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UNECE CES
Poverty Expert Meeting
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SILC express: Infra-annual data collection on living conditions in Austria post COVID-19

Which intelligence can be expected from EU-SILC on crisis?

- Fieldwork in spring (begin of Covid 19)
- New households interviewed largely with „telephone“ CAPI
- CATI infrastructure only for follow up interviews
- Additional ad-hoc questions on income losses introduced
- Deprivation questions partly refer to 12 previous months
- register data on income become available in autumn
- Spring 2021: poverty rates published (income year 2019)
- Data with full crisis impact to be expected only in 2022

=> policy impact suffers from lack of timeliness

⇒ Need for infra-annual data for a common EU post covid-recovery dashboard

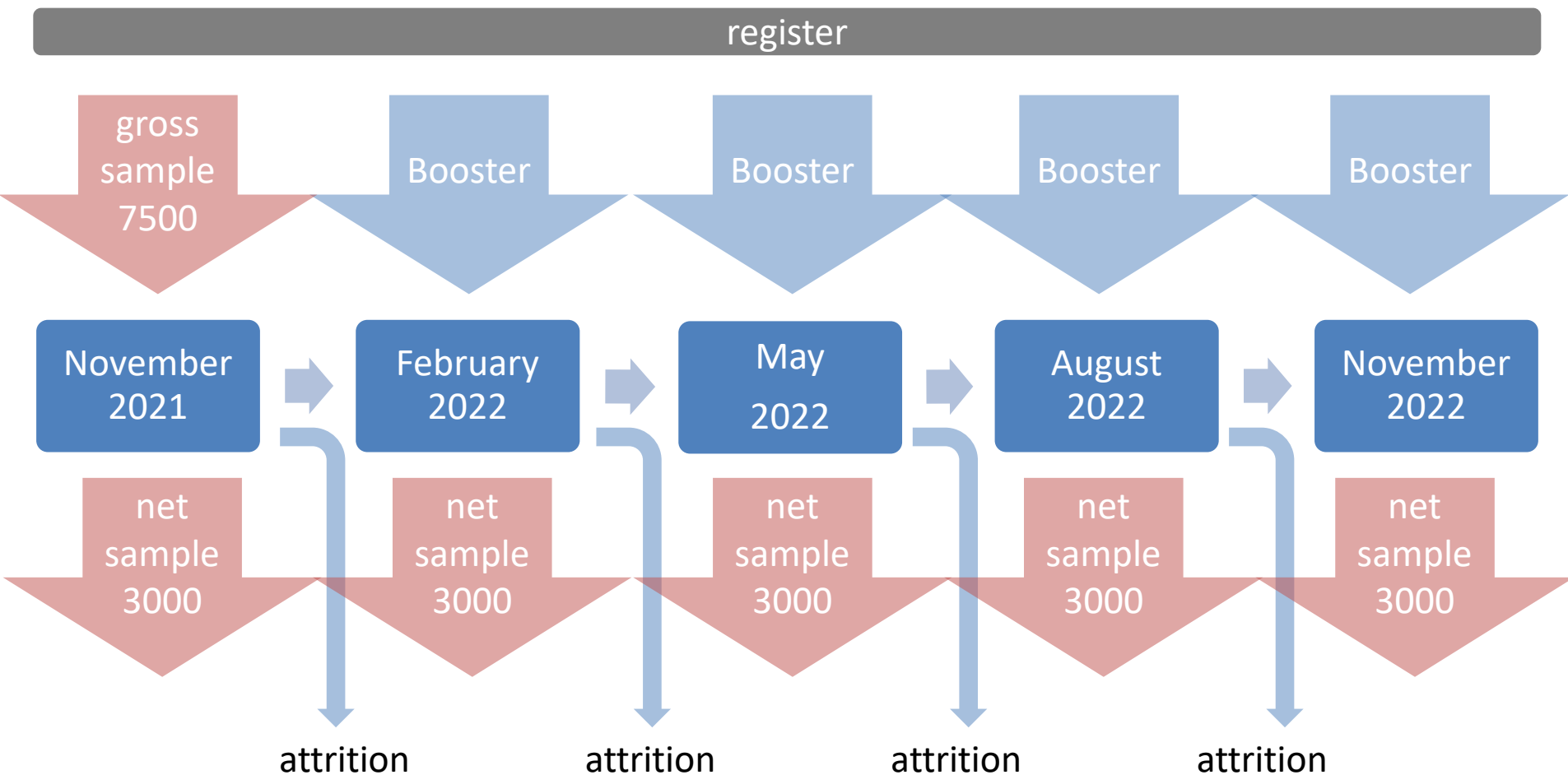
- Article 14 of the Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households enables
- Financing through Eurostat grant „infraannual data collection on living conditions“
- national co-financing by Federal Ministry Republic of Austria: Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

- timely indicators on
 - Social indicators for the European recovery dashboard
 - Social inclusion, living conditions and well-being
- Rapid measurement of change in poverty
 - Strong demand from ministry
 - Support from scientific board with members from University of Vienna, Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU) and Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS)
- Development of cost-effective and reliable methodology

- Eurostat: composition of the household, household income, payment difficulties, difficulties to get by financially, change in income, satisfaction, well-being, socio-demographics
- + methodologically motivated questions on topics above and additionally: poverty, health, immigrant background, short-time working, expected changes in income and difficulties to get by financially

- Sample of 7500 individuals (expected net sample 3000)
- General population in Austria between 16 and 69 years old
- Oversampling of vulnerable groups (from register frame):
 - Unemployed
 - Families with more than 3 children
 - Single parents
- CAWI mode preferred (push-to-web)
 - Paper questionnaire as a follow-up (3rd mailing)
- Panel design: 5 waves every 3 months

Panel design with 5 waves



- Timely publication of indicators
 - Transmission to Eurostat 8 weeks after end of quarter
- tables and standardised quality reports
- National reports in coordination with Social Ministry and scientific board

Discussion:

How to measure ‚infraannual‘ poverty?

- Limited flexibility in existing surveys => new survey
- Rapid data collection => CAWI mode
- cross-sectional bias => focus on transitions (panel design)
- consumption depends on savings/debts => beyond income
- subjective impact => focus on individuals
- Potential memory & knowledge bias (e.g. children)
=> „making ends meet“ type subjective questions
=> need for research and international harmonisation

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