

**Gender differences in evaluation of the household's economic position and their implications for the assessment of EU policy indicators in EU-SILC**

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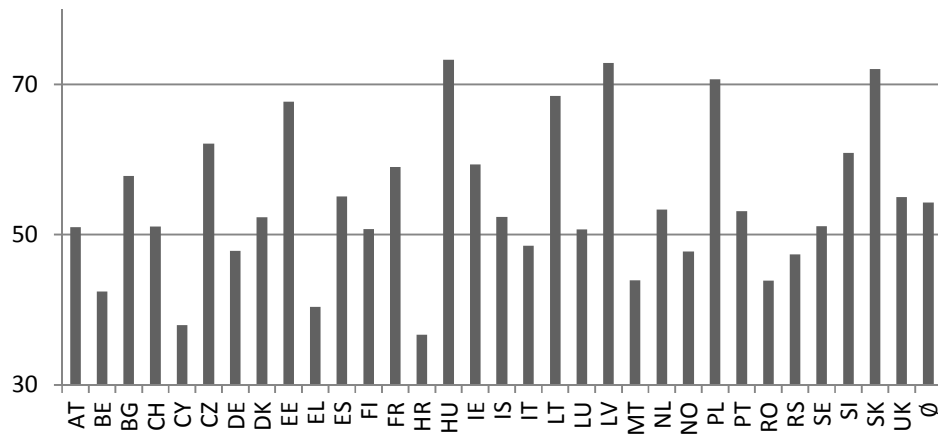
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The proposed paper examines whether gender specific response behavior to the EU-SILC household questionnaire might induce bias to EU policy indicators such as the household's ability to make ends meet or the at risk of poverty or social inclusion indicator. As gender specific response rates to the EU-SILC household questionnaire differ markedly between countries (see Figure 1), gender differences in economic self-assessment of the household could induce bias.

Survey research reports that men and women respond differently to questions assessing income. Especially men with low income are far more likely to over report their earnings than women (Bound and Krueger 1991; Neri and Zizza 2010; Kim and Tamborini 2014). By examining gender differences in response behavior to questions on the households' economic position this paper aims to extend this research. Data from the European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) are employed to examine this association. The focus is placed on items which require respondents' subjective assessment of the households' economic position. The analysis employs data from the longitudinal component of the 2013 EU-SILC. The use of longitudinal data allows me to examine households in which the respondent to the household questionnaire changes over time from man to woman or vice versa, while the household composition remains unchanged.

I find convincing evidence that female respondents tend to provide more negative replies to subjective assessment of the household's economic situation. This is the case for the ability to make ends meet, the ability to deal with unexpected expenses, and the ability to afford holidays away from home. I examine whether differential response behavior of men and women leads to systematic bias in policy indicators produced on the basis of EU-SILC. While for the ability to make ends meet this appears to be the case, as a women are far more likely to report low ability to make ends meet, the evidence in regards to material deprivation is less clear cut. Specifically, no significant gender differences can be observed in reporting of severe material deprivation, which is of greatest relevance to policy as it is used to construct the "at risk of poverty or social exclusion" of the Europe 2020 headline indicators.

**Figure 1: Proportion of women responding to the 2013 EU-SILC household questionnaire by country**



References

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