

Adaptive deprivation scales in a multi-national context: the European child deprivation indicators

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Abstract

In 2018, EU Member States adopted a 17-item scale to measure child deprivation and monitor progress in their fight against child poverty. This indicator will be collected in future each three years via an ad-hoc module of the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Previous research has shown how deprivation measures can be implemented more efficiently and with minimal information loss using adaptive testing, at least in the context of a single country. This paper examines the scope to implement the adaptive approach in a multi-national context with wide variations in deprivation levels and potentially in cultural preferences for consumption. The paper shows that the adaptive approach can still work effectively in this context and could be used in Member States who would like to produce annual child deprivation measures or in other countries who would like to collect this information efficiently. Time savings of around 40 per cent can be achieved with very minimal information losses both at the EU level and at the level of each individual country.

Keywords

Poverty; child poverty; deprivation; EU-SILC; adaptive testing