

**Title:** *Administrative and Survey Microdata on Self-Employment: the Italian Experience with the EU-SILC Project*

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The Italian experience with the EU SILC project may provide some insights on the definition and measurement of self-employment incomes when both survey and administrative data are available. To cope with the demanding aim of the project, the Italian national statistical institute set up a mixed data collection strategy, based on a *paper and pencil* face-to-face interview and on the *linkage* of administrative with survey data. A first conceptual issue concerns the definition of self-employment incomes. Economic, accounting and administrative definitions of self-employment incomes do not necessarily match and could raise problems of reliability and comparability. Moreover, the different definitions have an influence on the subjective understanding of the term 'income' by the respondents. In the Italian EU SILC, disposable self-employment income is set as the maximum value between the net income reported in the survey questionnaire and the net *taxable* income in the tax return. Under the assumption that no individual over-reports her/his income, the rule minimises under-estimation either in the administrative or in the survey data, depending on which of the two is larger. The paper summarises the data production process of the Italian EU SILC, focusing on the collection, editing and imputation of survey incomes, on the record linkage between survey and administrative data and on the empirical results obtained. With respect to the exclusive use of survey data, the linkage with administrative data has increased substantially the number of percipients (+15,6 %) and the average self-employment income (+11,9 %). Among the individuals for which both sources contain self-employment incomes, the record linkage reveals that under-estimation is more frequently observed in the tax data than in the survey data. It turns out, moreover, that self-employment income in the integrated dataset is more un-equally distributed than in the survey .