Making Ends Meet?
Income, Standards of Living and Subjective Assessments Across European Countries

Based on objective and subjective indicators our comparative analysis will focus on how people across European countries perceive and assess their income situation and material living conditions. In a first introductory part descriptive information on the income situation and deprivation of private households will be presented. The information to be presented on how people perceive and assess their financial situation will be based on two subjective indicators: A question on whether households are able “to make ends meet” and a question concerning the minimum income needed to make ends meet. The second part of the presentation will focus on how these subjective perceptions and assessments relate to the financial situation of households and other household characteristics and how these correlations vary across countries. One of the issues to be addressed in more detail concerns the question whether and to which degree estimates of the minimum income needed to make ends meet are depending on normative factors or on objective needs. The analysis is based on data from the EU-SILC 2006.