# DB060: PRIMARY SAMPLING UNITS [PSU]

**Topic and detailed topic:** Technical items/Data collection information
**Variable type:** Annual
**Unit:** Household
**Reference period:** At selection
**Mode of collection:** Frame, register or sample design
**In use (period):** Yes, since the first year of EU-SILC data collection
**Series' differences:** Yes (2014)

## VALUES AND FORMAT

*1 – 99999*

## FLAGS

### From 2014 onwards

1 Rotation is implemented at primary sampling unit (PSU) level (the PSU rotates in and out of the sample)
2 Rotation is implemented at secondary sampling unit (SSU) or household level (The PSU remains in the sample for the entire duration of EU-SILC)
-2 Not applicable (no first or second sampling stage)

### Before 2014

1 Filled
-2 Not applicable (no first or second sampling stage)

## DESCRIPTION

DB060 measures PSUs as used in selecting the sample and it is part of a standardised list of variables.

If direct-element sampling is either impossible (lack of a sampling frame) or too expensive to implement (the population is widely distributed geographically), multi-stage selections can be done. Firstly, the population is divided into disjoint sub-populations, called **primary sampling units (PSUs)**. A sample of PSUs is then selected (first–stage sampling). Secondly, each sampled PSU is itself divided into disjoint sub-populations, called **secondary sampling units (SSUs).** SSUs are then independently drawn from each PSU (second-stage sampling) and so on.

The variable reports on the PSU corresponding to each observation unit (individual or household) in case the target population is divided into clusters, providing identification codes for the clusters or PSUs. The information recorded always refers to the situation at the time the concerned unit is selected (individual or household).
A population is divided into clusters (i.e., disjoint sub-populations) in case direct-element sampling is either impossible (due to lack of a sampling frame) or too expensive to implement (the population is widely distributed geographically). A sample of clusters (PSUs) is then selected at the first stage of the sampling process (or an alternative multi-stage selection process).
The variable contains sampling information that is needed to calculate measures of spread (e.g. variance or standard deviation) and to observe changes over time.
The category 'primary sampling unit identifier' provides the identification code of the selected PSU each observation unit (individual or household) belongs to, in case the target population has been divided into clusters in the first stage of sampling.

The category 'not applicable' is to be used when the target population has not been clustered at the first stage of the sampling process, e.g., when the sample has been drawn by simple random sampling or by stratified random sampling.
Information on the variable should be filled for all waves (and/or panels), and it should always refer to the situation at the time the concerned unit (individual or household) is selected.

In case the target population is clustered at the first stage of the sampling design, the selected clusters (PSUs) receive a unique identification code which remains the same for the entire period in which the observation