

paid trainees or interns, who can consider themselves as being in employment, while persons having an unpaid work-based training may assign themselves to the category *student, pupil*.

- Respondents who mainly perceive themselves as a *housewife or househusband* can choose the category 'fulfilling domestic tasks' even if they also have a job, receive a pension or are retired. The category 'fulfilling domestic tasks' includes all activities needed to run a private household including the raising of children and other care responsibilities.
- Respondents can consider themselves as *retired* if they receive a pension or if they have finally stopped working or given up their business because of their age or age related health condition. Still, they could work e.g., in a minor job. Persons in early retirement that is not connected to health issues can also choose this category.
- Persons can consider themselves unable to work due to long-standing health problems if they are unable to work due to health reasons or disabilities for a longer, undetermined or permanent time or/and unfit to work. The response is given based on self-assessment and is independent from the benefit they receive.
- Persons who cannot choose one of the presented activity status categories can select the category 'other'. These can be e.g., volunteers or mainly inactive persons. Also, these persons could e.g. have a job or fulfil domestic tasks.
- Respondents on maternity or parental leave can consider themselves either as employed or as fulfilling domestic tasks.

The category 'compulsory military or civilian service' may not apply in all countries and in this case it can be omitted. The category 'other' should only be offered to the respondent if he/she cannot choose one of the earlier categories.

The categorisation is solely self-defined and may not be changed due to plausibility checks or for any other reason (corrections/imputations) except by retrieving it again from the respondent.

In 2021, the variable identifier was changed from RB210 to RB211 as the answer categories have been harmonised with standardised social variables.