

Anonymisation method for SES 2002 and 2006 microdata – Synthesis

For SES, the methodology used is presented into details in document "Anonymisation Method SES 2002 and 2006.pdf". This methodology is applied for both 2002 and 2006 SES microdata and can be summarised as follows:

- ✓ Recodifying the categorical quasi-identifiers NACE, NUTS and SIZE of the enterprise in order to yield ratios between the number of sensitive combinations NACE-NUTS-SIZE (defined as those for which less than three enterprises exist in the member state's samples) and the total number of combinations in the SES lower to the threshold of 10% in a high majority of cases; the resulting codification mixes NACE sections, sub-sections or divisions and NUTS 0 or 1 levels as well as a maximum of 3 size classes (<50, 50 to 249 and 250+), depending on the Member States;
- ✓ Removing Citizenship and performing global recoding on Age to restrict its values to six intervals 14-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+;
- ✓ Ensuring an additional protection of employees using unconstrained individual ranking micro-aggregation for SES metric variables (absence days and earnings) by groups of (at least) 3 employees;
- ✓ Removing variable Key_B identifying the enterprise
- ✓ Removing variable A41 (2002) / A51 (2006), grossing-up factor of the local unit

(The 2 last removals of Key_B and A41/A51 were not described in document "Anonymisation Method SES 2002 and 2006.pdf" but were finally also used.)

In addition, specific or additional rules were used for some countries as described in document "Countries with additional anonymisation criteria.pdf" (Belgium, Bulgaria, Spain, Luxembourg, Portugal and Finland).

Finally, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy used their own national anonymisation methods as described in documents included together with the respective anonymised microdata for these countries.

In total 22 Member States and Norway agreed in disseminating their SES 2002 and 2006 microdata anonymised according to the rules above. Only 5 Member States, Denmark, Ireland, Malta, Austria and Slovenia, didn't give their agreement. In the case of dissemination among National Statistical Institutes, Slovenia also gave its agreement but Lithuania didn't.

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