided for different purposes (curative, rehabilitative, long-term health care) and by different modes of provision (inpatient, outpatient, day, and home care);
- Medical mental health care;
- Preventive medical services.

Excluded:

- Taking prescribed or non-prescribed drugs;
- Dental care.

- ***HCH020: Main reason for unmet need for medical examination or treatment (children)***

Description of the reasons for unmet needs:

- **Could not afford to (too expensive)/ Not covered by the Health Insurance Fund**

The issue on the perception of "Could not afford to (too expensive)" should be tackled in order to not to include interpretations about "too expensive" which are relative (more expensive than before, etc.) but relate

only to the fact that the person could not pay the price, not having money enough for this. The fact that the price is not covered by an insurance fund is in particular an important element to be taken into account and coded under this answer category if the household could not afford to pay for the treatment/examination of the children. Moreover, if the cost of transport to the medical examination/treatment was too expensive and therefore the need of treatment/examination was not met the category could not afford (too expensive) should be selected.

- **Waiting list or the time needed to obtain an appointment was too long**

This answer is to be used for children who were actually on a waiting list and, at the same time, were not helped even though the need for care was urgent, for children experiencing delay in getting appointment soon enough to meet their need of care, as well as for persons who were discouraged from seeking care for their children because of perceptions of the long waiting times.

Excluded: waiting time to see a doctor on day of appointment (the time spend in the waiting room), being on waiting list for planned (non-urgent) care if the need is not seen as urgent.

- **Too far to travel or no means of transportation**

Excluded: could not afford the cost of transport, which should be referred to the answer "Could not afford to (too expensive)".

- ***HCH030: Unmet need for dental examination or treatment (children)***

Included:

- Health care provided by dentist or orthodontists (specialist in orthopaedic dentistry);
- Preventive dental services.

Excluded:

- Self-medication, taking prescribed or non-prescribed drugs;
- Other medical care.

- ***HCH020: Main reason for unmet need for dental examination or treatment (children)***

Description of the reasons for unmet needs:

- **Could not afford to (too expensive)/ Not covered by the Health Insurance Fund**

The issue on the perception of “Could not afford to (too expensive)” should be tackled in order to not to include interpretations about “too expensive” which are relative (more expensive than before, etc.) but relate only to the fact that the person could not pay the price, not having money enough for this. The fact that the price is not covered by an insurance fund is in particular an important element to be taken into account and coded under this answer category if the household could not afford to pay for the treatment/examination of the children. Moreover, if the cost of transport to the dental examination/treatment was too expensive and therefore the need of treatment/examination was not met the category could not afford (too expensive) should be selected.

- **Waiting list or the time needed to obtain an appointment was too long**

This answer is to be used for children who were actually on a waiting list and, at the same time, were not helped even though the need for care was urgent, for children experiencing delay in getting appointment soon enough to meet their need of care, as well as for persons who were discouraged from seeking care for their children because of perceptions of the long waiting times.

Excluded: waiting time to see a dentist on day of appointment (the time spend in the waiting room), being on waiting list for planned (non-urgent) care if the need is not seen as urgent.

- **Too far to travel or no means of transportation:**

Excluded: could not afford the cost of transport which should be referred to the answer "Could not afford to (too expensive)".

CHILDREN-SPECIFIC DEPRIVATION

If there are children in the household between the ages of 1 and 15 as of 31.12.2021, the questions related to the basic needs of the children in the household are filled in. Even if only one child does not have the item, all children in the household are assumed not to have the item.

Question HD2 examines children's needs for food, clothing and footwear, educational or leisure needs. All sub-questions are given a specific answer for each type of need. If the needs of at least one child in the household cannot be met, it is assumed that for all children in the household the answer is "NO" depending on the reason.

The category "new clothes" (**HD2.1.**) refers to worn out clothes, not to old-fashioned ones. The emphasis is on new clothes, but some of them can be second-hand.

The concept of shoes (**HD2.2.**) has to be understood in a broad sense - boots, sandals, etc. depending on the climatic features, incl. and for all seasons (casual shoes).

Question **HD2.3.** refers to the provision of fresh fruits and vegetables at least once a day for children in the household. Fresh fruits and vegetables also include frozen fruits and vegetables, but canned fruits are excluded.

The needs of children related to their education or leisure time relate to a separate place set aside for learning, the availability of books, various play equipment, participation in excursions and paid celebrations.

"Books suitable for the age" (HD2.5.) means that the books are adapted to the age and the level of knowledge of the child. School books are not to be taken into account.

"Outdoor play equipment" (HD2.6.) covers the cases in which for each child in the household, according to his age and physical condition, play equipment is provided - bicycle, rollerblades or other roller skates, rackets for badminton, tennis and other. It is not strictly necessary for all children in the household to have their own equipment or facilities. It is possible for all children in the household to use a bicycle or roller skates, as long as they are suitable for their age.

"Indoor games" (HD2.7.) includes at least one type of indoor play according to the age of the child and his physical condition - educational games for young children, building blocks, blocks sets, dominoes, computer games, backgammon, chess and others. In addition, it is not strictly necessary for all children in the household to have their own games, as long as they are adapted to the age and needs of all children in the household.

The term **"regular activities" (HD2.8.)** is linked to the considered activity(ies). A "yes" answer should imply that leisure activities (all together) occur several times per year. The entertainment activity should occur outside home and it is assumed that some money will be spent on it. For example for entrance and / or travel costs, purchase costs (eg equipment, musical instrument, etc.)

Question **HD2.10. Inviting friends to play and eat from time to time** refers to inviting friends, classmates of children in the household, which include eating and playing. Invitations are most often made at home, but outdoor activities are also included.

Question **HD2.11. Holidays away from home at least one week a year (including holidays with family, visiting relatives, friends, organized school holidays, etc.).** When completing this question, it is not necessary for all children in the household to go on holiday together at the same time. If each child in the household goes away from home for at least one week a year during the holiday, the answer should be "yes", regardless of the context (holiday with family, relatives, friends, youth organization, school trip, etc.). If there is a child in the household who does not go on holiday due to health problems, but the household can afford to provide rest for him and his other children (if any), then the answer should be "No - for other reasons".

"One week" means 7 days.

Question **HD2.12. Participation in paid school trips, activities and celebrations** includes only activities organized by the school. If the interview takes place during a school holiday, refer the answer to the school period. If the child does not attend school, indicate answer 4.

"**Suitable place to study or write homework**" (**HD2.13.**) means a quiet place with enough space and light. The place should be at home, not in a library, school or other type of self-study center. If the child does not attend school, indicate answer 4.

HEALTH - FOR PERSONS AGED 16 AND OVER

The questions from module 2021 on health are intended to gather additional information on the financial burden related to the costs of medical and dental services, the frequency of visits and consultations with a personal physician and specialist, performing physical activities at work and outside work, calculation of body mass index. The questions relate to each household member aged 16 and over.

- ***PH090 Number of consultations with a general practitioner or family doctor***

Included:

- Hospital out-patient visits;
- Visits to a GP, including in foreign countries, e.g. during vacations abroad.

Excluded:

- Contacts with a nurse on behalf of a GP, for instance for receiving a receipt; or visits for prescribed laboratory tests or visits to perform prescribed and scheduled treatment procedures (e.g. injections).;
- Telephone contacts (even with a doctor) without consulting own health (for example just for arranging an appointment with a doctor);
- Visits due to illness or health of other persons, such as children or elderly relatives.

- ***PH100 Number of consultations with a medical or surgical specialist***

Included:

- Consultations with paediatricians, obstetricians and gynaecologists, ophthalmologists and psychiatrists;
- Visits to emergency departments (i.e. wards at hospitals for emergency care);
- Hospital out-patient visits/visits to outpatient departments (i.e. wards at hospitals for ambulatory care);
- Visits to a medical or surgical specialist in foreign countries, e.g. during vacations abroad.

Excluded:

- Contacts with a nurse on behalf of a medical or surgical specialist, for instance for receiving a receipt; or visits for prescribed laboratory tests or visits to perform prescribed and scheduled treatment procedures (e.g. injections);
- Visits to general practitioners and dentists/stomatologists;
- Contacts with doctors during hospitalization as an in-patient or day-patient;
- Telephone contacts (even with a doctor) without consulting own health (for example just for arranging an appointment with a doctor);
- Visits due to illness or health of other persons, such as children or elderly relatives.

- ***HS200 Financial burden of medical care***

The questions refer to expenses incurred in the last 12 months. This includes expenses related to:

- Health care provided for different purposes (curative, rehabilitative, long-term healthcare) and by different modes of provision (inpatient, outpatient, day, and home care);
- Medical mental health care;
- Preventive medical services;
- User fee for insured people.

Excluded:

- Taking prescribed or non-prescribed drugs;
- Dental care.

Expenditures on mandatory or voluntary health insurance contributions should be excluded as a whole.

- ***PH080 Number of visits to a dentist or orthodontist***

Included:

- Visits to a dentist or orthodontist, including in foreign countries, e.g. during vacations abroad.

Excluded:

- Home visits and consultations by telephone;
- Visits due to oral health of other persons, such as children or elderly relatives.

- ***HS210 Financial burden of dental care***

The questions refer to expenses incurred in the last 12 months. This includes expenses related to:

- Health care provided by a dentist or orthodontist (specialist in orthopaedic dentistry);
- Preventive dental services.

Excluded:

- Self-medication, taking prescribed or non-prescribed drugs;
- Other medical services.

Expenditures on mandatory or voluntary health insurance contributions should be excluded as a whole.

- ***HS220 Financial burden of medicines***

The questions refer to expenses incurred in the last 12 months. This includes expenses related to:

- Prescribed medicines;
- Non-prescribed medicines;
- Herbal medicines, homeopathic medicines, dietary supplements, hormones ;
- Medicines with special dosage.

Excluded:

- Contraceptives (pills or hormonal tablets);
- Herbal teas (if they are not considered as medicines).

Expenditures on mandatory or voluntary health insurance contributions should be excluded as a whole.

- ***PH122 Type of physical activity when working***

The question is asked only to respondents who are defined as employed or self-employed (question P2 = from 1 to 4 inclusive) and refers to physical activity related to the main activity / work of the respondents that they have in a typical week.

The respondent is responsible for a typical, normal week of his daily life, not a specific period. If during different weeks (days) his/her exercise vary, the response should be based on the average assessment of the main activities he/she is engaged with.

Answer 5 "Does not carry out any work-related activities" is marked only for persons who are not defined as employed or self-employed (question P2 is greater than 4).

Working: Work means the main work (paid or voluntary)

Mostly sitting or Mostly standing refers to working tasks involving light physical effort which involve mostly sitting or standing activities. Only standing activities that do not involve extra physical effort should be included.

Examples:

- Sitting at work: light office work, deskwork, reading, writing, drawing, using the computer, talking or talking on the phone, studying, driving a car or truck, etc.
- Standing at work not involving extra physical effort: teaching, selling bakery products, hair styling, directing traffic etc.

Mostly walking or tasks of moderate physical effort: refers to working tasks which involve mostly walking or tasks involving moderate physical effort.

Examples:

- Walking at work: delivering letters, carrying light loads, watering the lawn or garden, etc.
- Tasks of moderate physical effort: electrical work, plumbing, automobile repairs, work with machines and tools, tapping, drilling, painting, nursing, multiple household chores involving moderate physical effort such as cleaning the house, shopping or playing with the children, etc.

Mostly heavy labour or physically demanding work: refers to working tasks involving heavy physical effort.

Examples: using heavy power tools, heavy construction work, mining, carrying heavy loads, loading, stacking or chopping wood, hard agricultural work, etc.

- ***PHI32 Frequency of physical activities (excluding working) in a typical week***

The question refers to the frequency of physical activities in a typical week for the respondent. This is the time spent in sports, fitness or other sports activities (e.g. fast walking, ball games, jogging, cycling or swimming, aerobics, badminton). This type of physical activity is usually practiced during free time.

Sports: refers to physical activity which is structured, repetitive and usually requires skills. Sports are often associated with physical activities, competitive or performed as a game.

Examples: ball games, athletics, competitive bicycling, running, swimming, etc.

Fitness: refers to the act or process of retaining or improving physical shape.

Examples: endurance training, strength exercise, flexibility training, etc.

Recreational (leisure) physical activity: refers to recreational activities by carrying out physical activities that lead to shortness of breath or increase in heart rate..

Examples: Nordic walking, brisk walking, ball games, jogging, bicycling, swimming, aerobics, rowing, badminton, etc.

Transport physical activity (commuting activity): refers to activities of getting to and from places. Travelling for long journeys (irregular travelling) are not to be included here.

Examples: walking or cycling from home to work/school and back home, from work to market, from market to home.

- ***PHI42 Frequency of eating fruit***

The question refers to the frequency of consumption of fruits usually ongoing during the week (including weekends). The fruits can be in any form - fresh, frozen, dried or canned (compotes). They can be cut into small pieces or in the form of puree.

Excludes concentrate juices, processed or sweetened with artificial sweeteners fruits.

- ***PHI52 Frequency of eating vegetables***

The question refers to the frequency of consumption of vegetables or salads usually ongoing during the week (including weekends). Includes their consumption in any form - for example soups (hot and cold), canned vegetables, vegetable dishes (incl. legumes - beans, lentils, peas). They may be small pieces or in the form of puree. All types of juices are excluded - freshly squeezed, from concentrate, processed vegetables with artificial sweeteners, etc. Potatoes and other foods rich in carbohydrates, for example bread and cereals should be excluded as a daily serving of vegetables.

- ***PH101 Difficulty in seeing, even when wearing glasses or contact lenses***

The objective of the variable is to measure vision functional limitations of any kind, whatever the reasons of the limitations (born with, disease, accident, ageing, etc.).

Vision difficulties cover a spectrum of seeing problems including dimensions of near and far vision, night blindness (nyctalopia). The difficulty can concern seeing out of one eye or person's ability to see only directly in front of him/her. Peripheral vision problems are excluded.

The variable intends to measure long-term (chronic) limitations so any temporary problems should be excluded.

The use of aids to improve vision includes the use of any devices/aids that improve the visual capacity of the person (glasses, contact lenses, etc.).

- ***PH111 Difficulty in hearing, even when using a hearing aid***

The variable refers to the evaluation of the functional capabilities of a person to hear in a quiet or noisy room.

Hearing difficulties include a range of problems that deal with some specific aspects of the hearing function: the perception of loudness and pitch, the discrimination of speech versus background noise, and the localization of sounds (distinguishing sounds from different sources). The difficulty can concern hearing in one ear or both.

The variable intends to measure long-term (chronic) limitations so any temporary problems should be excluded.

The use of aids to improve hearing involves the use of any tools that enhance the auditory capacity of the person (hearing aids, implants, etc.).

- ***PH121 Difficulty in walking or climbing steps***

This question is studying the limits of the act of "walking" rather than limitations in walking due to other functional problems. The question assesses the capabilities of the interviewed person to walk without a cane or other aid or assistance from another person. For example, for a blind person, the guide dog should not be seen as an aid in terms of walking.

Climbing steps refers to walking up or down stairs.

Walking or climbing steps difficulties cover a variety of problems with mobility including problems walking short or long distances, problems walking up or down steps, not being able to walk any distance without stopping to rest or not being able to walk without using some type of helping tool, being unable to stand even for a short period of time and needing a wheelchair to get from place to place. Difficulties resulting from impairments in balance, endurance, or other non-musculoskeletal systems are included. Any difficulty with walking (whether it is on flat land or up or down steps) is to be captured.

The variable intends to measure long-term (chronic) limitations so any temporary problems should be excluded.

The ability to walk or climb stairs should not be done with any assistance either by another person or an auxiliary device. Walking Aids include surgical footwear (socks, shoes), canes, braces, crutches, prostheses, etc. If you need someone to hold your hand, it is considered as help. Some prostheses or artificial limbs, depending on how they are used and whether they are considered as part of the body, cannot be considered as aids. Handrails and bannisters are not in general considered as walking or climbing aids

- ***PH131 Difficulty in remembering or concentrating***

The question aims to assess functional ability of a person to remember and to concentrate

Remembering refers to an individual using his/her memory capacity in order to recall what has happened around them. It means the individual can bring to mind or think again about something that has taken place in the past (either the recent past or further back). In connection with younger people, remembering is often associated with storing facts learned in school and being able to retrieve them when needed.

Concentrating refers to an individual using his mental ability to accomplish some task such as reading, calculating numbers, learning something. It is associated with focusing on the task at hand in order to complete the task. It is the act of directing one's full attention to one subject or to focus without distraction on one thing.

Remembering or concentrating difficulties cover a variety of problems; a person having a problem with finding his/her way around, or not being able to concentrate on what he/she is doing, or a person forgetting where he/she is or what month is. A person with a cognitive difficulty may not remember what someone just said to him/her or he/she may seem confused or frightened about most things. Any difficulty with remembering, concentrating or understanding what is going on around a person that he/she considers a problem should be captured. It is not intended to capture difficulties remembering or concentrating because of common everyday situations such as high workload or stress, or as a result of substance abuse.

The variable intends to measure long-term (chronic) limitations so any temporary problems should be excluded

- *PH141 Difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing*
- *PH151 Difficulty in communicating (using usual language, for example understanding or being understood by others)*

The aim of the next questions is to gather information on certain aspects and habits from the daily life of respondents, which are related with the health in general. With questions about the height and weight of respondents, the body mass index (BMI) will be calculated

- *PH110A How much do you weigh without clothes and shoes?*

The value is recorded in kilograms, if the respondent does not know the exact answer about his/her weight (in kilograms), the use of an estimate is allowed. For pregnant women indicate the weight prior to pregnancy.

- *PH110B How tall are you without shoes?*

The value is recorded in centimetres (without shoes), if the respondent does not know the exact answer about his/her height (in centimetres), the use of an estimate is allowed.

- *PH171 Smoking in the last 12 months*

The aim is to estimate the prevalence of smoking in the last 12 months. The answer should take into account all products - not only cigarettes, but also cigars, pipes, hand-rolled cigarettes, cigarettes, hookahs, electronic devices for heating tobacco (IQOS, GLO, etc.). Electronic cigarettes and all types of vape devices are also included.

- *PH180 Frequency of consumption of an alcoholic drink of any kind*

The question refers to the frequency of alcohol consumption during the past 12 months prior to the interview.

The term '**alcoholic drink**' refers to all drinks that contain "alcohol" (beer, wine, spirits, cocktails, home-made alcohol - such as homemade rakia) including low alcoholic as well. When responding to this question, the amount of consumed alcohol is irrelevant. The subjective assessment of the respondent is important.

WELL-BEING

All questions from the module are asked at an individual level and are answered by all persons in the household aged 16 and over. Indirect (proxy) interview is not allowed. The reference period for almost all target variables is the current situation (at the time of the interview). Five of the questions related to the respondent's emotional state relate to the last 4 weeks.

- *PW010 Overall life satisfaction*

Life satisfaction represents a report of how a respondent evaluates or appraises his or her life taken as a whole. The term 'life' is intended here as all areas of a person's life at a particular point in time (these days). The variable focuses on how people are feeling "these days" rather than specifying a longer or shorter time period. The intent is not to obtain the emotional state of the respondent at the given moment but for them to make a reflective judgement on their level of satisfaction

- ***PW030 Satisfaction with financial situation***

The respondent should make a broad, reflective appraisal of all areas of the financial situation of his/her household in a particular point in time (currently). The respondent should take into account income adequacy, level of savings, capacity to pay back debt and money, owed the ability to meet large expenses.

- ***PW160 Satisfaction with personal relationships***

The respondent should take into consideration relationships with all the people with whom he/she spends time (e.g. family, friends, colleagues from work, neighbours).

- ***PW120 Satisfaction with time use (amount of leisure time)***

The respondent should make a broad, reflective appraisal of the amount of time he/she has currently to do things he/she likes to do (hobby, leisure, time off work).

- ***PW191 Trust in others***

The variable refers to the respondent's opinion/feeling.

'Social trust' is a core value or belief; an abstract evaluation of the moral standards of the society in which we live.

- ***PW090 Being happy***

The variable refers to the respondent's feeling. He/she should be invited to indicate to what extent he/she has felt happy during the past four weeks

- ***PW230 Feeling lonely***

The variable refers to the respondent's feeling. He/she should be invited to indicate to what extent he/she has felt lonely during the past four weeks.

Feelings of loneliness are not synonymous with being alone but instead involve feelings of isolation, feelings of disconnectedness and feelings of not belonging.

- ***PW180 Help from relatives, friends or neighbors***

The variable refers to the respondent's possibility of asking for and receiving moral help or services from any relatives, friends, or neighbors and other persons the respondent knows. It is about the possibility of asking for help, whether the respondent needs it or not.

- ***PW240 Perceived social exclusion***

The variable refers to the respondent's opinion/feeling.

'Social exclusion' involves the lack of resources, rights, goods and services, and the inability to participate in the normal relationships and activities, available to the majority of people in a society, whether in economic, social, cultural or political. Exclusion affects the quality of life of individuals.

The definition implies both lack of resources to participate, but also feeling of rejection by the society or certain groups or rejection of the society or certain groups within the society.

Usually, those identified as vulnerable to exclusion include: people in poverty, lone parents, unemployed people, disabled people, people facing discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, sexuality or disability, homeless people, children not doing well at school, people with few educational qualifications, people with low self-esteem, people with addiction problems and communities in areas of deprivation.

One can feel not included due to: origin, religion, sex, activity status, disability, material circumstances, sexual orientation, language, age, appearance, nationality, etc.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PARTICIPATION

All questions from the module are asked at an individual level and are answered by all persons in the household aged 16 and over. Indirect (proxy) interview is not allowed. The reference period is the last 12 months

The variables **PS010**, **PS020**, **PS030**, **PS040** refer to visiting cinema, live performances, cultural sites and sport events. If the answer is positive the respondent should say the count of the events he/she attended and if it is negative he/she should say what is the main reason.

Live performances include theatre plays, concerts, operas, ballet, dance performances, etc. Street or park performances should also be included. If the respondent is part of the live performances, this should be excluded.

Cultural sites refer to historical monuments, museums, art galleries, archaeological sites, etc.

Question “**PS041** Do you practice any activity (hobby) related to photography, singing, dancing, painting, crafts, writing stories, etc.?” applies only to activities that are carried out as a hobby. All activities performed as respondent's professional activity are excluded.

Question **PS042** collects information about reading books in the last 12 months. Electronic and audio books are also included. If the answer is positive, the number of books is recorded, and if negative, the main reason.

The variables **PS050**, **PS060**, **PS070**, **PS080** refer to the frequency of the meetings/contacts with friends and family. This includes only persons living outside the household. The meeting is planned, casual meet does not count. Meeting means spending a certain time for certain activities at home or outside the home. Contacts with friends and family can be done by phone, sms, mail, fax, internet (e-mail, Skype, Facebook, FaceTime or other social networks, as well as other means of communication over the Internet, etc.). Contact should be through letters or conversations. If only photos or posts are shared it is not considered contact with relatives / friends. If the respondent meets / contacts many relatives / friends, then all meetings should be taken away.

Participation in formal voluntary activities (**PS110**) includes any unpaid non-compulsory work for or through an organization, a formal group or a club. This work should be understood as volunteer work conducted to help other people, the environment, animals, the wider community, etc.

Participation in informal voluntary activities (**PS111**) refers to any informal unpaid activities that are not arranged by any organization. It includes such activities as:

- helping other people, including family members not living in the same household (e.g. cooking for others; taking care of people in hospitals/at home; taking people for a walk, shopping, etc.);
- helping animals (e.g. taking care of homeless, wild animals);
- other informal voluntary activities such as cleaning a beach, a forest etc.

Any activity that respondent undertakes for his/her household or in his/her work are excluded. Activities undertaken within charitable organizations should also be excluded.

Active citizenship (**PS102**) refers to:

- participation to the activities of a political party;
- participation in a public consultation,
- peaceful protest including signing a petition, participation in a demonstration,
- writing a letter to a politician,
- writing a letter to the media,
- active participation via Internet (e.g. petition, letter, etc.).

Voting should not be considered as active citizenship

AD-HOC MODULE LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN IN SEPARATED AND BLENDED FAMILIES

Group A for each person aged 0-17 years old, member of the household

This group of questions applies to all children aged 0-17 who are current members of the household.

- ***HK010 Does the child have a parent who lives outside the household (not a member of the household)***

The variable aims to collect information on children who are household members and have one of their parents being part of a different household.

The variable should be collected for the following:

- Children whose mother is not a household member and father who is a household member;
- Children whose father is not a household member and mother who is a household member;
- Children living with one of the parents but they don't know the other one;

It excludes:

- Children who are household members and whose both parents live inside;
- Children who are household members and are living with one of the parents (either mother or father) and the other parent has died;
- Children living with grandparents, uncle/aunt, or other relatives but don't know or don't have the father and mother living in the household.

If the household has a child whose other parent lived outside the household, ask questions RK050_1, RK060_1, RK070_1, RK080_1

- ***RK050_1 Child having a bedroom in which to sleep (including bedroom shared with siblings)***

The answer of having a bedroom for the child depends on the age of the child, e.g. 1 year old children will not need their own room.

The room could be only for the child but also could be shared with other children of the household. In this case, the answer should be 'Yes'.

Not having a room specifically for the child could be for different reasons (financial constraints, children's preferences, other children's preferences, etc.).

- ***RK060_1 Frequency of spending actively time with the child (meals, play, homework, walking, talking, etc.)***

This variable aims to measure the frequency of spending time (face to face contact) with the children. Non-physical contact such as talking on the phone or on social media is excluded.

Physical contact does not have to be at home only it could be in the park, in the cinema, in the school, in the house of the partner, etc.

The variable collects information on the frequency and not on the length or quality of the time spent.

This information should be reported per child.

If the child has two parents in the household the time spent with each of the parents should be taken into account. If one of the parents spends more time with the child than the other parent, then the answers from parent who spends more time should be considered.

- ***RK070_1 Number of nights per month the child spends in the household (average)***

This question is collected for children aged 0-17 who are household members but have a parent residing outside of the household.

The variable aims to provide information on how often the child spend night in the interviewed household.

For instance, if the child spends half of the time with one parent and half of the time with the other one then the number of days should be counted as 15 per month. If the child spends only the school holidays then the average number per month should be provided

- ***RK080_1 Legal child custody situation***

This variable collects information on children aged 0-17 who are household members but have a parent residing outside of the household. The question aims to get information on the legal child custody (the legal right to make decisions about the child arrangement, even if in practice it could be different).

The question does not collect information on the child's usual place of residence or who takes care of the child.

Information should be collected per child.

Group B for each person aged 16 and over

All persons aged 16 and over, current members of the household are asked about children outside the household (**PK010. Do you have a child / children (0-17 years) who live outside or in the household?**).

Depending on the answer, relevant questions are completed or it is the end of the module.

Group B1. For each person aged 16 and over who is parent of a child / children aged 0-17 in the household.

This group of questions from the module applies to all current household members aged 16 and over.

- ***PK020_1 Do you spend enough time with your child?***
- ***PK020_2 Main reason for not spending more time with children who are household members***

The questions should be asked to both parents separately in case they both live in the household and both fill the part of individual questionnaire. The question should be asked even if they are responsible for the same child.

The main reason is the one which the respondent perceives as the most important. The answer should be based on the self-assessment of the respondent.

For example, work is during the time that the child is in kindergarten, but during the afternoon the child is at home and the mother could take care, play etc. with him, instead she has to study or to go to university, then the main reason is: '2-My studies'.

If the person has two or more children in the household, he/she should be asked this question for not spending more time with all the children. If a person has two or more children, the same answer will apply to all children, even there might be different reasons for not spending time with different children (e.g the younger child etc.) but the answer should consider all children in the household. If in a given household mother/father is not spending time with at least with one of the children, it is then assumed that all the children belonging to that household lack of their time and the main reason should be given.

The time spent with the child does not have a limit on hours to be considered as enough. It is based on self-assessment, how the parent feels about the time spent with the child (children).

Actively spending time together with a child e.g. during meals, when playing, helping with homework, walking, doing sport, taking them to/from school should be taken into consideration, time spent communicating via social media/telephone etc. should be excluded.

If the person thinks that he/she spends enough time with the child the answer modality '8-nothing prevents me from spending more time with the children' should be selected.

Group B2 - Information about persons who have a child / children outside the household

All persons aged 16 and over, current household members who have indicated that they have a child / children outside the household are asked the questions from the group.

With the first question **HK020 How many children who are not members of the household live outside the household?** the number of children for whom information will be collected must be established. The questions should be asked for each child separately.

- ***RK020 Age of the child who is not household members***

Age refers to the child's age at the time of interview.

- ***PK030_1 Do you spend enough time with your child?***
- ***PK030_2 Main reason for not spending more time with children who are not household members***

This variable collects information on the main reason for not spending more time with children who are not household members (reside in a different household but have a parent in the interviewed household).

The main reason is the one which the respondent perceives as the most important. The answer should be based on the self-assessment of the respondent.

If the person has two or more children outside the household, he/she should be asked this question for not spending more time with all the children. If there are different reasons for not spending time with the children respondent should select reason which is more difficult to overcome.

Time spent together during meals, when playing, helping with homework, walking, doing sport, taking them to/from school, etc. should be taken into consideration, time spent communicating via social media/telephone etc. should be excluded.

If the person thinks that he/she spends enough time with the child the answer modality '8-nothing prevents me from spending more time with the children' should be selected.

- ***RK030 Usual time the parent needs to get to the child who is not a household members***

This variable aims to collect information on how long (usually) it takes a parent to get to their child who is not a household member.

If several modes of transport are used, then it is suggested to refer to the notion of means of transport that is "normally used" or the transport "usually used".

In cases when the parent does not have any contact with the child then the minutes reported must be '0'.

- ***RK040 Frequency of contact (via phone, social media, etc.) during the last 12 months with the child who is not a household member***

This variable aims to measure the frequency of non face to face contact via phone, social media etc. with the children aged 0-17 who reside outside the household but whose parent resides in the sampled household.

If several methods are used for example once on the phone, another day through Instagram, and another day through messenger, etc. all these methods of contacting should be counted.

The variable collects information on the frequency and not on the length or quality of the time spent.

This information should be reported per child.

- ***RK050_2 Child having a bedroom in which to sleep (including bedroom shared with siblings)***

The answer of having a bedroom for the child depends on the age of the child, e.g. 1 year old children will not need their own room.

The room could be only for the child but also could be shared with other children of the household. In this case the answer should be 'Yes'.

Not having a room specifically for the child could be for different reasons (financial constraints, children's preferences, other children's preferences, etc.).

- ***RK060_2 Frequency of spending actively time with the child (meals, play, homework, walking, talking, etc.)***

This variable aims to measure the frequency of spending time (face to face contact) with the children aged 0-17 both those who are household members and those who reside outside the household but whose parent resides in the sampled household. Non-physical contact such as talking on the phone or on social media is excluded.

Physical contact does not have to be at home only it could be in the park, in the cinema, in the school, in the house of the partner, etc.

The variable collects information on the frequency and not on the length or quality of the time spent.

This information should be reported per child.

- ***RK070_2 Number of nights per month the child spends in the household (average)***

This question is collected for children aged 0-17 who are household members but have a parent residing outside of the household.

The variable aims to provide information on how often the child spend night in the interviewed household.

For instance, if the child spends half of the time with one parent and half of the time with the other one then the number of days should be counted as 15 per month. If the child spends only the school holidays then the average number per month should be provided

- ***RK080_2 Legal child custody situation***

This variable collects information on children aged 0-17 who are household members but have a parent residing outside of the household. The question aims to get information on the legal child custody (the legal right to make decisions about the child arrangement, even if in practice it could be different).

The question does not collect information on the child's usual place of residence or who takes care of the child.

Information should be collected per child.

VOLUNTARY MODULE ON IMPACT OF COVID-19

Eurostat recommends including in the SILC 2021 data collection on voluntary basis a few complementary variables on the impact of COVID-19 on households' income. The selected variables should complement the variables collected in the nucleus, in particular income variables, or to provide information on how the COVID-19 crisis affected respondents income and living conditions. Variables refer to changes in income, benefits, education of children, working conditions, and health.

Information on income movement is applied at the household level and refers to the household as a whole. The information must be obtained from the person providing the information on the household questionnaire.

- ***HI010 Change in income in the past 12 months***

The variable aims to collect the opinion of the household whether there was a change in income in the past 12 months.

The answer should be based on the respondents' subjective perception of the change in income

- ***HI012 Change in income as an outcome of COVID-19***

The variable aims to collect the subjective opinion of the household whether the change in income is an outcome of the COVID-19 crisis.

- ***HI020 Reason for the increase in income***

In case of increasing the income of the household, the respondent must provide information about the cause of this increase.

- ***HI030 Reason for the decrease in income***

In case of decreasing the income of the household, the respondent must provide information about the cause of this decrease.

- ***HI040 Expectation for future income of the household***

This variable collects information on how the respondent thinks that his / her household income will change in the next 12 months.

- **FINANCIAL SUPPORT (GOVERNMENT FUNDED) FROM COVID-19 RELATED SCHEMES DURING 2020 (HY150)**

Financial support from the COVID-19 related support schemes is defined as payments made, during the income reference period, by government for the benefits of the household or household members. It includes benefits received to support households or their members regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The benefits can be of different types and by different sources as: children, unemployed, sickness, etc.

- **Monthly allowance for families with children in case of closed kindergartens and schools (HY150_1):**

The amount of the allowance is at the amount of the minimal salary for the country – 610 BGN for families with one child and 150 percent from it – 915 BGN for families with two and more children.

- **Lump-sum benefit at the amount of BGN 375 for families with children (HY150_2)**

The benefit is granted to parents of children that are pupils up to seventh grade who have reached the age of 14, as well as families in which one or both parents have lost their job but are not entitled to unemployment benefits.

Families with children are also entitled to this benefit, in which at the time of its application both or one of the parents is not entitled to paid leave and have used at least 20 working days of unpaid leave due to inability to work from home. Parents who raise their children on their own have the same rights.

Applicants must not have income from a second employment contract, rent, annuity, rent, etc., and must not be included in the scheme for compensation for job retention, which has gained popularity as the measure 60 to 40.

Both parents or the single parent must be insured under the Social Security Code for the last 6 months. This condition will not apply to unemployed parents without the right to unemployment benefits.

A lump sum allowance of BGN 375 is also granted to voluntary foster families and families of relatives with whom a child is placed under the Child Protection Act, who meet the criteria for receiving it.

- **Lump sum allowance for families whose children are enrolled in the eighth grade (HY150_3)**

A lump sum of 250 BGN for families whose children are enrolled in the eighth grade of a state or municipal school to cover part of the costs at the beginning of the school year 2020 - 2021, when the children live permanently in the country and are not placed for upbringing outside the family under of art. 26 of the Child Protection Act. The benefit is granted on the condition that the average monthly income of a family member for the previous 12 months is less than or equal to BGN 450.

The allowance is granted regardless of the family income for children with permanent disabilities, children with one living parent and children accommodated in families of relatives and/or close friends and foster families.

- **FINANCIAL SUPPORT (GOVERNMENT FUNDED) FROM THE COVID-19 RELATED SCHEMES DURING 2020 AT INDIVIDUAL LEVEL (PHY150):**

- **Additional remuneration for medical specialists (PHY150_1)**

- **Measure for maintaining employment in the "TRANSPORT" and "TOURISM" sectors in the form of remuneration**

Aimed at employers for employees (**PHY150_2**) and self-employed persons (**PHY150_7**), defined by Decision № 429 of the Council of Ministers of 2020.

Areas of economic activity: "Transport", "Hotel and restaurant" and "Tourism".

The measure includes payment of compensations in the amount of BGN 290 per month to maintain the employment of employees for a period of up to 6 months.

- **Employment for you (PHY150_3)**

Employers from all economic sectors, with the exception of agriculture, can hire the unemployed under the program financed under the Operational Program "Human Resources Development". The measure is primarily aimed at companies in the sectors "Hotels and restaurants" and "Travel agency and operator activities; other travel and reservation activities".

Unemployed persons can be employed full-time or part-time for a period of up to 6 months during which they will receive funds in the amount of the minimum wage and social security contributions at the expense of the employer. Persons must not have been employed by the same employer one month before the application was submitted. After the expiration of the 6-month term of subsidized employment, employers will be obliged to keep the employment of 75% of the supported persons for a period equal to half of the period of subsidized employment.

- **Allowance at the amount of 290 BGN for employers to keep retaining 1 job (PHY150_4)**

The aid is granted to bus and / or coach undertakings engaged in passenger, urban, suburban or interurban services, which have ceased their activities during and after the state of emergency; or have resumed part-time work for all or part of the staff.

- **Lump sum allowance (voucher) for persons on the first line for the use of basic tourist services for domestic tourism (PHY150_5)**

The lump sum allowance is provided for the use of basic tourist services for domestic tourism in the amount of BGN 210 for not less than 7 nights in sites or categorized or registered accommodation places, and will be paid in advance within 14 days before its use based on the issued order.

The persons entitled to lump sum allowance are doctors, medical and non-medical specialists, specialists and others performing ancillary activities in medical institutions for hospital care, employees of regional health inspections, emergency medical aid centers and the National Center for Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, employees of the regional health insurance funds seconded to the regional health inspectorates, employees of the system of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the system of the Ministry of Interior and the National Toll Management, who have directly carried out or are carrying out activities related to treatment, prevention of the spread and / or coping of the effects of COVID-19.

- **Project "Parents in employment" (PHY150_6)**

The project "Parents in employment" at the Employment Agency is resumed. Working families can receive childcare allowance, and their unemployed relatives are eligible for childcare. Indicate the amount that the person receives as employed under the program.

- **Financial support of programs and projects of private cultural organizations, activists and creators, carrying out freelance activities in the conditions of emergency epidemic situation (PHY150_8).**
- **Creative scholarships to support young and prominent artists and other young professionals in the field of culture (PHY150_9)**

Bulgarian artists engaged in freelance professions in the field of culture and arts will be able to apply for financial support from the National Fund "Culture" if they do not apply for and receive an interest-free loan or other financial support on other grounds provided for in legislation in connection with the COVID-19 epidemic.

- ***HD225 Distance learning courses/school during COVID-19 restrictions***

Variable HD225 aims to measure the possibility of having access to education from home whenever it was needed during the period when physical presence in the school was not authorized due to COVID-19 safety reasons. The variable collects information on all children aged between 5 and 15 in the household.

If in a given household at least one child does not have internet connection or computer/mobile device, it is then assumed that all the children belonging to that household are limited in accessing the lessons online. The answer should be based on the self-assessment of the respondent. In cases when more than one reason can apply, the main reason should be selected. The main reason is the one which the respondent perceives as

the most important or difficult to overcome.

- ***PL220 Working from home during pandemic***

The variable working from home during pandemic will provide information about the flexibility at work and possibility of working from home. Moreover, this variable will aim to measure if the working life have changed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In cases when respondent has more than one job, the respondent should provide information on their main work. When respondents cannot spontaneously choose one category, particularly when several reasons apply to them, the main reason should be chosen. The distinction of main reason should be based on the respondent's own perception.

Working '1. Full time' from home means that the respondent moved fully to teleworking.

The modality '2. Yes, but only partially' will refer alternating the working hours or days within working place and home.

When work for certain professions could not be adapted to teleworking (e.g construction) then the modality 'No, it was not possible because my job is not adapted to teleworking' should be chosen.

- ***PH051 Unmet need for medical examination or treatment due to COVID-19 crisis***

The purpose of this variable is to gain information if COVID-19 was a reason for unmet need for medical examination or treatment based on personal assessment.

This is a follow up variable to the PH040 Unmet need for medical examination or treatment and to the PH050 Main reason for unmet need for medical examination or treatment. The purpose of the variable is to capture the reasons for a restricted access to medical care due COVID-19 pandemic.

- ***PH071 Unmet need for dental examination or treatment due to COVID-19 crisis***

The purpose of this variable is to gain information if COVID-19 was a reason for unmet need for dental examination or treatment based on personal assessment

This is a follow up variable to the PH060 Unmet need for dental examination or treatment and to the PH070 Main reason for unmet need for dental examination or treatment. The purpose of the variable is to capture the reasons for a restricted access to dental care due COVID-19 pandemic.

- ***PMH010 Mental health affected by the COVID-19 crisis***

The variable tends to measure whether the mental health is directly or indirectly affected by the pandemic situation. The impact of the pandemic affect a person's thinking, feeling, mood or behavior in a way that influences their ability to relate to others and function each day. The variable should collect information on respondents self-assessment and not be based on any diagnose or doctor prescription. These conditions may be situational (short-term) or long-lasting (chronic).

Mental health is a state of well-being in which an individual can realize his or her own potential, cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively and make a contribution to the community (WHO, 2001).

Mental health is often divided into two major dimensions: positive and negative mental health. Concepts of mental health include subjective well-being, perceived self-efficacy, autonomy, competence, and self-actualization of one's intellectual and emotional potential. Other dimensions include self-acceptance, self-esteem, personal growth (reflected in one's sense of continual psychological growth and development), positive relations with others, a sense that one's life has purpose and meaning, self-determination and the ability to control one's own life, environmental mastery, etc.

During the interview, all answer options should systematically be read out to respondents. The concept of mental health is subjective. The notion is restricted to an assessment coming from the individual and as far as possible not from anyone else, whether an interviewer, healthcare professional or relative.