

Statistical matching of IT-SILC and HBS: some critical issues

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Abstract

In recent years, there has been increasing interest in statistical matching techniques applied to consumption expenditure and income in order to provide more appropriate measures of standard of living. The purpose of this paper is to evaluate the possibility of using two different data sources to create an integrated database with detailed information on households consumption and income, using the sample of IT-SILC 2012 (income reference year 2011) and the HBS 2011 sample. In this paper different approaches were used and improvements from using auxiliary information in order to relax the CIA (Conditional Independence Assumption) are also highlighted. From this point of view, the aim is to discuss the advantages in having better harmonization of common variables of SILC and HBS (e.g. housing costs) or a more reliable monthly household income in HBS. Additionally new shared questions on consumption in SILC questionnaire and /or SILC module (e.g. variables on food expenditures) would improve the quality of the matching process. Evidence from these issues are finally presented.