

About benefits and challenges of time-use surveys

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Map of the countries and areas that conducted time-use surveys (1990–2004)



Source: UN

Content

- About policy and research interest of time-use surveys
- Two examples of global research interest
- About attempts to harmonise the national surveys across countries
- Some questions

Policy and research interest in time-use surveys – some examples from Europe

- Improvement of national accounts; households production
- Working time policy
- Ageing of societies; policy for senior citizens
- Gender and family policies
- Transport policy and tourism
- Social capital; participation in cultural and leisure activities

Two examples of global research interest

- Measuring value of household production
- Urgent need for “information on how people spend their time that is comparable both over the years and across countries” (Stiglitz Commission)
- Poverty and time-use
- Research on time poverty is very valuable in terms of practical policy implications. The “time poverty approach opens up new horizons for policy purposes.” (World Bank)

Attempts to harmonize time use surveys across the countries

- Multinational Time Use Study (MTUS), ex-post harmonisation
- Harmonised European Time Use Surveys, ex-ante harmonisation
- UN Trial International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS)

Some questions

- International methodological recommendations or guidelines on time-use surveys? Would it be desirable and/or possible?
- Multitude of types of research based on time-use survey data has an impact on possibilities to harmonize. Would it be possible to prioritise?
- How to take into account the differences between developing and developed countries in harmonisation work?
- How to collect and share new innovations in time-use survey data collection methods in order to decrease the high costs relating to the current expensive time use diary methods