

METADATA OF THE EUROPEAN TIME USE SURVEY DATABASE

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Meta data of the database of the Harmonized European Time Use Surveys contain the description on the applied statistical methods, estimation processes, nonresponse adjustment, imputation, data collection, coding process, reliability, timeliness, confidentiality and the harmonisation of activity codes. European Time Use Surveys were harmonised by Eurostat in 2000 and the new updated guidelines of the Harmonised European Time Use Surveys (HETUS) were published in 2009 (Eurostat, 2009). Twenty countries have announced to be interested to deliver the data of their time use survey into the HETUS database. The need of a more detailed standard structure for the collection and dissemination of quality reports has grown up during last years since there was no homogeneity between the existing structures used in the different statistical domains. As a part of the European Statistical System (ESS) was developed structured tool, the Metadata Handler (ESS-MH), to help the production, management, exchange and dissemination of metadata within Eurostat and international organizations. ESS-MH is a web based application for reference metadata production, exchange and dissemination in the ESS (see Eurostat Info Space). The ESS Standard Quality Report Structure is the main report structure for reference metadata related to data quality. The statistical agencies of the participating countries are asked to fill in the metadata work flows of the ESS-MH attached with detailed methodological and quality descriptions as appendixes.

Eurostat granted financial resources to comprise the database of micro data and Statistics Finland collects the micro data from countries and constructs the database. The responsibility of Statistics Finland is to harmonize the data files and collect the meta data of the data base. The meta data contains classifications, variable definitions and descriptions from the application of statistical methods that are used in local time use surveys. Meta information concerning the applied statistical methods is appended to the Data Base to help researches to understand possibilities and restrictions caused by the structure of the sample design, the estimation procedures and the data collection. Eurostat calculates statistical tables from the database and publishes them. There will not be public access to the HETUS database but the metadata are published in internet.

References

Eurostat (2009). Harmonised European Time Use Surveys: 2008 guidelines. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

Eurostat Info Space, EU Comission. SDMX and Metadata Standards,
https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/sdmx/index.php/European_Statistical_System_Metadata_Handler_%28ESS_MH%29