Eurofound surveys
Three additional sources of European microdata

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European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

- A decentralised agency of the EU
- Administered by a Governing Board
  - composed of national representatives of the social partners, national governments and the European Commission
- Generates policy-relevant research and findings which contribute to improving the quality of work and life in Europe, through:
  - Comparative research and analysis of developments affecting living and working conditions
  - Monitoring of trends in the working environment
Eurofound surveys and observatories

- European Working Conditions Survey: '91, '95, '00, '05, '10
- European Quality of Life Survey: '03, '07, ('09, '10 (EB)), '11
- European Company Survey: '04/'05, '09, '13
- European Industrial Relations Observatory (EIRO)
- European Restructuring Monitor (ERM/EMCC)
- European Working Conditions Observatory (EWCO)
- European Jobs Monitor

Monitoring living and working conditions in the EU
• 5th EWCS - 34 countries: EU27, NO, TR, HR, MK, MO, AL, XK
• Employees and self-employed (15+; ILO definition)
  ▶ Register based stratified random sampling
    Random routes if no register available
    Stratification by urbanisation and region
• 43816 interviews
  ▶ 1000-4000 interviews per country
• 40 minute ‘face to face’ interviews at peoples’ homes
• 2010: 25 languages and 16 language variants
Topics in the 5th EWCS

- Wide range of aspects of the conditions of work and employment:
  - Demographics, structure of workforce, job characteristics, household info
  - Working time: duration, organisation
  - Physical and psychosocial work factors
  - Nature of work / place of work / work organisation
  - Job content and training
  - Work-life balance
  - Information and consultation
  - Outcomes: health, job satisfaction
  - Earnings

- Gender mainstreaming: central in reflection on questionnaire
Secondary analyses of the 5th EWCS

- Job quality
- Working time and work life balance
- Work and health
- Precarious work
- Work organisation
- Ageing workforce
- Work and gender
- Sectoral profiles
- Occupational profiles
- Convergence or divergence of working conditions in EU
European Quality of Life Survey

• Three waves: 2003, 2007 and 2011
• 3rd EQLS – 34 countries (EU27, TR, HR, MK, IS, ME, RS, XK)
• Residents (18+)
  ▸ Register based stratified random sampling
    Random routes if no register available
    Stratification by urbanisation and region
• 43636 interviews
  ▸ 1000-3000 interviews per country
• 38 minute ‘face to face’ interviews at peoples’ homes
• 25 languages and 13 language variants
Topics in the 3rd EQLS

• Quality of life as the overall level of well-being of individuals
  ▸ Assessed in terms of outcomes and experiences (objective), but also how people feel about their lives (subjective)

• Core focus on domains of employment, economic resources, family, housing, community and health
  ▸ and specifically on the inter-relationships between domains (e.g. work and family, health and economic situation)

• Addresses the quality of society
  ▸ in terms of quality of services and environment, social capital and societal relations.
Secondary analysis of 3rd EQLS

- Subjective well-being
- Social inequalities in quality of life
- Quality of society and public services
- Trends in quality of life in Europe 2003-2012
European Company Survey

- Two waves so far: 2004 and 2009, third wave currently in the field
- 31 countries (EU27, TR, HR, MK, IS)
- Establishments with at least 10 employees
  - excluding agriculture, fishing and private households
- Two phone interviews (CATI)
  - 25 minute management interview
  - 15 minute employee representative interview
- 25 languages and 13 language variants
Topics in the 3rd ECS

• Four central themes
  ▶ Work organisation
  ▶ Human Resource Management practices
  ▶ Employee participation
  ▶ Social dialogue

• Management interview
  ▶ characteristics of the establishment and recent changes in this respect

• Employee representative interview
  ▶ characteristics of the employee representation body
Secondary analysis of the 3rd ECS

- Qualitative follow-up interviews on the development of workplace innovation in companies
- Work organisation and HRM practices
- Employee involvement and social dialogue
Harmonisation of Eurofound approach

- Big effort in recent years to harmonise survey design and implementation across Eurofound surveys
  - Eurofound survey management guidelines
  - Quality assurance framework
- Creation of Survey Methodology Working Group
- Collaboration and exchange with Eurostat and other EU Agencies (EU-OSHA, FRA, CEDEFOP, EIGE)
- Engaging with outside experts
Survey implementation

• Eurofound develops questionnaires
• Questionnaire translation and fieldwork tendered out
• Tender specifications: balance between prescribing ‘best practice’ and inviting contractors to outline merits of their approach
• Explicit quality assurance plan to accompany tender
• Main difficulties
  ▸ Limited number of potential contractors
  ▸ Multi-level management structure (contractor and sub-contractors)
  ▸ Budgetary constraints
Extensive quality control

- Careful selection of sampling frames
  - Separate enumeration in case of random route
- State-of-the-art procedures for questionnaire translation
- Explicit procedures for respondent selection
- Experienced, well trained field force
- Systematic monitoring as well as local spot checks of fieldwork
- Elaborate procedures for coding and data cleaning
- External data quality assessment
Paradata

- Increased effort in recent years to systematically collect data on contact phase
  - Number and outcome of call attempts
    - Call outcomes in line with AAPOR guidelines
  - Refusal conversion
- 3rd EQLS - interviewer observations
  - Gender
  - Type of residence
Future surveys

- **6th European Working Conditions Survey**
  - 2013: Questionnaire development, Tender
  - 2014: Fieldwork preparation
  - 2015: Fieldwork and first findings report

- **4th European Quality of Life Survey**
  - 2014: Questionnaire development, Tender
  - 2015: Fieldwork preparation
  - 2016: Fieldwork and first findings report
Data availability

• UK Data archive
  ▶ All Eurofound datasets are made available within 2 years after finalisation of fieldwork

• Survey mapping tool
  ▶ Online tool for data access
  ▶ Data made available on an aggregate level (country, EU) shortly after finalisation of fieldwork
More information

• Survey webpages
  http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/surveys/index.htm

• Overview reports
  ▶ EWCS: http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1182.htm
  ▶ EQLS: http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1264.htm
Questions and suggestions?

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