DIW Berlin

German Institute
for Economic Research

Introduction to the ECHP – Day 1

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EPUNet
EuroPanel Users Network
Connecting ECHP Users

Introduction

- Covered in the Course

  ➢ Content of the ECHP

  ➢ Structure of the UDB files

  ➢ Transcript data files

  ➢ Match data between units/across waves

  ➢ Understand basic data issues

  ➢ Sample weights

  ➢ Further details

Introduction

- Outline/structure of the course
  - ➢ Morning session (9:30–12:30): presentation/lecture
  - ➢ Afternoon session (14:00–17:00): lab session

Outline

- Monday: Getting started with the ECHP

- Tuesday: Cross-sectional issues and time-series – matching

- Wednesday: Aggregation and matching across individuals

- Thursday: Longitudinal and cross-national analysis

- Friday: Exploring dimensions of living, online resources, looking ahead

History of the ECHP

- 1991: Task Force on Household Incomes

- Task Force was mandated to assess whether income data in registers and existing national household surveys could be satisfactorily harmonised ex-post. $\rightarrow$ failure!

- Launch a specific EU survey, the European Community Household Panel (ECHP) with an input-oriented approach

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History of the ECHP

- Starting point: contract of Maastricht 1992

  ➤ Creation of domestic market

  ➤ Europe as 'social unit'

  ➤ Definition of social objectives of member states

- Protocol on social policy: §7: yearly reports

- Need for an harmonized, cross-national data-base

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ECHP

- ECHP forms a closely co-ordinated component of the European system of social surveys.

- Information on living conditions of private households and persons: income (including social transfers etc.), labor, poverty, social exclusion, housing, health . . . .

- The multi-dimensional and multi-purpose nature of the survey enables the study of the interrelationships between these dimensions.

- supplies data on EU social dynamics i.e. it provides information on relationships and transitions over time at the micro level.

ECHP

- Data are collected by National Data Collection Units (NDU).

- First wave (in 1994): 60,500 nationally representative households - i.e. approximately 130,000 adults aged 16 years and over - were interviewed in the then 12 Member States.

- 1995: Austria, 1996: Finland , 1997: Sweden

Main characteristics of the ECHP:

1. Panel survey: provides information on relationships and transitions over time at the micro level

2. Covers a wide range of topics concerning living conditions

3. Runs from 1994–2001

4. Input harmonization ($\rightarrow$ exceptions)

Harmonization issues

- Input harmonization

Harmonization issues

- Input harmonization

- Output harmonization

Harmonization issues

- Input harmonization

- Output harmonization

- Ex-ante harmonization

Harmonization issues

- Input harmonization

- Output harmonization

- Ex-ante harmonization

- Ex-post harmonization

Harmonization issues II

- Most of the countries used the harmonized ECHP questionnaire.

- Some countries converted national data surveys into ECHP format

- Ex: Germany/United Kingdom: derived national data 1994–2001.

- Variables that were not collected in the national survey were imputed based on similar variables.

Countries

Countries	Full ECHP Data Format	ECHP Data Format derived from National Surveys
Belgium∗, Denmark,France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands∗, Spain, Portugal	1994-2001	–
Austria	1995–2001	–
Finland	1996–2001	–
Germany	1994–1996	1994–2001 (SOEP)
Luxembourg	1994–1996	1997–2001 (PSELL)
United-Kingdom	1994–1996	1994–2001 (BHPS)
Sweden	–	1997–2001 (SLCS) (Cross-sectional data only)

Target population

- Private households permanently resident in the country, $\rightarrow$ the household population (frame population).

- Persons permanently resident abroad (without permanent address) were excluded

- Included: household members temporarily institutionalized or temporarily absent for other reasons

Excluded:

- All persons living in collective households or in institutions on a permanent basis

- Persons temporarily in collective households or institutionalized but not included in the categories described before

Sampling method

- Broadly: Probability sampling in all countries

- However: variation of sampling procedures

- Usually, the sampling frame is either the population register or a master-sample

- Two stages:

  1. a sample of areas, usually the municipalities (primary sampling units = PSU)
  2. a sample of addresses within each of these areas (random sample of households is drawn)

Tracing rules I

- Sample households/individuals: someone who was a member of an ECHP household in the first wave

- Or a child of a mother who is a sample person (even if born since the first wave)

Tracing rules II

- Individuals of sample households are traced if:

  ➢ Moving within a country;

  ➢ Moving abroad but within the European Union;

  ➢ Leaving the sample household and forming one or more new households with non-sample or sample persons;

  ➢ All members of such a household are interviewed to get total household income

Tracing rules III

- Individuals of sample households are not traced if:

  ➢ move outside EU,

  ➢ move to institution

  ➢ a non-sample person stop to live with at least one sample person

Tracing rules IV

- Non-sample persons joining sample households;
- Children of a sample person and a non-sample person

PDB

- National data: stored as 'Production Data Base' (PDB).

- PDB: due to data protection laws only accessible for the NDU's and Eurostat

- Access to a 'public use version' ('User's data base, UDB) via Eurostat.

- UDB: anonymised and converted

- Difference: variables have been sorted into a manageable and standardized format.

UDB Files

- Household file (one/wave)
- Personal file (one/wave)
- Register file (one/wave)
- Relationship file (one/wave)
- Country file (one)
- Link file (one)

Link File

- One record per person

- Includes information for all waves

- Each person that ever appeared in the ECHP has one record

- Includes constant data (PID, date of birth, sex)

- Includes wave-specific data

- Allows to construct the 'longitudinal status' of the person: household ID, whether household/person interview-ed in wave i ...

Register File

- Person level

- One register file /wave

- Includes all persons living in households with a completed household questionnaire in wave i

- Includes all persons in household (even non-interviewed adults)

  ➤ General information
  ➤ Demographic information

Household File

- One record for each household with a completed household interview

- One household file/wave.

- The information is grouped into 7 sections.

  ➢ General & demographic information, household income, household financial situation, accommodation, durables, and children.

Relationship File

- Includes relationship between household members

- A record includes the relationship of one household member to another

- One relationship file/wave

- PID1 ('ascendant' or older)

- Relationship

- PID2 ('descendant' or younger)

Personal File

- One record per Personal Interview

- 13 sections:

- general information/demographic information /current employment/ unemployment/search for a job/previous job / calendar of activities/income/education and training/health/social relations /migration, and/satisfaction with various aspects of life

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Country File

- One record per country

  - ➤ RATE: Exchange rates with Euro/wave
  - ➤ PPP: Purchasing power parities/wave
  - ➤ POPTOT: Total population in private households/ wave
  - ➤ POP16P: Number of persons aged 16+ living in private households/wave
  - ➤ POPHHD: Number of private households/wave

Missing Information

- Germany - sometimes lacking variables due to conversion process, eg.

  ➢ Household durables

  ➢ Household financial situation

  ➢ Health health

  ➢ Personal satisfaction

  ➢ Training and education

Missing Information

- Luxembourg - some variables missing, eg.:

  - ➤ Household durables
  - ➤ Employment/unemployment variables
  - ➤ Current education/training
  - ➤ Health
  - ➤ Migration
  - ➤ Satisfaction

Log in:

- Turn to your computers:

- Username: 'Schulung1', 'Schulung2' . . .

- Password: 'Schulung1', 'Schulung2' . . .

- Domain: DIW-Berlin-de

Find data:

- Directory: 'F:\\Schulung'
- **or:**
- Directory: 'DIW-01-501'

Find data:

- Directory 'ECHP-CSV'

- 'trn_w1p.csv' 'trn_w1h.csv' 'trn_w1r.csv' . . .

Have Fun!