



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
EUROSTAT

Directorate F: Social and information society statistics  
**Unit F-3: Living conditions and social protection**



## **EU-SILC MODULE 2006 ON SOCIAL PARTICIPATION**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The ad-hoc Module on social participation was carried out in 2006. This document presents a first analysis of the Module. The main characteristics of the Module 2006 are the following:

- Unit: information is provided for all current household members, or if applicable for all selected respondents, aged 16 years old and over.
- Mode of data collection: owing to the characteristics of the information to be collected, only personal interviews (proxy interviews as an exception for persons temporarily away or incapacitated) or information extracted from registers are allowed.
- Reference periods:
  - 'Last 12 months' is used for variables related to participation in cultural events, and participation in formal and informal activities.
  - 'Usual' is used for variables related to integration with relatives and friends. 'Usual' refers to the usual frequency with which the activities take place during a normal year.
  - 'Current' for the variable *PS090 (Ability to ask any relative, friend or neighbour for help)*.
- Definitions: the description of the following definitions can be found in the section 'Analysis of the definitions'.
  - Relatives
  - Friends
  - To get together
  - Frequency of getting together/being in contact with friends and relatives
  - Informal voluntary activities
  - Participation in cultural events
- Target variables: the areas and description of target variables (listed below) can be found in the section 'Analysis of the variables'.
  - PS010 - Number of times going to the cinema
  - PS020 - Number of times going to live performances (plays, concerts, operas, ballet and dance performances)
  - PS030 - Number of visits to cultural sites
  - PS040 - Number of times attending live sport events
  - PS050 - Frequency of getting together with relatives
  - PS060 - Frequency of getting together with friends
  - PS070 - Frequency of contacts with relatives
  - PS080 - Frequency of contacts with friends
  - PS090 - Ability to ask any relative, friend or neighbour for help
  - PS100 - Participation in informal voluntary activities
  - PS110 - Participation in activities of political parties or trade unions
  - PS120 - Participation in activities of professional associations
  - PS130 - Participation in activities of churches or other religious organisations
  - PS140 - Participation in activities of recreational groups or organisations
  - PS150 - Participation in activities of charitable organisations

- PS160 - Participation in activities of other groups or organisations

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE DEFINITIONS

Relatives: is understood in the widest sense, and include father/mother/children, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces and families-in-law.

Friends: people the respondent gets together with in his/her spare time (i.e. after working hours, at weekends, or for holidays) and with whom the respondent shares private matters.

To get together means spending time with friends or relatives at home or elsewhere. It can be talking or doing some kind of activities together. Merely encountering someone by chance is not considered as 'being together'.

Frequency of getting together/being in contact with friends and relatives: refers to the frequency with which the respondent gets together/is in contact with any relative/ friend. Not only the person that the respondent gets together/is in contact with most often is to be considered.

If the respondent meets his/her friends/relatives 'once a year' during holidays or feasts, the answer shall be 'at least once a year'.

Informal voluntary activities: refers to activities that take place outside an organisational context and tend to be done on an individual basis. Informal voluntary activities include cooking for others; taking care of people in hospitals/at home; taking people for a walk; shopping, etc. It excludes any activity that a respondent undertakes for his/her household, in his/her work or within voluntary organizations.

Participation in cultural events: refers to going to the cinema, live performances, visiting cultural sites or attending live sports events, wherever these events take place and whether these activities are performed by professionals or amateurs. For live sports events and live performances, participation refers only to spectating.

## 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIABLES

### 3.1. PS005 - Personal cross-sectional weight

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Personal cross-sectional weights are defined for all individual successfully enumerated in the survey. These are obtained by adjusting design weights (inverse of selection probabilities) to take into account the patterns of non-response, other shortcomings in the sample, and adjustments of the sample to external control distributions, in order to fit the total population of the country.

### 3.2. PS010 - Number of times going to the cinema

<i>Module 2006 (Cultural participation)</i>	
<i>Reference period: Last twelve months</i>	
Values	
1	None
2	1-3 times
3	4-6 times
4	7-12 times
5	More than 12 times
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-1	missing
1	filled

The number of times the respondent went to the cinema, during the last twelve months.

### 3.3. PS020 - Number of times going to live performances (plays, concerts, operas, ballet and dance performances)

<i>Module 2006 (Cultural participation)</i>	
<i>Reference period: Last twelve months</i>	
Values	
1	None
2	1-3 times
3	4-6 times
4	7-12 times
5	More than 12 times
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-1	missing
1	filled

The number of times, during the last twelve months, the respondent went to any live performance, whether it was performed by professionals or amateurs. Going to live performances to watch one's own children should be included. Live performances include plays, concerts, operas, ballet and dance performances. Visits to live sport events should not be included. Participation of the respondent in live performances is excluded.

### 3.4. PS030 - Number of visits to cultural sites

<i>Module 2006 (Cultural participation)</i> <i>Reference period: Last twelve months</i>	
Values	
1	None
2	1-3 times
3	4-6 times
4	7-12 times
5	More than 12 times
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-1	missing
1	filled

The number of times, during the last twelve months, the respondent visited historical monuments, museums, art galleries or archaeological sites.

### 3.5. PS040 - Number of times attending live sport events

<i>Module 2006 (Cultural participation)</i> <i>Reference period: Last twelve months</i>	
Values	
1	None
2	1-3 times
3	4-6 times
4	7-12 times
5	More than 12 times
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-1	missing
1	filled

The number of times, during the last twelve months, the respondent attended a live sporting event whether it was performed by professionals or amateurs. Attending an event to watch one's own children should be included. Participation of the respondent in live sporting events is excluded.

### 3.6. PS050 - Frequency of getting together with relatives

*Module 2006 (Integration with relatives, friends and neighbours)*  
*Reference period: Usual*

Values	
1	Daily
2	Every week (not every day)
3	Several times a month (not every week)
4	Once a month
5	At least once a year (less than once a month)
6	Never
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-2	N/A (No relatives)
-1	missing
1	filled

The frequency with which the respondent usually gets together with relatives during a usual year. Only relatives who don't live in the same household as the respondent should be considered.

### 3.7. PS060 - Frequency of getting together with friends

*Module 2006 (Integration with relatives, friends and neighbours)*  
*Reference period: Usual*

Values	
1	Daily
2	Every week (not every day)
3	Several times a month (not every week)
4	Once a month
5	At least once a year (less than once a month)
6	Never
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-2	N/A (No friends)
-1	missing
1	filled

The frequency with which the respondent usually gets together with friends during a usual year. Only friends who don't live in the same household as the respondent should be considered.

### 3.8. PS070 - Frequency of contacts with relatives

*Module 2006 (Integration with relatives, friends and neighbours)*  
*Reference period: Usual*

Values	
1	Daily
2	Every week (not every day)
3	Several times a month (not every week)
4	Once a month
5	At least once a year (less than once a month)
6	Never
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-2	N/A (No relatives)
-1	missing
1	filled

The frequency with which the respondent is usually in contact with relatives, during a usual year, by telephone, letter, fax, e-mail, sms... Only relatives who don't live in the same household as the respondent should be considered.

### 3.9. PS080 - Frequency of contacts with friends

*Module 2006 (Integration with relatives, friends and neighbours)*  
*Reference period: Usual*

1	Daily
2	Every week (not every day)
3	Several times a month (not every week)
4	Once a month
5	At least once a year (less than once a month)
6	Never
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-2	N/A (No friends)
-1	missing
1	filled

The frequency with which the respondent is usually in contact with friends, during a usual year, by telephone, letter, fax, e-mail, sms.... Only friends who don't live in the same household as the respondent should be considered.

### 3.10. PS090 - Ability to ask any relative, friend or neighbour for help

*Module 2006 (Integration with relatives, friends and neighbours)*  
*Reference period: Current*

Values	
1	Yes
2	No
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-2	N/A (No relatives, friends, neighbour)
-1	missing
1	filled

If the respondent has the ability to ask for help from any relative, friend or neighbour. The question is about ability for the respondent to ask for the help whether the respondent has needed it or not, the potential of getting help even if the help actually have been received or not. Only relatives and friends (or neighbours) who don't live in the same household as the respondent should be considered.

### 3.11. PS100 - Participation in informal voluntary activities

*Module 2006 (Formal and informal participation)*  
*Reference period: Last twelve months*

Values	
1	Yes
2	No
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-1	missing
1	filled

If the respondent, during the last twelve months, undertook (private) voluntary activities to help someone. It includes cooking for others; taking care of people in hospitals/at home; taking people for a walk, shopping... It excludes any activity that a respondent undertakes for his/her household, in his/her work or within voluntary organizations.

However, in the Regulation 13/2005 about the list of target secondary variables relating to 'social participation' the modalities are different to the ones presented above. There are six values (instead of the two above):

- 1 Daily
- 2 Every week (not every week)
- 3 Several times a month (not every week)
- 4 Once a month
- 5 At least once a year (less than once a month)
- 6 Never

It appears that most countries followed this Regulation while eight countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Cyprus, Malta, Poland and Norway) followed the Guidelines about this Module and used only 2 modalities ('Yes' and 'No').

### 3.12. PS110 - Participation in activities of political parties or trade unions

*Module 2006 (Formal and informal participation)*  
*Reference period: Last twelve months*

Values	
1	Yes
2	No
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-1	missing
1	filled

If the respondent, during the last twelve months, participated in activities related to political groups, political association, political parties or trade unions. Attending meetings connected with these activities is included. Participating in formal strikes/demonstrations is not included.

There should be no mention or discussion of political affiliation or the nature of the activities undertaken.

### 3.13. PS120 - Participation in activities of professional associations

*Module 2006 (Formal and informal participation)*  
*Reference period: Last twelve months*

Values	
1	Yes
2	No
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-1	missing
1	filled

If the respondent, during the last twelve months, participated in activities related to a professional association. Attending meetings connected with these activities is included. Receiving training organised by such association is excluded.

### **3.14. PS130 - Participation in activities of churches or other religious organisations**

<i>Module 2006 (Formal and informal participation)</i>
<i>Reference period: Last twelve months</i>

Values	
1	Yes
2	No
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-1	missing
1	filled

If the respondent, during the last twelve months, participated in activities related to churches, religious communions or associations. Attending meetings connected with these activities is included. Attending holy masses or similar religious acts or helping during these services is also included.

There should be no mention or discussion of religious beliefs or the nature of the activities undertaken.

### **3.15. PS140 - Participation in activities of recreational groups or organisations**

<i>Module 2006 (Formal and informal participation)</i>
<i>Reference period: Last twelve months</i>

Values	
1	Yes
2	No
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-1	missing
1	filled

If the respondent, during the last twelve months, participated in recreational/leisure activities arranged by a club, association or similar. It can be sport groups, hobby associations, or leisure clubs. Attending meetings connected with these activities is included.

### 3.16. PS150 - Participation in activities of charitable organisations

*Module 2006 (Formal and informal participation)*  
*Reference period: Last twelve months*

Values	
1	Yes
2	No
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-1	missing
1	filled

If the respondent, during the last twelve months, participated in the unpaid work of charitable organisations, groups or clubs. It includes unpaid charitable work for churches, religious groups and humanitarian organisations. Attending meetings connected with these activities is included.

### 3.17. PS160 - Participation in activities of other groups or organisations

*Module 2006 (Formal and informal participation)*  
*Reference period: Last twelve months*

Values	
1	Yes
2	No
Flags	
-3	not selected respondent
-1	missing
1	filled

If the respondent, during the last twelve months, participated in the activities of environmental organisations, civil right groups, neighbourhood associations, peace groups etc. Attending meetings connected with these activities is included.