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Survey on income and living conditions in marginalized Roma communities in Slovakia

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Abstract

In the year 2018 cooperation between Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SO SR) and Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma communities for solution of the project “Monitoring and evaluation of inclusive policies and their impact on marginalized Roma communities”.

The main objective of the project is to ensure monitoring and evaluation of inclusive policies and assessment of their impact on Roma population, mainly on marginalized Roma communities through collecting data and information on socio-economic living conditions of Roma in Slovak Republic.

The subject of cooperation is realization of two special surveys on income and living conditions (EU SILC) relating to MRC (hereinafter referred to as “EU SILC MRC”) in accordance with relevant general legally binding regulations of the Slovak Republic and applicable legal acts of the European Union and subsequent processing of survey outputs. The surveys are planned to be realized twice, the first survey has been implemented in 2018 and the second survey will be implemented in 2020.

The description of the works which have been already done on the first survey EU SILC MRC and next activities which the SO SR plans to carry out, are presented in this paper.

Key words: marginalized Roma communities, special EU-SILC survey

Introduction

Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Integration of Roma up to 2020 was approved by the government resolution of January 2012. In February 2017 Updated Strategy Action Plans for Integration of Roma up to 2020 for years 2016-2018 was approved, where one of the partial objectives is “Improve the quality of collection and analysis data about Roma” to be achieved through the realization of the activity “To include residents of MRC in regular EU SILC survey”. Collecting data on socio-economic living conditions of marginalized Roma communities (hereinafter referred to as “MRC”) and impact of policies on this part of population it has a great significance for aiming individual measures relating to MRC.

Based on the above request, project cooperation was established between Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SO SR) and Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma communities. Name of the project is “Monitoring and evaluation of inclusive policies and their impact on marginalized Roma communities”.

The task of the SO SR is implementation of survey on income and living conditions in marginalized Roma communities (EU SILC MRC) and provision of obtained data to Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma communities for further processing.

The task of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma communities is cooperation with the SO SR in elaborating methodology of data collection, collaboration in elaborating organization of survey and manual containing methodological guidelines for interviewers, will inform the public about survey realization through the media and their website, with aim to increase credibility of survey and facilitate the work of interviewers. After the submission of obtained data, the task of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma communities will be ensure analysis of these data and elaboration of analytical report.

EU SILC MRC

The special sample survey on income and living conditions relating to marginalized Roma communities (EU SILC MRC) is implemented by Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic based on cooperation agreement with Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma communities.

The main of the survey is to identify income situation and living conditions of marginalized Roma communities. The sample is at least 1 000 private households. Used method of data collection is PAPI method and personal interview.

Implementation of the survey is divided into 5 phases (period from June 2018 till September 2019):

The 1st phase: Preparatory activities:

- elaboration of data collection methodology
- preparation of questionnaires and sampling frame, sample of households
- questionnaire testing and its editing
- creating a network of interviewers
- creating a methodological manual – manual for recording data and manual for fieldwork, guideline for interviewers
- training of interviewers
- printing and distribution of materials
- informing the public about the implementation of survey through the media on its website in order to increase credibility of the survey

The 2nd phase: Data collection:

- elaboration of technical project and program for recording data
- data collection and fieldwork monitoring
- review of questionnaires

The 3rd phase: Data processing:

- record and editing of data and statistical processing
- creating final database of data

The 4th phase: Data analysis:

- preparation of quality report
- providing detailed analysis from obtained data and preparation of analytical report

The 5th phase: Dissemination of results:

- provide a printing of analytical report in form of brochure in Slovak language
- provide a publication of report on the information portal

The 1st phase: Preparatory activities

Currently we have completed the 1st phase, phase of preparatory activities which have been implemented in period from June 2018 till September 2018.

The following points represents all the activities which were done up to now within the first phase of this survey:

- The proposal of the first version of Questionnaires and preparation of the Guidelines for interviewers. Mentioned versions of questionnaires were commented by external experts who were nominated and addressed by representatives from the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma communities.
- Testing the questionnaires and Guidelines for interviewers were realized on 20 households. The testing itself preceded by training of interviewers who conducted the pilot survey.

- Request for office supplies was processed to ensure the survey, also the companies were contacted through which was ensured the gift items for households (each household received the dish cloth and markers with notebook for the data provided).
- Creating the sampling frame and sample of households.
- Print and distribution of final version of questionnaires together with Guidelines for interviewers.
- Training of heads of departments from the individual departments of the SO SR.
- Training of interviewers and supervisors conducted during four days in four Slovak cities (Banska Bystrica, Prešov, Košice, and Bratislava). The training was participated by representatives of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma communities and also the expert from the University of Prešov who has long period been dealing with issue of marginalized Roma communities. His task was to create a general part of Guidelines for interviewers and also to provide consultations during the training interviewers (it focuses mainly on specific approach and behaviour of interviewers in data collection in Roma households).
- As part of the promotion survey it was necessary development of promotional materials (letters for mayors of selected municipalities) and provision of web site announcement about the survey and also the announcement in press periodicals in individual regions.

Currently the second phase of the survey (Data collection) is running, the schedule period of this phase is from October till November 2018.

In following Annex are mentioned specific questions which are part of the questionnaires for this special SILC MRC survey. These questions were specified for this particular type of population.

ANNEX - Specific questions

Section. Education

Question: Have you ever repeat one of the grades during elementary school?

- 1 Yes, once
- 2 Yes, more than once
- 3 No, haven't repeat
- 4 Not applicable (the person did not study)

Section. Health of children under 15 years (including)

Question: How would you assess the health of your child in general? It is:

- 1 Very good
- 2 Good
- 3 Neither good, neither bad
- 4 Bad
- 5 Very bad
- 6 Don't know
- 7 Refuse to answer

Question: What was the level of limitation of your child due to a health problem in the activities that children normally do at least the last 6 months?

The level of limitation due to health problem of child

- 1 very limited
- 2 limited, but not very
- 3 not limited at all
- 4 Don't know
- 5 Refuse to answer

Section. Housing

Question: Please specify in more detail the type of dwelling you live in:

- 1 Brick house
- 2 Cottage, cabin
- 3 Container (for living)
- 4 Place for residence from various materials (hut)
- 5 Other type (not intended for housing)

Question: Do you have a suitable public sewer system at home (operating without major problems)?

- 1 Yes, we have a suitable public sewer system
- 2 No, we have unsuitable public sewer system
- 3 Not applicable (without public sewer system)

Question: What type of sewer system your household use when you don't have a public sewer system?

- 1 Cesspool
- 2 Septic system
- 3 Without sewer system

Question: Do you have a suitable plumbing system (operating without major problems)?

- 1 Yes, we have a suitable plumbing system
- 2 No, we have unsuitable plumbing system
- 3 Not applicable (without plumbing system)

Question: What is the main source of water in your household?

- 1 Public water supply
- 2 Pipeline from yard, garden
- 3 Own well
- 4 Water dispenser
- 5 Water from the stream
- 6 From relatives
- 7 Other source

Question: Have you ever had an interruption of a supply of drinking water from public water supply in household?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

Question: What is the main source of hot water in your household?

- 1 Public water supply (boiler, heating station)
- 2 Gas water heater
- 3 Electric water heater
- 4 Cooker
- 5 Stove
- 6 No source
- 7 Other source

Question: If there is a personal hygiene centre in your village, are you using this service for purpose of laundry and personal hygiene?

- 1 Yes for laundry purpose
- 2 Yes for personal hygiene
- 3 Yes, for laundry and also for personal hygiene
- 4 Not using this service
- 5 Not applicable (without the personal hygiene centre)

Question: Why do you not use the personal hygiene centre that you have in your village?

- 1 I can't afford it
- 2 It is too far away
- 3 Unsuitable opening hours
- 4 Other reason

Question: Do you have suitable wiring in your household (operating without major problems)?

- 1 Yes, we have a suitable wiring system
- 2 No, we have unsuitable wiring system
- 3 Not applicable (without wiring system)

Question: Please specify the main heating source which you use:

- 1 Central heating or similar device (boiler room, built-in radiators, etc.)
- 2 Other built-in heating (stove, fireplace, etc.)
- 3 Other not built-in heating (portable heating – electrical heater)
- 4 No heating system

Question: Do you have a legally settled relationship to housing (contract of sale, enrolment in the cadastre, lease agreement)?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

Question: In case of lease agreement, for how long period do you have a lease?

- 1 1 month
- 2 2 to 4 months
- 3 5 to 12 months
- 4 More than 1 year
- 5 Not applicable (without lease agreement)

Section. Social exclusion of household

Question: Do your preschool children attend any kind of preschool facilities?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

Question: What is the main reason of their non-attending preschool facilities?

- 1 We can't afford it
- 2 Waiting list
- 3 Prefer taking care of child at home by unemployed household member
- 4 Need to travel too far, we have no means of transportation
- 5 We can't afford traveling by public transport
- 6 Fear of leaving children in a unknown environment
- 7 The language barrier
- 8 Discrimination
- 9 Other reasons

Section. Financial situation of household

Question: In case you borrowed money in the last 12 months what was the reason?

- 1 Mortgage or other loan for purchase or more significant change of the main housing
- 2 Lack of money to household – food, services (electricity, water, gas), medicines, clothing
- 3 Credit/ loan related to payments for health care
- 4 Credit/ loan related to purchase of vehicle
- 5 Credit/ loan related to housing (equipment, household appliances, small repairs)
- 6 Purchase of building materials
- 7 Credit/ loan for education and childcare
- 8 Credit/ loan for vacation/ free time
- 9 Repayment of another debt or arrear
- 10 Not applicable (we didn't borrow money)

Question: In case you borrowed money in last 12 months for purpose of keeping household, how often have you done it?

- 1 1 to 2 times
- 2 3 to 6 times
- 3 7 to 12 times
- 4 More than once in a month
- 5 Not applicable (we didn't borrow money)

Question: Which of the following sources do you use to obtain a loan? (You can choose more than one option)

- 1 Banks
- 2 Non-bank institutions
- 3 Informal creditor (private person)
- 4 Close relatives
- 5 Not applicable (we didn't borrow money)

Question: Have your household ever been affected by a distraint?

- 1 Yes, once
- 2 Yes, more than once
- 3 No

Question: How much does your household have a debt currently?

Question: What amount of debt do you owe to:

	I. r.	Amount in EUR
	a	1
Bank	1	,
Informal creditor	2	,
Non-bank institution	3	,
Relatives	4	,

Question: Which bank products do you use? (You can choose more than one option)

- 1 Current account
- 2 Free basic bank product
- 3 Passbook
- 4 Saving account
- 5 Not applicable (without bank products)

Section. Housing quality and material deprivation

Question: How do you assess availability of the following services which you use for your household? (Service availability in terms of physical and technical access, opening hours and etc., not take into account the quality of services, price and similar aspects of services.)

Grocery shop	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Banking services (cash withdrawal, bank transfers, paying bills, etc.)	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postal services (receiving and sending postal items, parcel, etc.)	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public transport (bus, tram, etc.)	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basic health care (health centre, etc.)	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
School facility (applies only to compulsory school attendance)	6	<input type="checkbox"/>

Service availability:

- 1 with great difficulties
- 2 with slight difficulties
- 3 easy
- 4 very easy
- 5 not applicable (household don't use services)

Section. Demographic data

Question: What is your mother tongue?

- 1 Slovak language
- 2 Hungarian language
- 3 Roma language
- 4 Rusyn language
- 5 Other language, please specify:

Question: What language do you most often use at home?

- 1 Slovak language
- 2 Hungarian language
- 3 Roma language
- 4 Rusyn language
- 5 Other language, please specify:

Section. General questions about work

Question: In case you refused a job offer, what were your reasons? (You can choose more than one option)

- 1 The working hours didn't suit me
- 2 Terms of payment didn't suit me
- 3 Working conditions didn't suit me
- 4 Place of work was far from my place of residence
- 5 Lack of money for transport
- 6 Not applicable (there was no such situation)

Section. Family benefits, income related to children and contribution to education

Question: Have you received some of the following benefits in the last 12 months?
If yes, specify in which amount and for how many household members?

	I. r.	Yes	Amount for the last 12 months (EUR)	Number of members	No
	a	1	2	3	
Scholarship for students (high school)	1		,		
Other cash benefits (e.g. non-profit organizations)	2		,		

Section. Data concerning well-being

Question: What experiences do you have with the following institutions?

	I. r. a	Very bad 1	Rather bad 2	Neutral 3	Rather good 4	Very good 5	No experiences 6
Police	1						
Health institutions	2						
Educational system	3						
Regional government	4						
State authorities	5						