**Description of instruments**
Interviews were carried out on the basis of the following tools:

- **Household interview**: household (change in) composition and membership, number of household members.
- **Household questionnaire**: dwelling characteristics and ownership, tenure, housing costs, insurance, value of the dwelling, secondary residential property, the ad-hoc module on debt and social exclusion.
- **Individual registers**: demographic characteristics, nationality, country of birth, citizenship and relationship with other household members; additionally, time of movement and main activity in reference year for those who moved out of the household.
- **Under 16 questionnaire** (children 3 to 16 years old): level of education attended, education grants, child care, pre-school education, (private) medical insurance, independent income received in reference year.
- **Individual questionnaire** (asked from everyone over 16 years of age or from 15 years old if there is no-one over 16 years of age in the household): labour market activities, education, health, marital status, incomes, taxation, social insurance benefits, pension contributions, life insurance, health insurance, expenditures, social welfare, material deprivation, self-employment activity and income.
- **Farm questionnaire** (asked from those who own or rent a farm/market garden over 15 years of age/16 years of age): ownership, surface, rent for land, types of crops and live stocks, special farm assistance funds, hours spent in farming activities, taxation, off-farm jobs for farmers, consumption from own production.

**Definitions**

- **Household**: The household is defined as an individual/a group of people occupying in common a main family address or a part of it, and consuming and/or sharing food or other goods paid for out of a common budget. Resident boarders, lodgers, tenants, visitors or domestic servants present at the place of interview are not considered household members if they have other address they treat as their usual residence and do not have close ties to household even if they share expenses and their actual or intended length of stay is 6 months or more.
- **Household head**: The household head is considered to be the person who provides the answers to the household questionnaire.

**Labour market information**

- **Eligibility**: Individuals aged more than 16 years of age or those aged more than 15 years of age if there is no-one older than 16 in the household.
- **Employment**: Information available from three sources:
  1. Self-assessed current labour market status.
  2. Worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit during the previous week or was not working but had a job or business from which was absent during the previous week (ILO employed).
  3. Calendar of activities available for each the last 18 months.
- **Reference period**: Different reference periods: for most regular incomes it is the period covering the last payment received; for less regular incomes and many benefits it is the last 12 months.
- **Unit of time**: Any period between one week and last 12 months, amounts are annualized by the data provider for many incomes in the derived variables.
- **Unit of collection**: Individual level for most income sources. Household level for certain social benefits and inter-household transfers in addition to investment income and profits. Individual level information on incomes collected from all household members aged 16 and older.

**Taxes and contributions**
Amounts are collected gross of taxes and contributions together with detailed info on taxes and contributions.

**Restrictions**
The national Irish SILC data is much more detailed in information than the EU-SILC for which it serves as an input.

**Source**: