

Module on Reconciliation of work and family life. 2025

Methodology

June 2026

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1 Background

The Community Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a survey conducted in a coordinated manner across the European Union, in accordance with Council Regulation 577/98 on the organisation of a sample survey on the labour force of the Community (Official Journal of the European Communities L-77, 14 March) until 2020 and in accordance with the following regulations from 2021:

- REGULATION (EU) 2019/1700 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 10 October 2019, establishing a common framework for European household surveys, and
- IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2020/1642 of 5 November 2020, as well as other Delegated and Implementing Regulations establishing the variables to be analysed, the definitions to be used, and the frequencies for each of the variables in the European Labour Force Survey (LFS) that must be provided as of the first quarter of 2021.

In Spain, the LFS is included in the Active Population Survey (EPA, per its Spanish acronym). The EPA was adjusted to Council Regulation 577/98 from the first quarter of 1999 and has since been subject to European regulation.

Regulation 577/98 indicated that in the second quarters of each year, a series of questions on specific labour market topics should be introduced in the LFS, so until 2005 in Spain, the ad hoc module was conducted in these quarters, together with the EPA.

In 2005, Regulation 430/2005 was published, opening the possibility of providing a set of so-called *structural* variables, for an annual sub-sample representative of the whole year. If an annual sub-sample is used, it was determined that the collection of information corresponding to the modules should be carried out, along with the sub-sample variables, throughout the year.

Therefore, in Spain, since 2006, the module questionnaire is asked throughout the year, in the sixth interviews and for one-sixth of the sample, where information on the sub-sample variables is collected.

As of 2021, under DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2020/256 OF THE COMMISSION of 16 December 2019, supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council, a multi-annual planning of variables is established so that the annual modules become regular, repeating every eight years, and in between, every four years, a new one is introduced on a different topic each time (ad hoc module).

2 Labour Survey Design

The sample design of the module on *reconciliation of work and family life* coincides with that of the EPA, as it is conducted together with it, for one-sixth of the quarterly sample, throughout the year. The most important characteristics of this design are described below. For more details, see the publications of the National Statistics Institute *EPA. (Economically Active Population Survey. 2021 Methodology. Survey overview)*.

The EPA is a continuous quarterly sample survey that covers the entire national territory. It targets the population residing in main family dwellings, that is, dwellings used all or most of the year as usual and permanent residences. Collective households (hospitals, residences, barracks, convents, etc.) and secondary or seasonal dwellings are not included in the survey.

It has a two-stage stratified sampling, with census sections as the first stage units and family dwellings as the second stage units. All persons residing in the selected dwellings are surveyed.

The sample size in the first two quarters of 2025 was 5,298 census sections, of which 288 corresponded to the additional sample from Galicia, around 53,000 dwellings, and 115,000 people. In the last two quarters of 2025, the sample size was 5,010 census sections (since the 288 corresponding to the additional sample of Galicia were no longer included), around 46,000 dwellings and 110,000 people.

The sample has been spatially distributed following a compromise between proportional and uniform allocation, with the aim of providing estimates at the provincial level (NUTS 3 [Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics]) and for autonomous communities (NUTS 2).

Additionally, the sample is evenly distributed over the thirteen weeks that make up each quarter.

The section sample is divided into six sub-samples called rotation shifts, and each quarter the dwellings of one rotation shift are replaced; with this mechanism, each household is interviewed for six consecutive quarters and is then replaced by another household from the same section at the end of the six-quarter period.

Fieldwork is conducted by interviewers employed by the National Statistics Institute in each of its 52 delegations. The first interview is conducted in person, and the second and subsequent interviews are conducted by telephone, unless the household does not have a telephone or prefers a personal interview.

Personal interviews are conducted in each of the 52 delegations, while telephone interviews are conducted in 7 delegations where the CATI centres (Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing centres) are located.

All interviews are conducted using a laptop or desktop computer. The delegation's work system is weekly and follows the following sequence:

- Interview week
- Review and cleansing week
- Week of sending questionnaires to Central Services (via teleprocessing)

In December 2020, a page was created on the National Statistics Institute (INE, per its Spanish acronym) intranet for provincial delegations to consult the module questions and instructions for their completion.

Fieldwork was carried out from 6 January 2025 to 3 January 2026, corresponding to the reference period from 30 December 2024 to 28 December 2025.

The sample size and non-response are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Sample size and non-response in sixth interviews over the four quarters of 2025

	Total	
	Absolute value	Percentage
Initial sample	38,648	100.0
Negative	2,225	5.8
Absences, incapacitated and inaccessible	5,675	14.7
Total non-response	7,900	20.4
Effective sample interviewed	30,748	79.6

The sample finally interviewed consisted of 30,748 dwellings. None were discarded due to centralised processing.

Table 2. Actual sample interviewed in sixth interviews

	Total	
	Absolute value	Percentage
Original sample interviewed	30,748	100.0
Sample loss due to centralised processing	0	0
Effective sample interviewed	30,748	100.0

The number of people interviewed in the sixth interview was 73,565. Of these, 52,837 were between 18 and 74 years old and thus completed the 2025 module.

3 Questionnaire

Reconciliation of work and family life

(Persons aged between 18 and 74)

People aged between 18 and 74, i.e.
 $18 \leq EDAD \leq 74$

Otherwise, end of module

Next I am going to ask you some extra questions related to reconciliation of work and family life

1.1

Do you or your partner have children younger than 15 years living outside this household?

- Yes, one

1 ☐

- Yes, more than one

2 ☐

- No

3 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

Persons with at least one child aged less than 15 years old living outside the household, i.e., if: $M1.1 = \{1, 2\}$

Otherwise, go to box before question 1.3

1.2

If $M1.1 = 1$

Do you regularly take care of that child, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

If $M1.1 = 2$

Do you regularly take care of one or more of them, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

- Yes

1 ☐

- No, although I do occasionally

2 ☐

- No

3 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

Persons with no children aged less than 15 years old living inside the household, i.e., if conditions of Filter 1 are not met.

Otherwise, go to box before question 2

1.3

Do you or your partner have children for which you are the legal guardian or foster ones younger than 15 years living inside this household?

- Yes, one

1 ☐

- Yes, more than one

2 ☐

- No

3 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

Persons with no children aged less than 15 or without care responsibilities over them, i.e., if: $M1.3 = \{0, 3\}$ and $M1.2 = \{b, 0, 2, 3\}$

Otherwise, go to box before question 2

Relationship other than reference person or partner, i.e., if: $RELPP(i) \neq \{1, 2\}$

Otherwise

With grandchildren inside the household, i.e., if: $\exists (RELPP(j) = 5 \text{ and } EDAD(j) < 15)$

Otherwise, go to box before question 1.8

Go to question 1.5

Relationship other than parent or parent-in-law of reference person, i.e., if: $RELPP(i) \neq \{6, 7\}$

Otherwise

With grandchildren inside the household, i.e., if: $\exists (RELPP(j) = 3 \text{ and } EDAD(j) < 15)$

Otherwise, go to box "Box AGE" before question 1.4

Go to question 1.5

Relationship other than grandchild of reference person or their partner, i.e., if: $RELPP(i) \neq \{5\}$

Otherwise, go to box before question 1.8

Relationship other than grandparent of reference person or their partner, i.e., if: $RELPP(i) \neq \{8\}$

Otherwise, go to question 1.4

Persons who are not domestic workers, i.e., if: $RELPP(i) \neq \{11\}$

Otherwise, go to box before question 1.8

Box AGE:
Persons aged more than 49 years or with partner aged more than 49 years, i.e., if: $(EDAD(i) > 49 \text{ or } \exists (NCONY(i) = NPERS(j) \text{ and } EDAD(j) > 49))$

Otherwise, go to question 1.6

1,4

Do you or your partner have grandchildren younger than 15 years living inside this household?

- Yes, one

1 ☐

- Yes, more than one

2 ☐

- No

3 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

Persons who take care of at least one grandchild, their or their partner's, aged less than 15 years old inside the household, i.e., if:
M1.4={1,2}

Otherwise, go to question 1.8

1,5

If M1.4=1:

Do you regularly take care of your grandchild, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

If M1.4=2:

Do you regularly take care of one or more of them, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

If M1.4=b:

Do you regularly take care, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average, of one or more of your or your partner's grandchildren aged less than 15 years old living inside this household?

- Yes

1 ☐

Go to question 1.8

- No, although I do occasionally

2 ☐

Go to question 1.8

- No

3 ☐

Go to question 1.8

- Do not know

0 ☐

Go to question 1.8

1.6 (M1.6A/M1.6B/M1.6C/M1.6D):

Do you take care of one or more of your or your partner relatives aged less than 15 years old living inside this household? You can select more than one option

(M1.6A/M1.6B/M1.6C/M1.6D)

- Yes, one or more siblings

1 ☐

- Yes, one or more nephews

2 ☐

- Yes, one or more grandchildren

3 ☐

- Yes, other relatives

4 ☐

- No

5 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

Persons who take care of at least one grandchild, their own or their partner's, aged less than 15 years old inside the household, i.e., if:
M1.6A=3 or M1.6B=3 or M1.6C=3 or M1.6D=3

Otherwise, go to question 1.10

1,7

Do you regularly take care of one or more of your own or your partner's grandchildren, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

- Yes

1 ☐

Go to question 1.8

- No, although I do occasionally

2 ☐

Go to question 1.8

- No

3 ☐

Go to question 1.8

- Do not know

0 ☐

Go to question 1.8

Persons aged more than 49 years or with partner aged more than 49 years, i.e., if: (EDAD(i)>49 or 3 (NCONY(i)=NPERS(i) and EDAD(i)>49)

Otherwise, go to question 1.10

1,8

And have you grandchildren aged less than 15 years, yours or your partner's, who live outside the household?

- Yes, one

1 ☐

- Yes, more than one

2 ☐

- No

3 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

Persons who take care of at least one grandchild, theirs or their partner's, aged less than 15 years old outside the household, i.e., if: M1.8=1,2

Otherwise, go to box before question 2

1,9

If M1.8=1:

Do you regularly take care of your grandchild, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

If M1.8=2:

Do you regularly take care of one or more of them, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

- Yes

1 ☐ Go to box before question 2

- No, although I do occasionally

2 ☐ Go to box before question 2

- No

3 ☐ Go to box before question 2

- Do not know

0 ☐ Go to box before question 2

1.10 (M1.10A/M1.10B/M1.10C/M1.10D):

Do you take care of one or more of your own or your partner's relatives aged less than 15 years old living outside this household? You can select more than one option

(M1.10A/M1.10B/M1.10C/M1.10D)

- Yes, one or more siblings

1 ☐

- Yes, one or more nephews

2 ☐

- Yes, one or more grandchildren

3 ☐

- Yes, other relatives

4 ☐

- No

5 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

Persons who take care of at least one grandchild, theirs or their partner's, aged less than 15 years old outside the household, i.e., if: M1.10A=3 or M1.10B=3 or M1.10C=3 or M1.10D=3

Otherwise, go to box before question 2

1,11

Do you regularly take care of one or more of your own or your partner grandchildren, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

- Yes

1 ☐

- No, although I do occasionally

2 ☐

- No

3 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

Persons who take care of at least one child living outside the household or one grandchild (living inside or outside the household), i.e., if: (M1.2=1) or (M1.5=1) or (M1.7=1) or (M1.9=1) or (M1.11=1)

Otherwise, go to box before question 3

2

If M1.2=1:

What is the age of your or your partner's youngest child, living outside your household, you take care of?

If M1.5=1 or M1.7=1 or M1.9=1 or M1.11=1 :

What is the age of your or your partner's youngest grandchild you take care of?

Age: _____

- Do not know

99 ☐

Persons who take care of own or partner's children living inside or outside the household, i.e., if: M1.2=1 or M1.3={b,1,2}

Otherwise, go to question 5.1

3

Do you normally use childcare services, such as kindergartens, pre-schools, professional childminders,...?

- Yes, for all children aged less than 15 years

1 ☐

- Yes, but not for all children aged less than 15 years

2 ☐

- No

3 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

Persons using professional childcare services for none or only some of the children, i.e., if: M3={2,3}

Otherwise, go to question 5.1

4,1

If M3=2:

What is the main reason for not using professional childcare services for all your or your partner children? I read you the options:

If M3=3:

What is the main reason for not using professional childcare services? I read you the options:

(Interviewer: The children referred to in this question are those under 15 years of age.)

- There is no care service nearby or service is fully booked

1 ☐

- They are too expensive

2 ☐

- The quality of the service or other service-related issues

3 ☐

- There is no need or interest

4 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

Persons who don't use professional childcare because "there is no need or interest", i.e., if: M4.1=4

Otherwise, go to question 5.1

4,2

Could you specify why not? I read you the options:

- Preference to arrange care alone or together with partner

1 ☐

- Preference to arrange care with the support of grandparents, relatives or friends

2 ☐

- The children can take care of themselves

3 ☐

- Other reasons: _____

4 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

5,1

Do you regularly take care of one or more relatives, including your partner, aged 15 years or over, who are ill, frail and/or with disabilities?

- No

1 ☐

- Yes, partner only

2 ☐

- Yes, relatives but not the partner

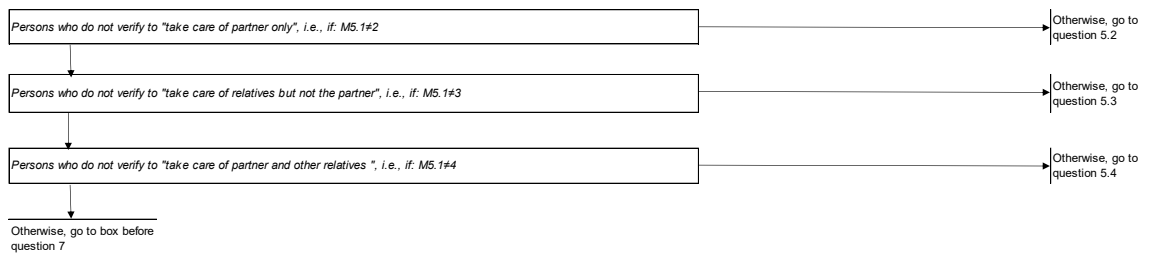
3 ☐

- Yes, partner and other relatives

4 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐



5.2

Does your partner live inside this household?

- Yes, inside this household 1 ☐ | Go to question 6
- No, outside this household 6 ☐ | Go to question 6
- Do not know 0 ☐ | Go to question 6

5.3

Do the relatives you take care of live inside this household?

- Yes, all inside this household 1 ☐ | Go to question 6
- No, all outside this household 2 ☐ | Go to question 6
- At least one inside this household and one outside this household 3 ☐ | Go to question 6
- Do not know 0 ☐ | Go to question 6

5.4

Do your partner and other relatives you take care of live inside your household?

- Yes, all inside this household 1 ☐
- No, all outside this household 2 ☐
- At least one inside this household and one outside this household 3 ☐
- Do not know 0 ☐

6

If M5.1=2:

On average, how many hours per week do you spend on caring for your partner?

If M5.1=3:

On average, how many hours per week do you spend on caring for your relatives aged 15 years and more?

If M5.1=4:

On average, how many hours per week do you spend on caring for your partner and other relatives aged 15 years and more?

- Less than 5 hours per week 1 ☐
- 5 hours to less than 10 hours per week 2 ☐
- 10 hours to less than 20 hours per week 3 ☐
- 20 hours to less than 30 hours per week 4 ☐
- 30 hours to less than 40 hours per week 5 ☐
- 40 hours per week or more 6 ☐
- Do not know 0 ☐

Persons in employment with care responsibilities for own or partner's (grand)children or for relatives who are ill, frail and/or with disabilities, i.e., if: TRAPLU#b and [M1.2=1 or M1.3=[b, 1, 2] or M1.5=1 or M1.7=1 or M1.9=1 or M1.11=1 or M5.1=[2, 3, 4]]

Otherwise, go to box before question 9

7

What is the main work-related adjustment you have made to facilitate your care responsibilities? I read the options:

- Changed job or employer 1 ☐
- Currently absent from work, including leave 2 ☐
- Currently reduced working time, including part-time or less working hours 3 ☐
- Currently working remotely on a regular basis 4 ☐
- Currently adjusted work schedule, without changing working time 5 ☐
- Currently working on less demanding tasks in the job 6 ☐
- Made another work-related adjustment 7 ☐
- Made no work-related adjustments 8 ☐
- Do not know 0 ☐

8

If TRAPLU=1:

Does any characteristic of your job make it especially difficult to balance with your care responsibilities?
Please, indicate which is the main one.

If TRAPLU=[0, 2, 3]:

Does any characteristic of your main job make it especially difficult to balance with your care responsibilities?
Please, indicate which is the main one.

- Long working hours 1 ☐
- Unpredictable or difficult work schedules 2 ☐
- Demanding or exhausting job 3 ☐
- Lack of support from employers and colleagues 4 ☐
- A long commute 5 ☐
- Other work-related obstacle 6 ☐
- No work-related obstacle 7 ☐
- Do not know 0 ☐

People aged 18 to 54 years, i.e., if: EDAD ∈ [18, 54]

Otherwise, end of module

Text 2

Finally, considering only your own children, and therefore excluding those who belong exclusively to your partner.

9

How many children have you raised? Please consider both those you once cared for and those you are still caring for, including children for which you are the legal guardian and foster ones

Number of children: _____

Do not know

99 ☐

Persons currently or previously in employment who raised at least one own child in the life course, i.e., if: $M9 \in \{1, 98\}$ and $[TRAPLU\#b \text{ or } EMPANT=\{1, 2\}]$

Otherwise, end of module

10

If $TRAPLU\#b$:

Since the beginning of your career, have you taken parental or maternity/paternity leave, considering all your own children?

If $EMPANT=1$ or $EMPANT=2$:

While working, have you taken parental or maternity/paternity leave, considering all your own children?

- Only used maternity/paternity leave (taken directly after the birth)

1 ☐

- Only used parental leave

2 ☐

- Used a combination of both

3 ☐

- Neither of these

4 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

Persons who have taken up family leave, i.e., if: $[M10=1 \text{ or } M10=2 \text{ or } M10=3]$

Otherwise, end of module

11

If $M10=1$:

Since the beginning of your career and considering all your own children, what is the total length of your work interruptions related to maternity/paternity leaves?

If $M10=2$:

Since the beginning of your career and considering all your own children, what is the total length of your work interruptions related to parental leaves?

If $M10=3$:

Since the beginning of your career and considering all your own children, what is the total length of your work interruptions related to maternity/paternity and parental leaves?

- Up to 1 month

1 ☐

- More than 1 month and up to 2 months

2 ☐

- More than 2 months and up to 6 months

3 ☐

- More than 6 months and up to a year

4 ☐

- More than 1 year and up to 3 years

5 ☐

- More than 3 years and up to 5 years

6 ☐

- More than 5 years

7 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

4 Instructions for completing the questionnaire

Module on reconciliation of work and family life (2025 Active Population Survey)

4.1 Introduction

Until 2005, in the second quarters of each year, a series of questions on specific labour market topics were introduced in the Active Population Survey. From 2006, these questions were asked throughout the year, but only to one-sixth of the sample, specifically to the households in the sixth interview. These questions, until 2020, were included in what is known as the *ad hoc module*, which was conducted in coordination with the Labour Force Surveys of other European Union countries, as indicated in Council Regulation (EC) 577/98 of 9 March 1998, concerning the organisation of a sample survey on the labour force in the Community (Official Journal of the European Communities L 77, 14 March). Since 2021, under Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 October 2019, questions on certain topics will be repeated every eight years, addressed to one-sixth of the sample, forming what will then be called *regular modules*. Interspersed with these regular modules, every four years, new *ad hoc* modules will be included, consisting of questions on a different specific topic each time.

The 2025 module, which deals with *reconciliation of work and family life*, is mentioned in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2312 of 25 November 2022, as part of the regular modules. The same regulation specifies the technical data of the variables that will be part of this module.

4.2 Population targeted by the module

The module is aimed at persons aged between 18 and 74 years.

4.3 Instructions for completing the questionnaire

Code 0 or 99 ('does not know') should be used exclusively if the person is unable to select any of the other response codes. It should not be read by the interviewer. This rule applies to all questions that allow 'does not know' as an answer.

As a general comment on the module questions:

- The first four questions in the module belong to the section entitled "Childcare" in the regulations mentioned before. They are aimed at persons between 18 and 74 years old and seek to gather information on whether they have children or grandchildren under 15 years of age, whether they have responsibility for their care, and, if they have children, whether they use professional childcare services or the reason for not using them or not using them as much.

- The next two questions in the module belong to the section "Caring for sick, dependent, or disabled family members," also aimed at persons between 18 and 74 years old. These questions seek to gather information about the responsibility for caring for family members over 15 years of age, including partners, due to illness or disability, as well as the intensity of this responsibility.

- The next two questions in this module belong to the section "Flexibility of Changes in the Workplace." This section is aimed at persons between 18 and 74 years old who are employed and have caregiving responsibilities for their own children or grandchildren, or for their partner, or for family members over 15 years of age due to illness or disability. The questions seek to gather information about possible job changes to reconcile work and family life, as well as the main difficulties at work, if any, they face in achieving this balance.

- The last three questions in the module belong to the "Work Leave and Unpaid Leave" section and are aimed at persons between 18 and 54 years old. These questions gather information about the number of children the person has raised, whether they have taken any leave or unpaid leave for childcare, and the total duration of these measures throughout their working life.

QUESTION 1:

Reconciliation of work and family life (Persons aged between 18 and 74)

People aged between 18 and 74, i.e.
 $18 \leq \text{EDAD} \leq 74$

Otherwise, end of module

Next I am going to ask you some extra questions related to reconciliation of work and family life

1,1

Do you or your partner have children younger than 15 years living outside this household?

- Yes, one

1

- Yes, more than one

2

- No

3

- Do not know

0

Persons with at least one child aged less than 15 years old living outside the household, i.e., if: $M1.1=1,2$

Otherwise, go to box before question 1.3

1,2

If $M1.1=1$

Do you regularly take care of that child, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

If $M1.1=2$

Do you regularly take care of one or more of them, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

- Yes

1

- No, although I do occasionally

2

- No

3

- Do not know

0

Persons with no children aged less than 15 years old living inside the household, i.e., if conditions of Filter 1 are not met.

Otherwise, go to box before question 2

1,3

Do you or your partner have children for which you are the legal guardian or foster ones younger than 15 years living inside this household?

- Yes, one

1

- Yes, more than one

2

- No

3

- Do not know

0

Persons with no children aged less than 15 or without care responsibilities over them, i.e., if: $M1.3=\{0,3\}$ and $M1.2=\{0,2,3\}$

Otherwise, go to box before question 2

Relationship other than reference person or partner, i.e., if: $RELPP(i)\neq\{1,2\}$

Otherwise

With grandchildren inside the household, i.e., if: $\exists(RELPP(i)=5 \text{ and } EDAD(i)<15)$

Otherwise, go to box before question 1.8

Go to question 1.5

Relationship other than parent or parent-in-law of reference person, i.e., if: $RELPP(i)\neq\{6,7\}$

Otherwise

With grandchildren inside the household, i.e., if: $\exists(RELPP(i)=3 \text{ and } EDAD(i)<15)$

Otherwise, go to box "Box AGE" before question 1.4

Go to question 1.5

Relationship other than grandchild of reference person or their partner, i.e., if: $RELPP(i)\neq\{5\}$

Otherwise, go to box before question 1.8

Relationship other than grandparent of reference person or their partner, i.e., if: $RELPP(i)\neq\{8\}$

Otherwise, go to question 1.4

Persons who are not domestic workers, i.e., if: $RELPP(i)\neq\{11\}$

Otherwise, go to box before question 1.8

Box AGE:
Persons aged more than 49 years or with partner aged more than 49 years, i.e., if: $(EDAD(i)>49 \text{ or } \exists (NCONY(i)=NPERS(i) \text{ and } EDAD(i)>49))$

Otherwise, go to question 1.6

1.4

Do you or your partner have grandchildren younger than 15 years living inside this household?

- Yes, one

1 ☐

- Yes, more than one

2 ☐

- No

3 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

*Persons who take care of at least one grandchild, their or their partner's, aged less than 15 years old inside the household, i.e., if:
M1.4=(1,2)*

Otherwise, go to question 1.8

1.5

If M1.4=1:

Do you regularly take care of your grandchild, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

If M1.4=2:

Do you regularly take care of one or more of them, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

If M1.4=b:

Do you regularly take care, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average, of one or more of your or your partner's grandchildren aged less than 15 years old living inside this household?

- Yes

1 ☐

Go to question 1.8

- No, although I do occasionally

2 ☐

Go to question 1.8

- No

3 ☐

Go to question 1.8

- Do not know

0 ☐

Go to question 1.8

1.6 (M1.6A/M1.6B/M1.6C/M1.6D):

Do you take care of one or more of your or your partner relatives aged less than 15 years old living inside this household? You can select more than one option

(M1.6A/M1.6B/M1.6C/M1.6D)

- Yes, one or more siblings

1 ☐

- Yes, one or more nephews

2 ☐

- Yes, one or more grandchildren

3 ☐

- Yes, other relatives

4 ☐

- No

5 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

Persons who take care of at least one grandchild, their own or their partner's, aged less than 15 years old inside the household, i.e., if: M1.6A=3 or M1.6B=3 or M1.6C=3 or M1.6D=3

Otherwise, go to question 1.10

1.7

Do you regularly take care of one or more of your own or your partner's grandchildren, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

- Yes

1 ☐

Go to question 1.8

- No, although I do occasionally

2 ☐

Go to question 1.8

- No

3 ☐

Go to question 1.8

- Do not know

0 ☐

Go to question 1.8

Persons aged more than 49 years or with partner aged more than 49 years, i.e., if: (EDAD(i))>49 or ∃ (NCONY(i)=NPERS(i) and EDAD(i))>49)

Otherwise, go to question 1.10

1.8

And have you grandchildren aged less than 15 years, yours or your partner's, who live outside the household?

- Yes, one

1 ☐

- Yes, more than one

2 ☐

- No

3 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

Persons who take care of at least one grandchild, theirs or their partner's, aged less than 15 years old outside the household, i.e., if: M1.8=(1,2)

Otherwise, go to box before question 2

1.9

If M1.8=1:

Do you regularly take care of your grandchild, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

If M1.8=2:

Do you regularly take care of one or more of them, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

- Yes

1 ☐

Go to box before question 2

- No, although I do occasionally

2 ☐

Go to box before question 2

- No

3 ☐

Go to box before question 2

- Do not know

0 ☐

Go to box before question 2

1.10 (M1.10A/M1.10B/M1.10C/M1.10D):

Do you take care of one or more of your own or your partner's relatives aged less than 15 years old living outside this household? You can select more than one option

(M1.10A/M1.10B/M1.10C/M1.10D)

- Yes, one or more siblings

1 ☐

- Yes, one or more nephews

2 ☐

- Yes, one or more grandchildren

3 ☐

- Yes, other relatives

4 ☐

- No

5 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

Persons who take care of at least one grandchild, theirs or their partner's, aged less than 15 years old outside the household, i.e., if: M1.10A=3 or M1.10B=3 or M1.10C=3 or M1.10D=3

Otherwise, go to box before question 2

1.11

Do you regularly take care of one or more of your own or your partner grandchildren, i.e. for at least some hours per week on average?

- Yes

1 ☐

- No, although I do occasionally

2 ☐

- No

3 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

The first question in this module is aimed at persons between 18 and 74 years of age. Its purpose is to provide an overall picture of existing caregiving responsibilities for the respondent's own children or grandchildren, or those of their partner, who are under 15 years old. Knowing whether the children being cared for live inside or outside the household is relevant information, as this circumstance may significantly affect the balance between work and personal life.

To obtain all the necessary information while minimising the burden on respondents, unnecessary questions have been omitted whenever possible according to their situation. The first question is divided into eleven sub-questions (M1.1–M1.11)

organised into two main groups. The first three questions are intended to obtain information about the care of children under 15 years of age, both the respondent's own children and those of their partner. If these children live outside the household, the aim is to determine whether there are caregiving responsibilities for at least one of them. By contrast, if they live in the household, such responsibility is assumed to exist.

The remaining eight questions are intended for persons who do not have caregiving responsibilities for children under 15 years of age, either their own or their partner's ($M1.3=\{0,3\}$ and $M1.2=\{b,0,2,3\}$). Their purpose is to determine whether the respondent has grandchildren, either their own or their partner's, who live inside or outside the household, and whether they regularly care for one or more of them. To avoid inappropriate questions about grandchildren being asked to younger persons, the questions are adjusted depending on age and on information obtained in the main Labour Force Survey (LFS) questionnaire. The design seeks to be as sensitive as possible without losing relevant information.

The first of these questions, M1.1, is addressed to all persons included in the module, that is, those aged between 18 and 74 years inclusive. Its purpose is to obtain information on whether the respondent has children under 15 years of age, either their own or their partner's, who live outside the household.

The second question, M1.2, is addressed to persons who have children, either their own or their partner's, who live outside the household ($M1.1=\{1,2\}$). Its objective is to determine whether they have actual caregiving responsibilities for them.

The third question, M1.3, is addressed to persons who do not have their own children living in the household, according to the responses given in the main Spanish LFS questionnaire. Its purpose is to collect information on minors under legal guardianship or foster care, either of the respondent or their partner, who reside in their household. It is assumed that if these minors reside in the household, caregiving responsibility exists.

The fourth question, M1.4, must be answered if the respondent does not have children under 15 years of age or does not regularly care for them ($M1.3=\{0,3\}$ and $M1.2=\{b,0,2,3\}$), and meets one of the following conditions:

- Is a grandparent of the reference person or their spouse.
- Is a parent or parent-in-law of the reference person or their spouse, with no grandchildren in the household, provided that the respondent or their possible partner is over 49 years old.
- Is a child, son-in-law/daughter-in-law, sibling, another type of relative of the reference person or their spouse, or has no relationship to them, provided that the respondent or their possible partner is over 49 years old.

The fifth question, M1.5, must be answered if the respondent does not have children under 15 years of age or does not regularly care for them (M1.3={0,3} and M1.2={b,0,2,3}), and meets one of the following conditions:

- Is the reference person or their spouse and has grandchildren under 15 years of age who live in the household, according to the main LFS questionnaire.
- Is a parent or parent-in-law of the reference person or their spouse, with grandchildren under 15 years of age who live in the household, according to the main LFS questionnaire.
- Has stated in question M1.4 that they have their own or their partner's grandchildren under 15 years of age who live in the household (M1.4={1,2}).

The sixth question, M1.6, must be answered if the respondent does not have children under 15 years of age or does not regularly care for them (M1.3={0,3} and M1.2={b,0,2,3}), and meets one of the following conditions:

- Is a parent or parent-in-law of the reference person or their spouse and has no grandchildren under 15 years of age who live in the household, provided that both the respondent and their possible partner are under 50 years old.
- Is a child, son-in-law/daughter-in-law, sibling, or another type of relative of the reference person or their spouse, or has no relationship to them, provided that both the respondent and their possible partner are under 50 years old.

The seventh question, M1.7, must be answered by persons who, according to question M1.6, care for their own or their partner's grandchildren under 15 years of age who live in the household.

The eighth question, M1.8, must be answered if the respondent does not have children under 15 years of age or does not regularly care for them (M1.3={0,3} and M1.2={b,0,2,3}), and meets one of the following conditions:

- Is the reference person or their spouse, without grandchildren under 15 years of age in the household, provided that the respondent or their possible partner is over 49 years old.
- Is a grandchild of the reference person or their spouse, or domestic service staff, provided that the respondent or their possible partner is over 49 years old.
- Comes from question M1.4 or M1.5 (M1.4={0,3} or M1.5≠b).
- Comes from question M1.7 (M1.7≠b).

The ninth question, M1.9, must be answered by persons who, according to question M1.8, have their own or their partner's grandchildren under 15 years of age living outside the household (M1.8={1,2}).

The tenth question, M1.10, must be answered if the respondent does not have children under 15 years of age or does not regularly care for them ($M1.3=\{0,3\}$ and $M1.2=\{b,0,2,3\}$), and meets one of the following conditions:

- Is the reference person or their spouse, without grandchildren under 15 years of age in the household, provided that both the respondent and their possible partner are under 50 years old.
- Is a grandchild of the reference person or their spouse, or domestic service staff, provided that both the respondent and their possible partner are under 50 years old.
- Comes from question M1.6 and has not selected option 3 ($M1.6A\neq\{b,3\}$ and $M1.6B\neq\{3\}$ and $M1.6C\neq\{3\}$ and $M1.6D\neq\{3\}$).

The eleventh question, M1.11, must be answered by persons who, according to question M1.10, care for their own or their partner's grandchildren under 15 years of age living in the household ($M1.10A=3$ or $M1.10B=3$ or $M1.10C=3$ or $M1.10D=3$).

The different concepts involved in these questions are analysed below:

A partner is defined according to marital status or current household situation, resulting in the following two subgroups:

- Husbands/wives/civil partners, identified according to legal marital status, that is, each individual's legal marital status under the country's marriage laws, including civil partnerships.
- Cohabiting partners, identified according to de facto relationships, that is, couples living together in the same household and defined according to their actual living arrangements within the household.

The criterion of living inside or outside the household refers to the concept of usual residence as used in the general LFS questionnaire.

Caregiving responsibilities for children or grandchildren are unpaid and consist of personal care activities (help with bathing, dressing, eating, etc.), playing, helping with homework, reading a book, providing companionship, or handling administrative matters. Childcare consisting solely of financial support is not included. Caregiving responsibilities must involve a combination of two or more caregiving tasks. Nor do they include care activities for non-family members (neighbours, friends) or activities carried out as paid work, charity work, or volunteering.

Caregiving responsibilities for one's own children or a partner's children are assumed to exist when usual residence is shared with those children. Otherwise, for one's own or a partner's children who live outside the household, or for one's own or a partner's grandchildren living inside or outside the household, caregiving responsibilities are considered to exist only if care is provided regularly, that is, for several hours per week. Care provided on an alternating basis, for example every two weeks, is also considered a caregiving responsibility if it averages at least several hours per week and occurs at least twice a month.

If the respondent regularly cares for their partner's children who live outside the household, these responsibilities should also be considered caregiving responsibilities. However, they should not be taken into account if the partner has children who live elsewhere and the respondent does not care for them or only cares for them occasionally. In other words, the respondent must have actual, regular caregiving responsibilities.

To guide respondents appropriately, the care of one's own children and grandchildren or those of a partner is defined as follows:

- "Own children" means biological, adopted, foster, and/or stepchildren. From a legal perspective, foster children are not relatives, but assuming caregiving responsibilities for them is binding and has a significant impact.
- Grandparents who are legal guardians of their grandchildren should be considered as having caregiving responsibilities for their "own children." The same applies to siblings, uncles, aunts, and godparents who are legal guardians of children.
- Since caregiving responsibilities are often shared within a family or household, questions about "children" include those of a spouse/civil partner or cohabiting partner, referred to as "partner's children."
- Caregiving responsibilities for an ex-partner's children are treated in the same way as those for "partner's children."
- "Own or partner's grandchildren" means biological, adopted, or foster grandchildren of either the respondent or their partner.
- Since caregiving responsibilities are often shared within a family or household, questions about "grandchildren" include those of a spouse or civil partner, referred to as "partner's grandchildren."
- Caregiving responsibilities for an ex-partner's grandchildren are treated in the same way as those for "partner's grandchildren."

Regarding households in which several generations reside, the following should be taken into account:

- Parents/grandparents who simultaneously care for their own children or their partner's children and for their grandchildren should respond considering only the care of the children.

The possible responses to questions M1.1, M1.3, M1.4, and M1.8 and their coding are shown below:

- 1) Yes, one
- 2) Yes, more than one
- 3) No
- 0) Do not know

The possible responses to questions M1.2, M1.5, M1.7, M1.9, and M1.11 and their coding are shown below:

- 1) Yes
- 2) No, although I do occasionally
- 3) No
- 0) Do not know

The possible responses to questions M1.6 and M1.10 (multiple-response questions) and their coding are shown below:

- 1) Yes, one or more siblings
- 2) Yes, one or more nephews
- 3) Yes, one or more grandchildren
- 4) Yes, other relatives
- 5) No
- 0) Do not know

QUESTION 2:

Persons who take care of at least one child living outside the household or one grandchild (living inside or outside the household), i.e., if: (M1.2=1) or (M1.5=1) or (M1.7=1) or (M1.9=1) or (M1.11=1)

Otherwise, go to box before question 3

2

If M1.2=1:

What is the age of your or your partner's youngest child, living outside your household, you take care of?

If M1.5=1 or M1.7=1 or M1.9=1 or M1.11=1:

What is the age of your or your partner's youngest grandchild you take care of?

Age: _____

- Do not know

99 ☐

The second question is addressed to persons who care for at least one child under 15 years of age who lives outside the household, either their own child or their partner's child (M1.2=1), or a grandchild of their own or of their partner, regardless of where the grandchild lives (M1.5=1 or M1.7=1 or M1.9=1 or M1.11=1). Its purpose is to collect information on the age of the youngest child or grandchild under a person's care.

The age of the child or grandchild under care is defined as the age, in completed years, at the end of the reference week. Possible values range from 0 to 14 years inclusive.

To reduce the burden on respondents, this question does not apply to children who live in the household, as this information can be obtained from the main Labour Force Survey (LFS) questionnaire.

If the person has caregiving responsibilities for their own children or their partner's children, the age of the youngest child they are caring for who lives outside the household should be recorded. If the person does not have caregiving responsibilities for their own children or their partner's children, but does have responsibilities for their grandchildren or their partner's grandchildren, then the age of the youngest grandchild they are caring for should be recorded, regardless of whether the grandchild lives inside or outside the household.

The possible responses to this question and their coding are shown below:

00–14

99) Do not know

QUESTION 3:

Persons who take care of own or partner's children living inside or outside the household, i.e., if: M1.2=1 or M1.3={b,1,2}

Otherwise, go to question 5.1

3

Do you normally use childcare services, such as kindergartens, pre-schools, professional childminders,....?

- Yes, for all children aged less than 15 years

1 ☐

- Yes, but not for all children aged less than 15 years

2 ☐

- No

3 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

The third question is addressed to persons who care for their own children or their partner's children under the age of 15, regardless of where they live (M1.2=1 or M1.3={b,1,2}). The purpose of this variable is to determine whether some or all of the children for whom a person has caregiving responsibilities are looked after through professional childcare services. This information is useful for assessing whether parents' participation in the labour market depends on the use of such services.

The question focuses on the formal and professional services regularly used by employed persons to combine work responsibilities with caring for children under 15 years of age.

The question refers to the normal and current situation. School holidays and exceptional circumstances should not be taken into account. The arrangement must be regular, although it may occur as infrequently as about once every two weeks. It is difficult to define a minimum threshold because usage may depend greatly on caregiving responsibilities and the person's employment characteristics.

Professional childcare services are defined as all forms of care organised by public or private structures that are normally assigned to level 0 of the National Classification of Education, specifically the classification of programmes by educational levels (CNED-P 2014). Examples include early childhood education and development centres, kindergartens, nursery schools, and pre-primary, preschool, or early education. Care organised by relatives is also included, for example "au pair" services or care provided by professional caregivers contracted through an intermediary service or employed directly by the family.

"Professional" means that the caregiver performs this work as a genuine profession (with a registered business of their own) and not as a side activity that provides some additional income.

Care may take place in the child's home, in the caregiver's home, or in a centre. Organised services are included regardless of whether parents make direct payments;

for example, they may be subsidised by the State or by the employer. Childcare providers hired directly by parents must receive remuneration in order to be considered a professional service and be included in this variable.

If the child is a student and the school provides additional supervision outside normal school hours, this should also be counted. On the other hand, ordinary afternoon classes or tutoring should not be considered childcare services.

The use of childcare services should be taken into account regardless of whether they are provided part-time or full-time, as long as they are relevant to labour market participation.

Cases in which the child lives outside the household and the other parent, who also lives outside the household, arranges a professional childcare service should also be included in this variable.

Other household members, relatives, friends, or neighbours who care for children without the professional element provide informal care and should not be considered professional childcare services. This also applies to babysitting provided occasionally, even when payment is involved. If children participate in sports clubs/classes, language courses, or similar activities, these should not be regarded as childcare services. Leisure activities and school-related activities, such as school trips, are also outside the scope of this variable.

The possible responses to this question and their coding are shown below:

- 1) Yes, for all children aged less than 15 years
- 2) Yes, but not for all children aged less than 15 years
- 3) No
- 0) Do not know

QUESTION 4:

Persons using professional childcare services for none or only some of the children, i.e., if: M3={2,3}

Otherwise, go to question 5.1

4,1

If M3=2:

What is the main reason for not using professional childcare services for all your or your partner children? I read you the options:

If M3=3:

What is the main reason for not using professional childcare services? I read you the options:

(Interviewer: The children referred to in this question are those under 15 years of age.)

- There is no care service nearby or service is fully booked

1 ☐

- They are too expensive

2 ☐

- The quality of the service or other service-related issues

3 ☐

- There is no need or interest

4 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

Persons who don't use professional childcare because "there is no need or interest", i.e., if: M4.1=4

Otherwise, go to question 5.1

4,2

Could you specify why not? I read you the options:

- Preference to arrange care alone or together with partner

1 ☐

- Preference to arrange care with the support of grandparents, relatives or friends

2 ☐

- The children can take care of themselves

3 ☐

- Other reasons: _____

4 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

The fourth question is divided into two alternatives. The first is addressed to persons who do not use professional childcare services for all of their children ($M3=\{2,3\}$), regardless of whether the children live inside or outside the household. Its purpose is to identify the main reason why professional childcare services are not used or are only used for some of the children. The second question is addressed to those who answered category 4, "Do not need them or are not interested in them" ($M4.1=4$), with the aim of exploring that response in greater depth.

The first question, M4.1, may reveal the main problems parents face when seeking childcare services, namely the availability, cost, or quality of services. This information can help identify possible improvements needed to assist parents in balancing their work and family lives more efficiently.

The variable records the main reason why professional childcare services are not used more extensively for the respondent's own children or their partner's children under 15 years of age, referring to the current and usual situation. For the definition of "professional childcare services," see Question 3.

Since the variable records the main reason for not using (more) professional childcare services, the respondent should refer to the most important reason, even if there may be a combination of different reasons.

If professional childcare services are used for some children but not for all, the respondent's answer should refer to the children for whom no professional care is used.

If there are several children in a household who do not receive professional care and the main childcare issue differs depending on the child (for example, there are no daycare places available for the youngest child, while professional care for the older child is too expensive), the respondent should indicate what they perceive as the most important reason or the main limitation preventing the use of professional childcare.

For parents who do not face any problems, the second question, M4.2, can provide a better understanding of how they have organised childcare.

Definition of the possible categories for M4.1:

Category 1 "There is no care service nearby or service is fully booked": This code should be used when no service is available within the household's relevant area or when existing services have no vacancies. It may also apply when a child cannot access existing services because they are not eligible to use them (for example, the child is too young, the parents' income is too high, or other social criteria apply). The relevant area for a household depends on the respondent's personal assessment and circumstances.

Category 2 "They are too expensive": This category refers to situations in which the respondent considers the cost of childcare services to be the main obstacle to their use. It includes cases where the household cannot afford the fees or where direct and/or indirect costs (for example, transportation, meals, or special clothing) are considered disproportionately high.

Category 3 "The quality of the service or other service-related issues": This code relates to the qualifications of professionals, their ability to meet particular needs, and the condition of the facilities. Available services may have a specific religious or educational orientation (for example, Montessori or Waldorf) that may not match the household's preferences. If childcare services cannot be used because their opening hours do not fit the household's needs, this should also be classified under this category.

Category 4 "There is no need or interest": If the respondent does not want or need additional professional childcare services, regardless of the characteristics of the

available services, and the reasons do not fit into the previous categories, category 4 should be selected.

Definition of the possible categories for M4.2:

Category 1 “Preference to arrange care alone or together with partner”: The respondent should choose this category if they do not want or need (additional) professional childcare services, regardless of the characteristics of the available services. This category applies to couples who have agreed to care for their children by sharing caregiving responsibilities. It also applies to single-parent families who handle caregiving responsibilities on their own. It should be clear that this response option reflects the parents'/caregivers' choice; that is, it reflects the preference of the respondent (or their partner) to organize childcare alone or with their partner. This category also applies if the respondent or their partner is unemployed and caring for the children.

Category 2 “Preference to arrange care with the support of grandparents, relatives or friends”: This code covers situations in which parents use additional informal care, such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends/acquaintances. It should be clear that this response option reflects the parents'/caregivers' choice; that is, it reflects the preference of the respondent (or their partner) to organize childcare with additional informal support.

Category 3 “The children can take care of themselves”: This option refers to children who are already able to look after themselves. It also includes siblings caring for one another, for example, if an older sister looks after a younger brother.

Category 4 “Other reasons”: Any other reasons respondents may have for not wanting or needing professional childcare services should be included in this category. Once selected, the respondent will be allowed to provide a brief description of the reason in a text field.

Below are the possible responses to question M4.1 and their coding:

- 1) There is no care service nearby or service is fully booked.
- 2) They are too expensive.
- 3) The quality of the service or other service-related issues.
- 4) There is no need or interest.
- 0) Do not know.

Below are the possible responses to question M4.2 and their coding:

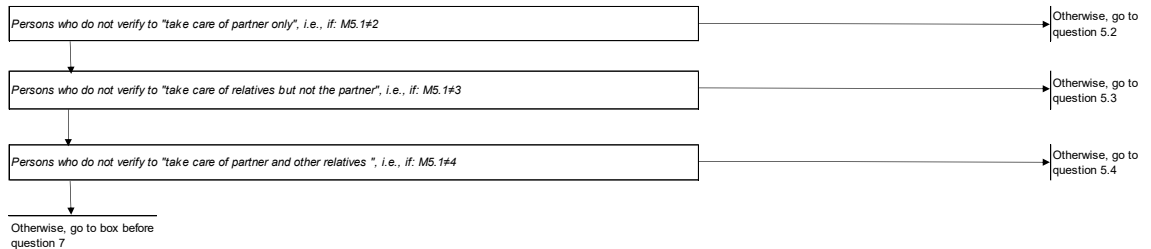
- 1) Preference to arrange care alone or together with partner.
- 2) Preference to arrange care with the support of grandparents, relatives or friends.
- 3) The children can take care of themselves.
- 4) Other reasons.
- 0) Do not know.

QUESTION 5:

5,1

Do you regularly take care of one or more relatives, including your partner, aged 15 years or over, who are ill, frail and/or with disabilities?

- No 1 ☐
- Yes, partner only 2 ☐
- Yes, relatives but not the partner 3 ☐
- Yes, partner and other relatives 4 ☐
- Do not know 0 ☐



5,2

Does your partner live inside this household?

- Yes, inside this household 1 ☐ | Go to question 6
- No, outside this household 6 ☐ | Go to question 6
- Do not know 0 ☐ | Go to question 6

5,3

Do the relatives you take care of live inside this household?

- Yes, all inside this household 1 ☐ | Go to question 6
- No, all outside this household 2 ☐ | Go to question 6
- At least one inside this household and one outside this household 3 ☐ | Go to question 6
- Do not know 0 ☐ | Go to question 6

5,4

Do your partner and other relatives you take care of live inside your household?

- Yes, all inside this household 1 ☐
- No, all outside this household 2 ☐
- At least one inside this household and one outside this household 3 ☐
- Do not know 0 ☐

The fifth question is divided into four sub-questions. The first of these, M5.1, is addressed to all individuals in the module, that is, those aged between 18 and 74. The remaining three questions are asked depending on the response to the first; thus, question M5.2 is addressed to individuals who care only for their partner (M5.1=2), question M5.3 to individuals who care for relatives but not their partner (M5.1=3), and question M5.4 to individuals who care for both their partner and other relatives (M5.1=4).

The variable obtained from question M5.1 is intended to provide information on all existing caregiving responsibilities towards relatives (including the partner), aged 15 and over, who are ill, dependent, and/or have a disability.

On the other hand, the variables collected in questions M5.2, M5.3 and M5.4 aim to determine whether the person in need of care lives within or outside the household. This information is crucial for a more in-depth analysis of the impact of caregiving responsibilities on employment. Moreover, it is expected that in the coming years the number of persons who care for, or will have to care for, ill, dependent and/or disabled relatives will increase, particularly due to the growing need to provide such care.

These caregiving responsibilities are unpaid and reflect the provision of care or assistance to a partner and/or relatives aged 15 or over.

Care responsibilities for ill, dependent and/or disabled relatives (including the partner) may include preparing meals, shopping for food or personal items, performing household tasks, taking them to medical appointments, as well as providing personal care (such as bathing, dressing, eating, going to bed, getting out of bed, etc.), or assistance with administrative or financial matters. They also include companionship, for example reading a book, playing, or going for a walk with the person receiving care or assistance.

The provision of care must be regular, that is, at least twice a month, for at least several hours each time. This includes care provided regardless of the day of the week. In addition, the specific case of care provided over a full weekend (Saturday and Sunday) each month should be considered.

The reference period for this variable is the current situation, that is, the reference week.

The definition of partner is the same as for variable M1. A partner is defined according to marital or partnership status. Consequently, it includes the following two subgroups:

- Husbands/wives/civil partners, identified according to legal marital status, that is, the (legal) conjugal status of each individual in relation to the marriage laws of the country, including civil unions.
- Cohabiting partners, identified according to de facto relationship status, that is, partners who live together in the same household and are defined in terms of their actual living arrangements within the household.

An ill, dependent and/or disabled person refers to someone experiencing limitations due to age, chronic health condition(s), and/or illness(es), and who benefits from and/or depends on the provision of care and/or assistance.

Children aged 15 or over who are ill, dependent and/or disabled must be counted as “relatives” in need of care.

When a person no longer has caregiving responsibilities during the reference week due, for example, to the recent death of the relative they had been caring for, the respondent should answer: “No caregiving responsibilities” (M5.1=1).

Care responsibilities for former partners, friends, or neighbours who are not relatives should not be considered.

Below are the possible answers to question M5.1 and their coding:

- 1) No
- 2) Yes, partner only
- 3) Yes, relatives but not the partner
- 4) Yes, partner and other relatives
- 0) Do not know

Below are the possible answers to question M5.2 and their coding:

- 1) Yes, inside this household
- 2) No, outside this household
- 0) Do not know

Below are the possible answers to questions M5.3 and M5.4 and their codings:

- 1) Yes, all inside this household
- 2) No, all outside this household
- 3) At least one inside this household and one outside this household
- 0) Do not know

QUESTION 6:

6

If M5.1=2:

On average, how many hours per week do you spend on caring for your partner?

If M5.1=3:

On average, how many hours per week do you spend on caring for your relatives aged 15 years and more?

If M5.1=4:

On average, how many hours per week do you spend on caring for your partner and other relatives aged 15 years and more?

- Less than 5 hours per week

1 ☐

- 5 hours to less than 10 hours per week

2 ☐

-10 hours to less than 20 hours per week

3 ☐

- 20 hours to less than 30 hours per week

4 ☐

- 30 hours to less than 40 hours per week

5 ☐

- 40 hours per week or more

6 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

The sixth question is addressed to individuals who have caregiving responsibilities for their partner and/or other relatives (M5.1={2,3,4}).

The objective of this variable is to assess the average number of hours per week that individuals devote to caregiving responsibilities for all relatives aged 15 or over, including their partner, who are ill, dependent and/or have a disability. The number of hours includes travel time.

The number of hours that individuals devote to these caregiving responsibilities may have a significant impact on participation in the labour market and on the maximum number of working hours available. Spending an average of more than 10, 20, 30 or 40 hours per week on caregiving activities may significantly affect the likelihood of having a full-time or part-time job.

This variable records the average number of weekly hours devoted to caregiving responsibilities, estimated on the basis of a period covering the last four weeks prior to the end of the reference week. If the number of weekly hours devoted to caregiving responsibilities varies greatly from one month to another, it may be estimated as the average number of weekly hours corresponding to the weeks in the six months prior to the last day of the reference week.

To calculate the number of weekly hours devoted to caregiving responsibilities, all days of the week should be considered, including Saturdays and Sundays. Moreover, in the case of a partner or relatives who live outside the household, travel time between the two places of residence should also be included.

For the definition of caregiving responsibilities for ill, dependent and/or disabled relatives (including the partner), see question 5.

If the individual cares for several relatives (including or not including the partner), the total number of hours devoted to the care of all of them should be considered.

Below are the possible answers to question M6 and their coding:

1) Less than 5 hours per week

2) From 5 to less than 10 hours per week

- 3) From 10 to less than 20 hours per week
- 4) From 20 to less than 30 hours per week
- 5) From 30 to less than 40 hours per week
- 6) 40 hours per week or more
- 0) Do not know

QUESTION 7:

Persons in employment with care responsibilities for own or partner's (grand)children or for relatives who are ill, frail and/or with disabilities, i.e., if: TRAPLU#b and [M1.2=1 or M1.3={b,1,2} or M1.5=1 or M1.7=1 or M1.9=1 or M1.11=1 or M5.1={2,3,4}]

Otherwise, go to box before question 9

7

What is the main work-related adjustment you have made to facilitate your care responsibilities? I read the options:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| - Changed job or employer | 1 ☐ |
| - Currently absent from work, including leave | 2 ☐ |
| - Currently reduced working time, including part-time or less working hours | 3 ☐ |
| - Currently working remotely on a regular basis | 4 ☐ |
| - Currently adjusted work schedule, without changing working time | 5 ☐ |
| - Currently working on less demanding tasks in the job | 6 ☐ |
| - Made another work-related adjustment | 7 ☐ |
| - Made no work-related adjustments | 8 ☐ |
| - Do not know | 0 ☐ |

The seventh question is addressed to employed persons with caregiving responsibilities for their own or their partner's children under the age of 15 and/or for relatives and/or a partner aged 15 or over (TRAPLU#b and [M1.2=1 or M1.3={b,1,2} or M1.5=1 or M1.7=1 or M1.9=1 or M1.11=1 or M5.1={2,3,4}]).

The objective of this variable is to provide information on the main work-related changes made by currently employed persons in order to facilitate their caregiving responsibilities. The variable targets those who care for their own or their partner's children/grandchildren (under 15 years old) and/or for a partner/relatives who are ill, dependent and/or have a disability (aged 15 or over). It aims to assess whether caregiving responsibilities have affected the person's employment.

The reference period for this variable is the current situation, i.e. the reference week. The change in employment due to caregiving responsibilities may have taken place some time ago, but it must still be in effect. In particular, a change of job or employer may have occurred several years ago.

Category 1 "Changed job or employer": This category should be selected when the person changed job or employer in order to facilitate caregiving responsibilities. The reason may be that it was not possible to reduce working hours or job tasks in the previous job, or that the new job offers more flexible working hours or is more conveniently located.

Category 2 "Currently absent from work, including leave": This category refers to situations where the person is absent from work for a defined or even undefined period. This absence may be paid or unpaid. Examples include special leave such as maternity/paternity leave or parental leave, annual leave used to care for relatives, or unpaid career breaks. It may also be a combination of such absences. However, the absence is expected to be temporary—even if its duration is still unknown—and the person is expected to return to work afterwards.

Category 3 "Currently reduced working time, including part-time or less working hours": This category applies when the person has chosen, due to caregiving responsibilities,

to reduce their working time in one or all jobs. Examples include moving from full-time to part-time work or simply reducing working hours.

Category 4 “Currently working remotely on a regular basis”: This category includes work arrangements that allow work to be performed at home, at the place where care is provided, or elsewhere. “Regular” means working remotely at least four days per month (on average once a week). Teleworking must have started as a result of caregiving responsibilities.

Category 5 “Currently adjusted working schedule, without changing working time”: This category refers to persons who have not reduced their total working hours due to caregiving responsibilities but continue working the same number of hours using alternative schedules that help reconcile work and caregiving. Flexible working time is included here: for example, starting later in the morning and finishing later (or starting earlier and finishing earlier). The person may also accumulate working hours on certain days of the week or month and take time off when needed to balance work and care.

Category 6 “Currently working on less demanding tasks in the job”: This category reflects the situation where the person has been assigned tasks that are more compatible with reconciling work and caregiving responsibilities.

Category 7 “Made another work-related adjustment”: This category includes any job-related adjustments not covered by categories 1 to 6. Changes not related to work should not be included here.

Category 8 “Made no work-related adjustments”: This category applies to persons who have not made any work-related changes to reconcile work and caregiving responsibilities. Persons who have made no changes or who have made adjustments unrelated to work (e.g. in their personal life) should be included here.

Below are the possible responses to question M7 and their coding:

- 1) Changed job or employer
- 2) Currently absent from work, including leave
- 3) Currently reduced working time, including part-time or less working hours
- 4) Currently working remotely on a regular basis
- 5) Currently adjusted work schedule, without changing working time
- 6) Currently working on less demanding tasks in the job
- 7) Made another work-related adjustment
- 8) Made no work-related adjustments
- 0) Do not know

QUESTION 8:

8

If TRAPLU=1:

Does any characteristic of your job make it especially difficult to balance with your care responsibilities?

Please, indicate which is the main one.

If TRAPLU={0,2,3}:

Does any characteristic of your main job make it especially difficult to balance with your care responsibilities?

Please, indicate which is the main one.

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| - Long working hours | 1 | ☐ |
| - Unpredictable or difficult work schedules | 2 | ☐ |
| - Demanding or exhausting job | 3 | ☐ |
| - Lack of support from employers and colleagues | 4 | ☐ |
| - A long commute | 5 | ☐ |
| - Other work-related obstacle | 6 | ☐ |
| - No work-related obstacle | 7 | ☐ |
| - Do not know | 0 | ☐ |

The eighth question is addressed to employed persons with caregiving responsibilities for their own or their partner's children under the age of 15 and/or for relatives, including the partner, aged 15 or over (TRAPLU≠b and [M1.2=1 or M1.3={b,1,2} or M1.5=1 or M1.7=1 or M1.9=1 or M1.11=1 or M5.1={2,3,4}]).

This variable aims to assess whether caregiving responsibilities are made more difficult by the characteristics of the main job. Respondents should refer to the most problematic characteristic of their main job. The variable is intended to shed light on the work-related dimension of work-life balance and complements the information obtained from question M7. While question M7 provides information on the effect of caregiving responsibilities on current employment, this question indicates whether the main job is perceived as an obstacle to adequately fulfilling caregiving responsibilities. The information collected may reveal whether individuals who use or can use flexible working arrangements report fewer problems.

The variable refers to the main job-related characteristic that makes it difficult to reconcile work and family life and should reflect the individual's self-perception.

The reference period for this variable is the current situation, i.e. the reference week.

The response categories should be read aloud in full before the respondent answers. This ensures that the respondent clearly understands the types of obstacles being referred to.

If the respondent considers that several characteristics of the main job are problematic, they should choose the one with the most negative consequences.

Category 1 "Long working hours": This category applies to persons with long working hours. It may include, for example, people working in the hospitality sector (waiters, bartenders, cooks, etc.).

Category 2 "Unpredictable or difficult work schedules": This category refers to individuals who cannot influence (or can only partially influence) their working schedule.

It includes atypical and difficult working hours such as shift work, evening work, or weekend work, etc.

Category 3 “Demanding or exhausting job”: This category covers situations involving continuous stressful working conditions, frequent overtime, excessive responsibility, working under high pressure with limited resources, etc.

Category 4 “Lack of support from employers and colleagues”: This applies, for example, to people who could in principle organise their work to accommodate caregiving responsibilities, but whose colleagues, direct managers or supervisors do not allow it.

Category 5 “A long commute”: This category includes persons with long commuting times, i.e. travelling to and from work.

Category 6 “Other work-related obstacle”: This category includes all other work-related obstacles not covered by the previous codes. For example, people without a fixed workplace who consider this their main obstacle to reconciling work and family life should be coded here.

Category 7 “No work-related obstacle”: This code should be used for persons who do not experience any work-related obstacles in fulfilling their caregiving responsibilities.

Below are the possible responses to question M8 and their coding:

- 1) Long working hours
- 2) Unpredictable or difficult work schedules
- 3) Demanding or exhausting job
- 4) Lack of support from employers and colleagues
- 5) A long commute
- 6) Other work-related obstacle
- 7) No work-related obstacle
- 0) Do not know

QUESTION 9:

People aged 18 to 54 years, i.e., if: EDAD ∈ [18,54]

Otherwise, end of module

Text 2

Finally, considering only your own children, and therefore excluding those who belong exclusively to your partner.

9

How many children have you raised? Please consider both those you once cared for and those you are still caring for, including children for which you are the legal guardian and foster ones

Number of children: _____

Do not know

99 ☐

The ninth question is addressed to individuals aged between 18 and 54 and collects information on the number of children they have raised over the course of their lives and/or are currently raising.

“Own children” refers to biological, adopted, foster and/or stepchildren. From a legal perspective, foster children are not relatives, but assuming caregiving responsibilities for them is binding and they should be included in this question. If grandparents are the legal guardians of their grandchildren, the grandchildren should also be considered as “own children”. The same applies to siblings, uncles/aunts and godparents who are the legal guardians of children.

Grandchildren or other relatives for whom the respondent does not have legal custody should not be taken into account. Raising a child should be understood as bringing up, caring for and educating a child. See question 1 for the definition of childcare responsibilities.

This variable may be very sensitive; for example, a person’s child may have died at an early age. This question should therefore be asked with care.

The reference period should reflect the respondent’s life course in general.

Below are the possible responses to this question and their coding:

00–98

99) Do not know

QUESTION 10:

Persons currently or previously in employment who raised at least one own child in the life course, i.e., if: $M9 \in [1,98]$ and $[TRAPLU \neq b \text{ or } EMPANT = \{1,2\}]$

Otherwise, end of module

10

If $TRAPLU \neq b$:

Since the beginning of your career, have you taken parental or maternity/paternity leave, considering all your own children?

If $EMPANT = 1$ or $EMPANT = 2$:

While working, have you taken parental or maternity/paternity leave, considering all your own children?

- Only used maternity/paternity leave (taken directly after the birth)

1 ☐

- Only used parental leave

2 ☐

- Used a combination of both

3 ☐

- Neither of these

4 ☐

- Do not know

0 ☐

The tenth question is addressed to individuals with current or previous employment who have raised or are raising their own children ($M9 \in [1,98]$ and $[TRAPLU \neq b \text{ or } EMPANT = \{1,2\}]$). This variable provides information on whether parents have taken maternity/paternity leave or any parental leave to care for children. It reflects how often such leave has been taken and may help assess whether it influences the duration of employment interruption and the person's current labour market situation.

"Own children" refers to biological, adopted, foster and/or stepchildren. From a legal perspective, foster children are not relatives; however, assuming caregiving responsibilities for them is binding and they should therefore be included in this question. If grandparents are the legal guardians of their grandchildren, the grandchildren should also be considered as "own children". The same applies to siblings, uncles/aunts and godparents who are legal guardians of children.

With regard to age, the reference is to children up to 14 years old (inclusive).

Maternity/paternity leave may be taken by either the mother or the father and consists of an interruption of work in order to raise or care for a young child. This leave corresponds to the legally established period under national legislation or as defined by contract, and it also includes self-employed workers.

Adoption leave should also be taken into account, which in this module is to be treated as leave following the birth of a child (immediately after the birth).

The individual must be employed (employee, self-employed or contributing family worker) at the beginning of the period of absence. If the period of leave or interruption follows directly from another period of absence, the status at the beginning of the overall period should be considered. If, at the start of the leave period, the person was not employed, the absence cannot be considered as leave. In addition, it is important to note that this variable refers to the person's entire career.

Maternity/paternity leave (immediately after the birth) must be paid; if it is unpaid—even if taken directly after the birth—it should be considered as parental leave for childcare.

Category 3 "Combination of both" refers to the situation in which the person has taken, over the course of their career, at least one maternity/paternity leave (immediately after birth) and at least one parental leave for childcare.

Below are the possible responses to this question and their coding:

- 1) Only used maternity/paternity leave (taken directly after the birth)
- 2) Only used parental leave
- 3) Used a combination of both
- 4) Neither of these
- 0) Do not know

QUESTION 11:

Persons who have taken up family leave, i.e., if: [M10=1 or M10=2 or M10=3]

Otherwise, end of module

11

If M10=1:

Since the beginning of your career and considering all your own children, what is the total length of your work interruptions related to maternity/paternity leaves?

If M10=2:

Since the beginning of your career and considering all your own children, what is the total length of your work interruptions related to parental leaves?

If M10=3:

Since the beginning of your career and considering all your own children, what is the total length of your work interruptions related to maternity/paternity and parental leaves?

- Up to 1 month

1

- More than 1 month and up to 2 months

2

- More than 2 months and up to 6 months

3

- More than 6 months and up to a year

4

- More than 1 year and up to 3 years

5

- More than 3 years and up to 5 years

6

- More than 5 years

7

- Do not know

0

The eleventh question is addressed to individuals who have taken leave following the birth of a child or parental leave for childcare ([M10=1 or M10=2 or M10=3]). This variable aims to measure the total duration of such leave.

Respondents should provide the total duration of all interruptions related to these types of leave. The objective is not to obtain a precise duration but rather an estimate.

This variable helps assess the impact of caregiving responsibilities on labour market participation, as it measures how long a person remains out of work due to such absences or leave. Longer interruptions can be expected to have a stronger—presumably negative—impact on labour market participation. Comparative analysis by gender, cohort, education level or country may reveal differences in the importance of these factors.

If the person has not returned to work during the reference week, the total duration up to that date should be considered.

Below are the possible responses to this question and their coding:

- 1) Up to 1 month

- 2) More than 1 month and up to 2 months
- 3) More than 2 months and up to 6 months
- 4) More than 6 months and up to a year
- 5) More than 1 year and up to 3 years
- 6) More than 3 years and up to 5 years
- 7) More than 5 years
- 0) Do not know

5 Information processing

Once the questionnaires with the survey information (both the main questionnaire and the module) are received at Central Services, they are processed to obtain the final file and estimates.

The processing of the module's information follows a scheme similar to that of the basic questionnaire and adheres to the following principles:

- Do not interfere with the processing of the basic questionnaire.
- Be simultaneous or subsequent to the processing of the basic questionnaire.

According to these principles, the module's processing phases are as follows:

1. Monthly processing

Each month, the identification variables of the basic EPA questionnaire are filtered through automatic detection and manual correction; this filter is modified in the four quarters of each year to also serve the module.

Therefore, the filtering of the module's identification variables (quarter, province, section, housing, and person number) is carried out along with that of the basic questionnaire.

2. Quarterly processing

Once the data corresponding to each of the quarters of 2025 are received, the variables of the basic EPA questionnaire are filtered similarly to the monthly processing, that is, through automatic detection and manual correction.

Subsequently, the module's variables are also filtered through automatic detection.

For automatic filters, both of the basic survey file variables and the module variables, software developed by the General Subdirectorate of Statistical Informatics called DIA (Automatic Detection and Imputation) is used.

3. Annual processing

The final file is the combination of the 6th interview records of the four quarters of the year.

Once the variables are cleaned, the final EPA module file for 2025 is obtained, containing the identification variables, the annual weighting factor, some important variables from the quarterly basic files, and all the module variables for the records corresponding to the sixth interviews.

The design of the module part of the LFS register is aligned with that specified in the Commission Implementing Regulation 2022/2312 of 25 November 2022 mentioned above.