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**Comparing data from different sources: The case of the
employment status**

BACHELOR'S THESIS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ELSTAT: Hellenic Statistical Authority

ESS: European Social Survey

EU-LFS: European Union Labour Force Survey

IPUMS: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series

ILO: International Labour Office

Abstract

Purpose: To investigate the comparability of sample data from different sources. In particular, by making use of the case of employment, we investigate the impact of asking a single question measuring the respondents' perception of their employment status as applied to the ESS and on the other hand by using the published EU-LFS results that are based on the complex ILO official definition.

Method: The Greek data of ESS for 2002 (Round 1), 2004 (Round 2), 2008 (Round 4) and 2010 (Round 5) are compared with the respective quarters of the published EU-LFS data. Also, the Greek census microdata from IPUMS-International (2001) are used as a quality check.

Results: The findings show that when comparing the employment status of 2001 IPUMS-International and 2002 EU-LFS data there is only a slight difference between the frequency distributions. However, when the ESS data is compared to the respective quarters of EU-LFS, there are significant differences between the frequency distributions.

Conclusions: Our results indicate that there are differences in peoples' perception of their employment status and the ILO official definition.

Keywords: ESS, EU-LFS, ILO, IPUMS-International, employment status

Introduction

Stephan and McCarthy (1958, p. 134) pointed out that “any individual who has ever designed, administered, or made use of sample surveys has almost certainly made some comparisons between survey estimates and data for the population from which the sample was drawn”; and consequently, “since it is only sound practice to test a theoretical result empirically, check factors [population characteristics used for this purpose] have been and will continue to be used in all applications of the sample survey method”. Even in the cases where a probability sample survey design has been appropriately implemented, it is important for the evaluation of the sampling method used to present such comparisons (Stephan, & McCarthy, 1958). In most published large-scale surveys’ results, the sample demographic and socio-economic characteristics are commonly presented as they compare to the more recent available respective census data (see, e.g., Anagnostopoulos, Yfantopoulos, Moustaki, & Niakas, 2013). Usually, these comparisons involve gender, age, marital status, education and occupation, i.e., the background variables (Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, 2008; Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik & Warner, 2011, 2011a), included in all large-scale sample surveys for which there is available census information. However, in the case of the employment status, i.e. one of the occupational variables, because of its great overtime variability, the census data is most of the time outdated. Recognition of this fact “leads us to consider alternatives, especially the possibility of comparing the results obtained by one sample survey on such ... [a variable] with the results obtained by other sample surveys” (Stephan and McCarthy, 1958, p. 156). In this respect, the more appropriate “other [such] sample survey” that provides updated information is the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and, in this instance, the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS).

The EU-LFS is a set of independent national multipurpose surveys conducted by the respective statistical offices of the member countries. The EU-LFS is designed centrally to comply with the demanding prerequisites for cross-national comparability as is the European Social Survey (ESS). However, if we were to compare data from these two data sets, we need first to investigate their comparability.

In 1994, Kish defined the following seven major aspects of the sample survey design that should be considered for comparability:

- (1) definition of concepts, variables and populations;

- (2) survey design and methods of measurements;
- (3) substantive analysis;
- (4) weighting procedures;
- (5) statistical analysis;
- (6) sample design and selection;
- (7) sizes (and fractions) of samples, also of the population. (p.168)

Kish (1994) having defined the seven aspects of design, noted that:

[...] We emphasize a basic difference and contrast between aspects 1 to 3 on one hand, and 6 to 7 on the other. Comparative designs [...] should try for the utmost uniformity and similarity for aspects 1-3 to support comparisons, but they should allow for great flexibility and divergence in aspects 6 and 7 for the sake of feasibility and efficiency.[...] Aspects 4 and 5 have some properties in common with the survey aspects 1-3 that need similarities, but also some properties that are functions of the same design, like aspects 6 and 7. (p.168)

According to Kish (1994, pp.169, 171-173) similarity and standardization of the survey aspects (definition of concepts, variables, populations, methods of measurement and data collection) are essential to avoid biases in comparisons, though admittedly difficult. In contrast, flexibility in sampling designs and sizes, to reduce variances, is permissible as long as a probability selection method is assumed (Kish, 1994, pp. 169- 171, 173-175).

Both the EU-LFS and the ESS use the same broad survey population definition and implement a probability selection method (Eurostat, 2003; The ESS Sampling Expert Panel, 2014) and in this respect the prerequisites for comparability are satisfied. However, for the measurement of the employment status where the EU-LFS applies the complex International Labour Organisation (ILO) official definition, the ESS uses a single variable as one of the background variables.¹

The purpose of the thesis is to compare the definitions of the employment status used in the EU-LFS and ESS questionnaires in order to investigate the impact of asking a single question (ESS) for an otherwise complex construct (EU-LFS). In this respect, comparability issues of using different data sources are discussed. The

¹ See for a discussion on the comparability issues of the basic demographic and socio-economic background variables used in most large-scale surveys, Hoffmeyer- Zlotnik and Warner (2011, 2011a).

investigation is based on the published EU-LFS results and the following ESS Rounds that Greece participated: Round 1 (2002), Round 2 (2004), Round 4 (2008) and Round 5 (2010). Also, the 2001 Greek census microdata available from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) — International are used (Minnesota Population Center, 2015).

Methods

The investigation of the comparability of definitions and timing is based on the documentation of the ESS Rounds for 2002, 2004, 2008 and 2010 that Greece participated; the documentation and published data of the respective quarters of EU-LFS (ELSTAT 2002, 2004, 2008, 2010) and the documentation of IPUMS-International (2015) for 2001 (Minnesota Population Center, 2015).

The ESS definition of the employment status

In Table 1, the ESS definition of employment status is presented. The variable is included in the socio-demographic part F of the questionnaire and describes the employment situation of respondents during the last seven days (reference period). It is a standard definition used in all rounds of the survey (European Social Survey, 2002/3, p. 44; 2004/5, p. 39; 2008/9, p. 53; 2010a, p. 40).

Table 1
Respondent's Employment Status: European Social Survey

in paid work (or away temporarily) (employee, self-employed, working for your family business)	01
in education, even if on vacation (not paid for by employer)	02
unemployed and actively looking for a job	03
unemployed, wanting a job but not actively looking for a job	04
permanently sick or disabled	05
retired	06
in community or military service	07
doing housework, looking after children or other persons	08
(other)	09
(Don't know)	88

Note. Reproduced from "Source Questionnaire, Round 1," by the European Social Survey, 2002/3, p. 45.

In order to investigate the comparability of definitions we first present the detailed ESS definition according to the fieldwork instructions issued by the National Centre for Social Research (2002, p. 21-22) that conducts the Greek survey.

Code 01: In paid work (or away temporarily) (employee, self-employed, working for your family business). This category includes all types of paid work, whether for an employer, or on the respondent's own account as self-employed. It includes casual, part-time and temporary work. Voluntary work, or work carried out where only expenses are reimbursed or work paid for in kind (e.g., receiving board and lodgings only) where there is no financial transaction, are excluded from this category. People temporarily away would include those who were absent from work last week because of sickness or injury, holiday, compassionate leave, or maternity leave, provided that they have a job to go back to with the same employer or as self-employed in the same field. It would also include people who were temporarily laid off, or on strike, or locked out, again provided that they have a job with the same employer to go back to, or to the same self-employed status. People whose contract of employment incorporates regular but intermittent work (e.g. some staff in educational institutions, or professional sportsmen, whose wages are paid only during term-time or in the season, and who therefore may not have worked last week) are included in this category.

Code 02: In education, even if on vacation, (not paid for by employer). All students, even those doing vacation jobs during the last week, are to be coded in this category. If the student is on vacation and will continue to be a student only if he or she passes an exam, assume that the exam will be passed and still treat the respondent as in education.

Code 03: Unemployed, and actively looking for a job. This category includes all unemployed who are actively looking for a job. This would include people seeking work through central or local government employment services, people registered with private employment agencies, people answering advertisements for work, advertising for work or even people just actively looking around for opportunities.

Code 04: Unemployed, wanting a job but not actively looking for a job. Include here any unemployed, but who are not actively looking for a job at the moment. People who, for instance, have given up looking for work would be included here, or those who are ill and temporarily unable to look for work. Respondents should

normally be left to decide for themselves whether an illness in this case is temporary or not. If in doubt, include it if it has lasted less than six months.

The remaining four categories cover those members of the population who are generally considered to be economically inactive.

Code 05: Permanently sick or disabled. This covers people out of work and not seeking work because of permanent (or indefinite) sickness or disability. People who have never worked because of disability are included. Do not include retired people in poor health who would not be seeking work even if they were healthy. In cases of doubt over whether an illness or disability is permanent, treat it as permanent if it has lasted continuously for six months or more.

Code 06: Retired from work. This covers people who have retired from their occupation at approximately the normal retirement age or who have taken 'early retirement', and are not seeking further employment of any sort. Retired people who are permanently sick or have become disabled still count as retired.

Women who leave work on marriage to look after the home or to raise a family and who have not worked for many years, should be classified as 'looking after the home' rather than retired. But it is difficult to define retirement exactly. Apart from the proviso made about women, the respondent's description from the card should generally be accepted.

Code 08: Doing housework, looking after children or other persons. This covers anyone more or less wholly involved in unpaid domestic or caring duties when classifying economic position. There can be more than one person in a household in this category but here we are concerned only with the respondent's position.

Code 09: Other. This category is not on the show card. It covers anyone who does not fit into any of the 8 categories on the card. But remember that people who are in any kind of paid work (including casual self-employed jobs) should not be included here.

The EU-LFS definition of the employment status

In order to determine the employment status according to the EU-LFS, we have to illustrate the ILO official definitions for the employed, the unemployed and the economically inactive (Eurostat Statistics Explained, 2016, para. 1.1):

Employed. As employed are defined persons aged 15 years and more who were in one of the following categories:

- persons who during the reference week worked for at least one hour for pay or profit or family gain
- persons who were not at work during the reference week but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent

This definition is applicable to employees, self-employed persons and family workers. Pay includes cash payments or “payment in kind” (payment in goods or services rather than money), whether payment was received in the week the work was done or not.

Unemployed. Unemployed are persons aged from 15 to 74 years who were:

- not employed according to the definition of employment above;
- currently available for work, i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the two weeks following the reference week;
- actively seeking work, i.e. had taken specific steps in the four week period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment or who found a job to start later, i.e. within a period of at most three months from the end of the reference week.

For the purposes of the third point, the following are considered as specific steps:

- Having been in contact with a public employment office to find work, whoever took the initiative (renewing registration for administrative reasons only is not an active step),
- having been in contact with a private agency (temporary work agency, firm specializing in recruitment, etc.) to find work,
- applying to employers directly,
- asking among friends, relatives, unions, etc., to find work,
- placing or answering job advertisements,
- studying job advertisements,
- taking a recruitment test or examination or being interviewed,
- looking for land, premises or equipment,
- applying for permits, licenses or financial resources.

Education and training are considered as ways of improving employability but not as methods of seeking work. Persons without work and in education or training will only be classified as unemployed if they are “currently available for work” and “seeking work”, as defined in points of the unemployment definition.

Economically inactive. Economically inactive are those persons who are neither employed nor unemployed.

The ILO definition of the employment status

In Table 2, the ILO official definition of the employment status used for the EU-LFS is presented.

Table 2

ILO Employment Status (ILOSTAT): European Union Labour Force Survey

Code	Description
1	Employed
2	Unemployed
3	Inactive
4	Compulsory military service
9	Person less than 15 years old.

Note. Reproduced from “EU Labour Force Survey database user guide,” by Eurostat, 2015, p. 37.

However, as shown in Figure 1, for the computation of the official definition a number of EU-LFS variables are required: WSTATOR, SEEKWORK, AVAILBLE, METHODDA, METHODDB, METHODDC, METHODDD, METHODE, METHODDF, METHODDG, METHODDH, METHODDI and METHODDM.

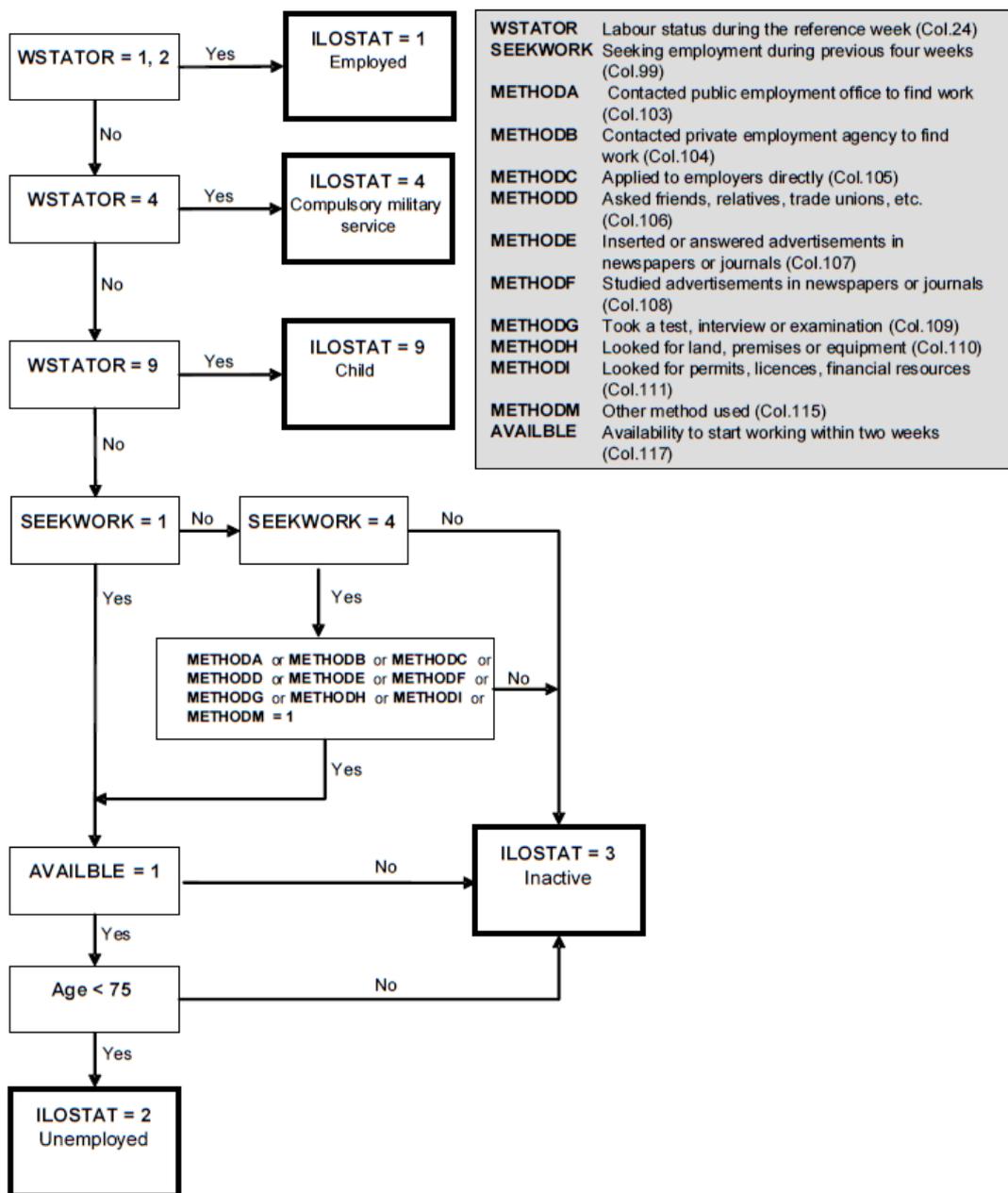


Figure 1. The ILO official definition of the employment status used in the EU-LFS
 Reproduced from “EU Labour Force Survey database user guide,” by Eurostat, 2015, p. 55.

The variable WSTATOR (Table A1) measures the labour status during the reference week. It refers to respondents aged from 15 to 74 years. It takes the value 1 for the respondents who did any work for pay one hour or more, including family work during the reference week. Value 2 involves people who despite of having a job

or business didn't work because they were absent. This absence contains many reasons such as school, education or training. Therefore, if someone belongs in these two categories is employed (ILOSTAT = 1). If they are not then they maybe belong to the next value (WSTATOR = 4) which contains the compulsory military service (ILOSTAT = 4). But if this is not again the case, maybe the respondent is a child less than 15 years old (ILOSTAT = 9). Now, if the respondent doesn't belong to this category maybe he or she is seeking employment (SEEKWORK = 1, see Table A3). So maybe he or she has already found a job which will start within a period of at most 3 months. This leads us to AVAILBLE = 1 which describes that the person is available to start work immediately, within 2 weeks (see Table A4). Also if the respondent is a person younger than 75 years old (Age < 75) belongs to the category of unemployed (ILOSTAT = 2, Unemployed).

Looking back in Figure 1, the box with the SEEKWORK = 1, we can see another option. To be clear if the respondent is not a person who has already found a job, belongs to the next value (SEEKWORK = 4) which includes people who seek employment. If it is not that person the answer goes to ILOSTAT = 3 and that means that is inactive. But if he or she seeks for job and he or she has followed some methods (METHODDA, METHODDB, etc.) to ask for help, is available to start work within 2 weeks and belongs to the category AVAILBLE = 1 and we conclude that the respondent is unemployed. On the other hand if he or she didn't ask for help from an employment office, or something similar, is an inactive person too. This value (ILOSTAT = 3), also includes the respondent who is not available or is more that 75 years old.

It is also important to illustrate the ILO official definitions that are used in the EU-LFS. According to the ILO (1996-2011) definitions:

Labour force comprises all persons of working age who furnish the supply of labour for the production of goods and services (as defined by the United Nations System of National Accounts production boundary) during a specified time-reference period. It refers to the sum of all persons of working age who are employed and those who are unemployed.

The *labour force participation rate* is calculated as the labour force during a given reference period given as a percent of the working age population in the same reference period.

The *employed* comprise all persons of working age who during a specified brief period, such as one week or one day, were in the following categories: a) paid employment (whether at work or with a job but not at work); or b) self-employment (whether at work or with an enterprise but not at work).

The *employment-to-population ratio (EPR)* is calculated as the number of persons who are employed during a given reference period as a percent of the total of working age population in the same reference period.

The *unemployed* comprise all persons of working age who were: a) without work during the reference period, i.e. were not in paid employment or self-employment; b) currently available for work, i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment during the reference period; and c) seeking work, i.e. had taken specific steps in a specified recent period to seek paid employment or self-employment. For purposes of international comparability, the period of job search is often defined as the preceding four weeks, but this varies from country to country.

The *unemployment rate* is calculated as the number of persons who are unemployed during the reference period given as a percent of the total number of employed and unemployed persons (i.e., the labour force) in the same reference period.

The IPUMS-International definition of the employment status

The IPUMS-International (2015) definitions for the measurement of the employment status as activity status are as follows:

The *employed* population generally consists of persons working for pay for an employer, self-employed persons, unpaid (usually family) workers engaged in the production of economic goods, and persons who have a job but were temporarily absent for some reason.

The *unemployed* population is particularly difficult to define consistently across countries. We have attempted to apply UN and ILO standards in defining the unemployed as persons who were out of work and actively seeking a job.

Comparability of the ESS, EU-LFS and IPUMS-International definitions of the employment status

Recoding of the ESS and IPUMS-International variables. In order to compare the published EU-LFS results for the employment status to the respective ones resulting from ESS and IPUMS, the ESS and IPUMS age variables were first recoded to include only respondents aged 15 to 74 so as to coincide with the ILO definitions. Then, the ESS and IPUMS employment status variables had to be recoded accordingly into three values representing the employed (1), unemployed (2) and inactive (3), respectively.

It is important to point out that during the recoding, the value which described the education (value 2) of ESS employment status variable (Table 1) is now included in the employed (value 1). This is because, according to EU-LFS definition, the education belongs to a group of reasons for not having worked at all though they were having a job (Table A2). Also, for the recoding of the ESS variable it was necessary to investigate the respondents whose employment situation belonged to the values WSTATOR 3 (not working because of lay-off) and 5 (those who even if they are aged 15 years or more they neither worked nor had a job or business during the reference week), for whether or not they were seeking employment during the previous four weeks (Table A3) and were available to start working within two weeks (Table A4).

Timing. In order to establish comparability among ESS and EU-LFS data, the duration of the ESS fieldwork is investigated (Table 3). According to the ESS fieldwork period the appropriate EU-LFS quarter was decided.

Table 3
European Social Survey (ESS) Fieldwork Period for Every Round as Compared to the Relevant European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) Quarter: Greece

Year	ESS fieldwork period	EU-LFS Quarter
2002	29.01.03 - 15.03.03	I
2004	10.01.05 - 20.03.05	I
2008	15.07.09 - 20.11.09	III
2010	06.05.11 – 05.07.11	II

Notes. Adapted from “ESS1- 2002 documentation report,” by the European Social Survey, 2002, p. 69; “ESS2- 2004 documentation report,” by the European Social Survey, 2004, p. 83; “ESS4- 2008 documentation report,” by the European Social Survey, 2008, p.129; “ESS5- 2010 documentation report,” by the European Social Survey, 2010, p. 100.

As shown, the ESS fieldwork lasted three months for each survey. In the case of 2008, the ESS fieldwork period was extended due to the national elections (4th October 2009). There is no direct comparability among the fieldwork periods of 2008 and 2010 with the respective EU-LFS Quarter. As shown, we decided to base the comparison on the largest overlapping months. The investigation shows that there is no comparability among the different Rounds of the ESS. Since the 18th of March 2001 was the census-taking day, the IPUMS-International microdata is comparable both to the ESS and EU-LFS data for 2002 and 2004.

Statistical analysis

This type of research requires only frequency distributions that were carried out using IBM SPSS Statistics Version 20.

Results

In Table 4, the distribution of the demographic variables based on the IPUMS-International and ESS data is presented as they compared to the respective EU-LFS published results.

Table 4

Demographic characteristics Based on the Greek Data from the 2001 IPUMS-International, ESS and the Relevant Quarters (Q) of the EU-LFS: Frequency percent

	2001	2002 (QI)		2004 (QI)		2008 (QIII)		2010 (QII)	
	IPUMS	ESS	LFS	ESS	LFS	ESS	LFS	ESS	LFS
Gender									
Men	49.2	43.4	48.7	43.8	48.6	45.6	48.5	43.7	48.4
Women	50.8	56.6	51.3	56.2	51.4	54.4	51.5	56.3	51.6
Age									
15-19	8.1	6.1	7.5	5.2	7.1	6.3	6.3	7.1	6.1
20-29	18.7	15.5	17.2	14.9	16.9	17.4	15.4	15.9	14.6
30-44	28.1	29.4	26.4	28.2	26.5	35.0	27.0	30.8	27.1
45-64	31.0	32.8	28.2	34.1	28.2	32.7	29.4	34.3	29.8
65+	14.0	16.2	20.7	17.5	21.3	8.6	21.9	11.9	22.4

Notes. For all aged ≥ 15 and < 75 . Published weighted EU-LFS data; weighted ESS data by the design weight (dweight); the sample sizes for ESS of 2002, 2004, 2008 and 2010 were 2348, 2204, 2005 and 2515, respectively; the sample size for IPUMS-International was 808771.

As shown, the IPUMS-International and EU-LFS gender and age distributions present similar results. More precisely, the differences for gender range from 0.5 to -0.5% and for age from 0.6 to 6.7%. However, the ESS relevant distributions differ from the respective IPUMS-International and EU-LFS ones. The differences for ESS and EU-LFS gender range from 5.3 to 5.3%, 4.8 to 4.8%, 2.9 to 2.9% and 4.7 to 4.7% for 2002, 2004, 2008 and 2010, respectively; and for age they range from 1.4 to 4.6%, 1.7 to 5.9%, 0.0 to 13.3% and 1.0 to 10.5% for 2002, 2004, 2008 and 2010, respectively.

In Table 5, the IPUMS-International and ESS employment status as compared to the relevant EU-LFS published results is presented.

Table 5

Employment Status Based on the Greek data from the 2001 IPUMS-International, ESS and the Relevant Quarters (Q) of the EU-LFS: Frequency percent

	2001	2002 (QI)		2004 (QI)		2008 (QIII)		2010 (QII)	
	IPUMS	ESS	LFS	ESS	LFS	ESS	LFS	ESS	LFS
Employed	47.9	55.0	45.5	50.7	46.7	63.2	49.2	50.9	47.2
Unemployed	6.0	3.6	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.5	3.9	9.7	6.4
Inactive	46.1	41.3	48.7	43.3	47.3	31.2	46.9	39.4	46.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes. For all aged ≥ 15 and < 75 . Published weighted EU-LFS data; weighted ESS data by the design weight (dweight); the sample sizes for ESS of 2002, 2004, 2008 and 2010 were 2348, 2192, 2005 and 2515, respectively; the sample size for IPUMS-International was 808771.

As shown, the IPUMS-International (2001) and EU-LFS (2002) results differ only slightly. However, the ESS and EU-LFS differ markedly, showing the impact of applying different definitions for the measurement of the employment status. More precisely, the differences between the ESS and EU-LFS range from 2.3 to 9.5%, 0.1 to 4%, 1.6 to 15.7% and 3.3 to 7.0% for 2002, 2004, 2008 and 2010, respectively. In Table 5, the great divide between people's perceptions of their employment status and that resulting from applying the ILO official definition is demonstrated.

In Table 6, the IPUMS-International and ESS unemployment rate as compared to the relevant EU-LFS published results is presented. As expected, although the IPUMS-International (2001) and EU-LFS (2002) results differ only slightly, the ESS and EU-LFS differ markedly. More precisely the differences between the ESS and EU-LFS gender range from 1.8 to 10.6%, 0.1 to 3.1%, 0.9 to 1.4% and 1.6 to 5.8% for

2002, 2004, 2008 and 2010, respectively; and for age they range from 2.1 to 32.9%, 1.0 to 30.1%, 0.3 to 15.2% and 1.2 to 34.2% for 2002, 2004, 2008 and 2010, respectively.

Table 6

The Unemployment Rate Based on the Greek data from the 2001 IPUMS-International, ESS and the Relevant Quarters (Q) of the EU-LFS: Frequency percent

	2001	2002 (QI)		2004 (QI)		2008 (QIII)		2010 (QII)	
	IPUMS	ESS	LFS	ESS	LFS	ESS	LFS	ESS	LFS
Total	11.1	6.2	11.4	10.5	11.4	8.1	7.3	16.1	11.9
Gender									
Women	13.3	6.5	17.1	14.1	17.2	10.0	10.9	17.0	15.4
Men	9.7	5.9	7.7	7.6	7.5	6.1	4.7	15.3	9.5
Age									
15-19	46.2	3.0	35.9	8.9	39.0	6.2	21.4	2.7	36.9
20-29	19.9	11.3	21.3	15.5	20.0	13.1	15.2	27.6	22.2
30-44	7.7	6.7	9.4	12.5	10.0	6.2	6.5	14.0	11.0
45-64	6.3	2.3	5.7	5.9	5.8	7.3	3.5	15.1	7.5
65-74	0.2	0.0	2.1	0.0	1.0	7.1	1.1	0.0	1.2

Notes. For all aged ≥ 15 and < 75 . Published weighted EU-LFS data; weighted ESS data by the design weight (dweight); the sample sizes for ESS of 2002, 2004, 2008 and 2010 were 2348, 2203, 2005 and 2516, respectively; the sample size for IPUMS-International was 808771.

CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

In the thesis, the impact of asking a single question for measuring the respondents' employment status as is the case in most large-scale social sample surveys was assessed by comparing the 2001 IPUMS-International and ESS data available for Greece to the relevant published data from the EU-LFS that uses the complex ILO official definition. Although the findings showed that differences between the 2001 IPUMS-International and 2002 EU-LFS data were negligible, the differences between the ESS and EU-LFS data were significant. What the single question in the ESS (and all large-scale social sample surveys) measures is people's perceptions of their employment status. On the other hand, the elaborate ILO definition requires a number of questions (variables) for the computation of this construct. The findings demonstrated how people's perceptions of their employment status differ as compared to ILO official definition; a result in line with Gauckler and Körner (2011). Therefore,

the differences that ensued are the results of comparing different measurements. Certainly, if one were to use the same single question that is included in the EU-LFS since 2006, then this problem is resolved. However, it is an optional variable and requires elaboration of the raw data sets in order to provide such comparisons.

Also, comparability issues of using different data sources were discussed in terms of the definition of the survey population and timing. Certainly, there are other aspects of the sample surveys that should be investigated in greater detail for comparability.

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APPENDIX

The EU-LFS variables required for the ILO official definition of the employment status

Table A1

Labour Status During the Reference Week (WSTATOR), everybody aged 15 years or more

Code	Description
1	Did any work for pay or profit during the reference week - one hour or more (including family workers but excluding conscripts on compulsory military or community service)
2	Was not working but had a job or business from which he/she was absent during the reference week (including family workers but excluding conscripts on compulsory military or community service)
3	Was not working because on lay-off
4	Was a conscript on compulsory military or community service
5	Other (15 years or more) who neither worked nor had a job or business during the reference week
9	Not applicable (child less than 15 years old)

Note. Reproduced from "EU Labour Force Survey database user guide", by Eurostat, 2015, p. 12-13.

Table A2

Reason for not Having Worked at all Though Having a Job (NOWKREAS)

Code	Description
00	Bad weather
01	Slack work for technical or economic reasons
02	Labour dispute
03	School education or training
04	Own illness, injury or temporary disability
05	Maternity leave
06	Parental leave (from 2006, together with code 05 before)
07	Holidays
08	Compensation leave (within the framework of working time banking or an annualised hours contract)
09	Other reasons (e.g. personal or family responsibilities)
99	Not applicable (WSTATOR =1,3-5,9)

Note. Reproduced from “EU Labour Force Survey database user guide”, by Eurostat, 2015, p. 13.

Table A3

Seeking Employment during Previous Four Weeks (SEEKWORK)

Code	Description
1	Person has already found a job which will start within a period of at most 3 months
2	Person has already found a job which will start in more than 3 months
3	Person is not seeking employment and has not found any job to start later
4	Person is seeking employment
9	Not applicable ((WSTATOR=1,2 or 9 and SIGNISAL \neq 3) or age equal or greater than 75)

Note. Reproduced from “EU Labour Force Survey database user guide”, by Eurostat, 2015, p. 23.

Table A4

Available to Start Working Within Two Weeks (AVAILABLE)

Code	Description
1	Person could start to work immediately (within 2 weeks)
2	Person could not start to work immediately (within 2 weeks)
9	Not applicable (SEEKWORK \neq 1,4 and WANTWORK \neq 1, blank and WISHMORE \neq 1)
blank	No answer

Note. Reproduced from “EU Labour Force Survey database user guide”, by Eurostat, 2015, p. 25-26.

Table A5

Methods used during Previous Four Weeks to Find Work

Variable name	Description
METHODA	Contacted public employment office to find work
METHODB	Contacted private employment agency to find work
METHODC	Applied to employers directly
METHODD	Asked friends, relatives, trade unions, etc.
METHODE	Inserted or answered advertisements in newspapers or journals
METHODF	Studied advertisements in newspapers or journals
METHODG	Took a test, interview or examination
METHODH	Looked for land, premises or equipment
METHODI	Looked for permits, licences, financial resources
METHODM	Other method used

Note. Reproduced from “EU Labour Force Survey database user guide”, by Eurostat, 2015, p. 5-6.

Συγκρισιμότητα δεδομένων από διαφορετικές πηγές: η περίπτωση της κατάστασης απασχόλησης

ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

Σκοπός: Να διερευνηθεί η συγκρισιμότητα δειγματοληπτικών δεδομένων από διαφορετικές πηγές. Συγκεκριμένα, παίρνοντας ως παράδειγμα την περίπτωση της απασχόλησης, ερευνήσαμε την επίδραση που υπάρχει ρωτώντας μια μόνο ερώτηση όταν θέλουμε να μετρήσουμε το πώς οι αποκρινόμενοι προσλαμβάνουν την κατάσταση της απασχόλησής τους, όπως εφαρμόζεται στο ESS, και από άλλη χρησιμοποιώντας τα δημοσιευμένα αποτελέσματα του EU-LFS τα οποία βασίζονται στον σύνθετο επίσημο ορισμό του ILO.

Μέθοδος: Συγκρίθηκαν τα δεδομένα της Ελλάδας του ESS για το 2002 (1^{ος} γύρος), το 2004 (2^{ος} γύρος), το 2008 (4^{ος} γύρος) και το 2010 (5^{ος} γύρος) με τα αντίστοιχα τρίμηνα των δημοσιευμένων δεδομένων του EU-LFS. Επίσης, από το IPUMS-International, χρησιμοποιήθηκαν τα μικροδεδομένα της Ελληνικής Απογραφής Πληθυσμού του 2001 ως έλεγχος ποιότητας.

Αποτελέσματα: Τα αποτελέσματα δείχνουν πως συγκρίνοντας την κατάσταση απασχόλησης από τα μικροδεδομένα του IPUMS του 2001 και των δεδομένων του EU-LFS του 2002 υπάρχει πολύ μικρή διαφορά μεταξύ της κατανομής συχνότητας. Όμως, συγκρίνοντας τα δεδομένα του ESS με τα αντίστοιχα τρίμηνα του EU-LFS παρατηρούνται σημαντικές διαφορές ανάμεσα στις κατανομές συχνότητας.

Συμπέρασμα: Τα αποτελέσματά μας υποδεικνύουν ότι οι υπάρχοντες διαφορές στην πρόσληψη των ανθρώπων για την κατάσταση της απασχόλησής τους και στους επίσημους ορισμούς του ILO.

Λέξεις κλειδιά: Ευρωπαϊκή Κοινωνική Έρευνα (ESS), Έρευνα Εργατικού Δυναμικού (EU-LFS), Διεθνές Γραφείο Εργασίας (ILO), Διεθνή Ενσωματωμένα Μικροδεδομένα Δημόσιας Χρήσης (IPUMS-International), κατάσταση απασχόλησης