

## METHODOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS

**The data source is the annual sample survey on income and living conditions (SILC)** conducted by the National Institute of Statistics, which in 2024 took place from 15 March to 15 April 2024. The statistical survey is performed in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples, as well as in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2181 specifying technical characteristics as regards items common to several datasets pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and in compliance with the Methodological guidelines and description of EU-SILC target variables (DocSILC065).

The SILC survey is a longitudinal sample survey with a rotational sample. The total sample of the survey is divided every year into 4 sub-samples. Each sub-sample is part of the survey for 4 years. Every year, the oldest sub-sample that has participated in the SILC survey for 4 consecutive years leaves the survey, the other three sub-samples continue to participate, and another sub-sample (a new one) enters the survey. The survey was performed on a sample of approximately 11500 households from all the counties of the country.

The SILC survey was addressed to all persons aged 16 years and over, both Romanian and foreign citizens, with usual residence in the households covered by the selected survey centres for a period of at least 12 months. The sample comprised the households in the permanent dwellings (including the units inhabited out of necessity) assigned to survey centres in all the counties of the country, with urban and rural households being proportionally included.

In 2024, the data were estimated based on the population with usual residence in private households.

Depending on the nature of the questions and on the characteristics of the subject covered, there were several reference periods: the week before the interview for some questions on the economic activity, the last 12 months for the questions regarding the educational attainment level, the previous calendar year in terms of income, the number of months worked, the economic activity of each month etc.

For another type of questions, the reference period was the time of the interview or a time as close as possible to that of the interview (e.g. questions on demographic aspects relating to the household members, employment status, material deprivation etc.), and another set of questions had as its reference period a typical week, i.e. the questions in the module on the supervision of children under 13 years of age and which are related to the formal education programmes they participate in.

The response rate was 90.6%.

### Definitions:

The **at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate (AROPE)** is defined as the share of the usually resident population that is faced with at least one of the following three situations:

- they live below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold (60% of the median disposable income per adult equivalent);
- they live in severe material and social deprivation;
- they live in a household with very low work intensity.

The **at-risk-of-poverty rate** is the share of poor people (whose disposable income per adult equivalent is below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold set at 60% of the median disposable income) in the total population. This indicator is also called “the poverty rate after social transfers”.

**Social transfers** are amounts received by the population from the state in the form of social protection and include:

- social insurance pensions (length-of-service and old-age pensions, early retirement pensions, invalidity pensions, survivor's pensions, pensions for farmers, pension-type social aid, pensions for war invalids, orphans and widows etc.);
- unemployment benefits, monthly supplementary income, compensation payments;
- state allowances for children, family allowances (supplementary allowances, allowances for supporting single-parent families, allowances for new-born children etc.);
- scholarships for pupils and students;
- special aid for disabled persons;
- other types of allowances (for war veterans and war widows, for politically persecuted persons, for the descendants of the people who died in the 1989 Revolution etc.).

**Adult equivalent** is the conventional unit by means of which the composition of a household is converted depending on the age of the persons it consists of. The conversion is made based on an equivalence scale, which, in usual practice, is the OECD-modified scale, with the following coefficients:

- 1.0 for the first adult person in the household (the head of the household);
- 0.5 for any additional adults (persons aged 14 years and over);
- 0.3 for children under 14 years of age.

The **at-risk-of-poverty threshold** is the level of disposable money income per adult equivalent relative to which a person (with an income below the threshold) can be considered poor. The level of the threshold is 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income.

The **severe material and social deprivation rate (SMSD)** is an indicator that shows a lack of items which are essential for a decent standard of living and which should exist at household and individual level in order to ensure an adequate life, a lack that was generated by poor financial resources. It is defined as the proportion of the population experiencing a limitation of access to at least 7 out of the 13 **deprivation items**.

The **13 deprivation items** that are considered essential for a decent standard of living and that are used to calculate severe material and social deprivation were grouped as follows:

- **7 deprivation items at household level:**
  - ✓ capacity to face unexpected expenses;
  - ✓ capacity to afford paying for a one-week annual holiday;
  - ✓ capacity to being confronted with payment arrears (on mortgage or rental payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments);
  - ✓ capacity to afford a meal with meat, fish or a vegetarian equivalent at least once every two days;
  - ✓ ability to keep the home adequately warm;
  - ✓ have access to a car for personal use;
  - ✓ replacing the worn-out furniture.
- **6 deprivation items at individual level:**
  - ✓ having Internet connection;
  - ✓ replacing worn-out clothes by some new ones;
  - ✓ having two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all-weather shoes);
  - ✓ spending a small amount of money each week on him/herself;
  - ✓ having regular leisure activities;
  - ✓ getting together with friends/family at home or elsewhere for a drink/meal at least once a month.

**Work intensity** is the ratio of the number of months that working-age household members have actually worked in a year to the total number of months the persons concerned theoretically could have worked in the same year.

**Persons living in households with very low work intensity** are persons (under 65 years of age) living in households where working-age adults worked less than 20% of their work-time potential during the previous 12 months. According to the survey, working-age persons are persons aged 18-64 years who are not dependent or inactive.

The **households with dependent children** are defined by the SILC survey as the households that include **individuals aged 0-17 years and 18 to 24 years of age who are inactive and living with at least one parent.**