

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADISTICA



**Draft Survey on
Homeless People
(SHP-2012)**

Madrid, 21 December 2012

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1. Introduction

In recent years, the level of awareness and concern about the cohesion of our societies has increased in both governments (on national and European levels) and civil society itself. In particular, for those situations of social exclusion that do not allow persons to participate fully and to feel themselves integrated in society, these situations generate a growing segregation therein.

Thus, the Amsterdam Treaty was the first document to envisage, in its social chapter, provisions that established combating social exclusion as one of the six goals of European Social Policy (art.136).

The Social Inclusion Action Plan of the European Union (2001-2005) and the Spanish equivalent, which is an integral part of the document, promote the preparation of the statistical information needed to fulfil this objective. To do so, it is necessary to compile indicators and statistical studies on social exclusion, and specifically on homeless persons as an extreme representation thereof.

In order to establish a methodological framework for research on homeless persons in the European Union, the ideal objectives, in line with the reflections considered, would be as follows:

- a) Periodical measurement of the lack of accommodation
- b) Analysis of the characteristics of the persons lacking accommodation via direct surveys.

With this in mind, it is necessary to carry out different types of research, such as:

- Operations to improve knowledge regarding accommodation centres.
- Use of direct interviews to survey the users of accommodation centres.
- Interview "former homeless persons" via household surveys.

In this context, during the years 2003, 2006, 2008 and 2010, the INE has carried out a survey focusing on centres that provide services for homeless persons, the Survey on Homeless Persons (Centres), which has -on the one hand- enabled ascertaining the characteristics of these centres, and -on the other hand- obtained an estimate of the average number of users of this network of centres.

Likewise/moreover, in 2005 and 2012, surveys have been conducted of the users of these centres, The Survey on Homeless Persons (Persons), in order to obtain information regarding the profile and the living conditions thereof.

2. Objectives

Traditionally, census operations have taken into account the collection of data on homeless persons due to the necessity of ensuring the complete coverage of the Census in relation to the target population, the specific interest of this population group and the necessity of having data available that allows ascertaining and analysing their main characteristics.

This is evidenced by the fact that, in the regulations developed by the European Union in relation to the 2011 Census, data is included to be provided relating to homeless persons (European Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1201/2009).

The difficulty in approaching this population group lies in that it requires certain strategies of information collection that are completely different from those used for the population resident in family dwellings. This same difficulty recommends taking advantage of the opportunity of establishing contact with them in order to compile information with a greater number of variables related to the living conditions of homeless persons that usually are not taken into account in the traditional census operation.

Considering, on the one hand, the performance of the 2011 Census, and on the other hand, the time elapsed since conducting the 2005 Survey, it has been estimated as necessary to carry out a new survey, via direct interview, of the users of the centres, the 2012 Survey on Homeless Persons (Persons), in order to analyse the characteristics of the users of the centres that provide accommodation and/or catering services.

The survey has been designed to reveal the socio-demographic profile, the living conditions and the difficulties in accessing accommodation of those persons in this group. To this end, the different aspects detailed below will be analysed.

Detailed results are provided on a national level, and for the most relevant variables, they are also provided by Autonomous Community.

The Survey on Homeless Persons 2012 has been conducted by the National Statistics Institute (INE). The Basque Statistics Institute (Eustat) has collaborated in carrying out the Survey in the territorial scope of the Autonomous Community of País Vasco.

3. General characteristics under study

The characteristics under study are as follows:

3.1 Socio-demographic characteristics

The socio-demographic characteristics analysed in this survey have been extended, as compared to those studied in the first survey conducted in 2005. This is due to the fulfilment of the Eurostat requirements with regard to the basic social variables that must be included within the social surveys and to the coordination with the 2011 Population and Housing Census that the INE has been carrying out since last September.

These are as follows: sex, age, nationality, place of birth, period of time residing in Spain, period of time residing in the Autonomous Community where the person was contacted, Autonomous Community of origin -if the date since the person has resided in the Autonomous Community where the contact is made is later than the date since the person has resided in Spain- place of residence during the year before the interview is carried out, registration of residency, mother tongue, knowledge of other languages apart from the mother tongue, place of birth of the father and place of birth of the mother.

For practical purposes, the group of socio-demographic characteristics studied have been distributed into two different sections in the questionnaire. One is called *Basic socio-demographic characteristics*, where sex, age and nationality are studied. The other is called *Other socio-demographic characteristics*, and this is where the remainder of such characteristics are studied.

3.2 Use of the services

In the first place, this is a case of verifying whether the persons contacted meet the requirements to be considered part of the target population, and in the second place, of ascertaining some of the behavioural patterns of the target population as regards accommodation and food.

The type of accommodation, frequency and habits of use are analysed alongside other aspects, such as the place where the persons have eaten and whether they no longer eat.

3.3 Living conditions

This section analyses behaviour regarding the accommodation of the different persons under study, with itineraries differentiated by type of accommodation: collective accommodation, flat or guesthouse and places not set out for accommodation.

It analyses the characteristics of the collective accommodation used by the persons, as well as the use of regular mail, telephone, the Internet and/or e-mail. In case of residing in a guesthouse or in a flat, it studies whether the person pays

for the accommodation, who is paid and how much is paid; or, if appropriate, it analyses some of the qualities and distinctive features of the persons who sleep in places that were not designed to be inhabited, as well as the possibility of using regular mail, telephone and the Internet and/or e-mail.

3.4 Accommodation: Background and search

This section analyses the causes why persons do not have an accommodation and since when. Furthermore, it studies the possibility of persons to change their accommodation situation and, if they are not searching for accommodation, the survey will analyse the reasons for this discouragement to search for accommodation.

3.5 Activity, employment and unemployment

This section researches the situation as regards the economic activity of the population under study. In the first place, the survey attempts to discover whether persons have ever had a period of stability at work. At present, for those persons who are employed, the survey analyses their occupation, the period of time that they have been working and how they found the job; if they are unemployed, the survey analyses their last occupation, by the reasons why they lost their jobs and their behaviour in view of this lack of employment.

3.6 Financial situation

This section analyses the different sources of income of the person, derived either from a job or from the performance of an activity such as those of another origin, the main source of income, the amount of income, main expenditure items, as well as their indebtedness and the need to borrow money.

3.7 Training

The training or education of the persons under study is analysed in view of the level of completed studies, age when studies were abandoned, difficulty to read and write or to calculate, and if the person aims to improve his/her education by taking courses.

3.8 Health

Furthering the analysis of the living conditions of the population under study, the first aspect the survey analyses is the health status of the interested person. The survey also studies the relationship of the person with the health system (health card ownership, use of the health service), and objectively analyses the health status (diagnosis of a serious or chronic illness, and type of illness suffered, hos-

pitalisation, as well as official recognition of disability and the type and degree thereof). The final element analysed is the possibility of being addicted to medicines, alcohol, drugs or gambling.

3.9 Family. Family ties and background

This section studies the family ties of the persons under study: whether they have a partner and the level of cohabitation, and if they have children, and their relationship with these children.

It also studies the frequency of the relationship between the person and the family members s/he does not live with. Finally, it analyses the person's family background (living conditions before reaching eighteen years of age, and the existence of family problems before said age).

3.10 Use of social services.

This studies the use the persons surveyed make of social services, focusing on the relationship with social workers, and the application for and granting of social services, as well as the subjective assessment of the aid received by these services.

This section also researches the receipt of the minimum integration income and the circumstances by which the person no longer receives it or has never tried to receive it.

3.11 Equality, non-discrimination and relationship with justice.

The objective of this section is to study whether these persons have experienced situations in which they have been discriminated against, or they have been the victim of a crime or aggression or, conversely, if charges have been pressed against them or they have been arrested.

Moreover, it analyses the legal assistance received and, if applicable, whether the persons were convicted and the type of sentence served. Finally, it studies whether they received support after they served their sentence.

4. Scope of the survey

4.1 Population scope

Homeless persons, aged 18 years old or over, who go to centres that offer accommodation and/or catering services located in municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants.

For the purposes of this Survey, a homeless person is considered to be that person who is 18 years old or over, who during the week prior to that of the interview had used an accommodation and/or catering care centre, and who had slept at least once in one of the following accommodations located in municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants: a hostel, a residence, a shelter, shelters for battered women, centres for refugees, centres for asylum-seekers, a flat provided by a public administration, an NGO or institution, an occupied flat, a pension paid by a public administration, an NGO or institution, a public space (train, bus or metro station, parking lot, public garden, open space, etc.), make-shift accommodation (entrance of a building, cave, car, etc...).

4.2 Territorial scope

Municipalities with over 20,000 inhabitants from the whole of Spain

4.3 Time scope

The data collection period for the survey will depend on the priority objective thereof, depending on whether we are interested in the concept of a homeless person at a specific moment in time or in the concept of homeless person over a longer period. As with the survey of 2005, we have chosen a solution involving a compromise between both approximations, establishing the information collection period as six weeks. Considering the nature of this study, we have set this period during the winter season, specifically from 13 February to 25 March 2012.

Regarding the reference period of the study variables, it is important to mention that different periods of time have been considered, according to their different nature and the objectives intended to be met.

5. Concepts and definitions

5.1 Main characteristics under study

Place of accommodation: Place where a person or group of persons resides, lodges or camps. A distinction is made between group accommodations, individual accommodations and makeshift accommodations.

Group accommodation: Place where a group of persons reside or lodge.

Shelter: Charity establishment that provisionally accommodates persons in need.

Residence: House where people coexist and reside abiding to certain regulations.

Centre for battered women: Shelter or residence designed to assist and accommodate battered women and their offspring.

Battered woman: Woman who has been subjected to physical or mental violence on behalf of her husband or partner.

Centres for refugees: Shelter or residence that accommodates refugees.

Confinement centre: Shelter or residence that provisionally accommodates foreigners who have no official identity papers according to the Spanish legislation.

Hospital: Establishment designed for the diagnosis and treatment of patients, that also undertakes training and research.

Prison: Jail or place where prisoners are enclosed.

Old people's homes: Shelter or residence where persons over 65 years old live and coexist abiding to certain regulations.

Flat: Series of rooms that compose an independent dwelling in a house made up of different floors.

House: Building to be inhabited.

Flat or house provided by an NGO or similar institution: Property granted by an NGO or similar institution. This includes a flat paid by the minimum integration income (MII) as a person's only source of income.

Flat or house rented by the person: Property rented at market price by the interested person.

Owned flat or house: Property owned by the person residing within.

Accommodation at a friend's or relative's house: Short-term use of property owned by a relative, except parents or partner or spouse, or by a friend.

Guesthouse: Place that accommodates guests.

Boarding house: House where food and accommodation is given prior payment.

Guesthouse paid by an NGO or similar institution: Guesthouse whose use by a person is paid for by an NGO or similar institution: This includes a guesthouse paid by the minimum integration income (MII) as a person's only source of income.

Place not designed for accommodation: Space unfit for use as a bedroom.

Accommodation in a public place: Accommodation in a public transport station (bus, underground, train, etc.), car park, park and/or garden, open ground, etc.

Makeshift accommodation: Accommodation in a part of a building not designed for use as a bedroom (hall, corridor, staircase), garage, cave, abandoned car, etc.

Frequency of accommodation: Regularity with which a person sleeps at a specific place.

Nourishment: Eating the main food of the day.

Lunch (or Sandwich) at a canteen or social restaurant: Prepared food, except fruit, provided by the owner of the canteen and eaten inside or outside of the venue.

Lunch at a friend's or relative's house: Prepared food provided by a relative, except parents and spouse, or by a friend.

Food cooked at home and bought by the person: Food cooked by the person, his/her parents and/or spouse, at the person's home.

Food donated by private persons: Prepared or unprepared food donated by private persons.

Retrieved food: Prepared or unprepared foodstuff retrieved from the waste left by markets or restaurants.

Bedroom: In a dwelling, room where a person sleeps.

Bunks: Each of the narrow, single beds used in boats, trains, barracks, bedrooms, etc., that are usually placed one on top of the other to save space.

Hammock: Deck chair, net or canvas suspended by the ends.

Sharing a bed: One bed used by two persons.

Single bed: One bed used by one person.

Consideration: Contribution to be paid by one contracting party due to what s/he has received or will receive from the other party

Accommodation centre: Group accommodation, that can be a shelter or a residence.

Frequently visited location: Place that is visited frequently by the person. It can be a venue or a centre where assistance is provided or that renders other services.

PO Box: Service at a post office whereby a user rents a box or section with a number that is employed to receive post.

Surfing the Internet and use of e-mail: Opportunity of using these electronic resources.

Payment of a small amount: Payment of a small amount of money lower than the market price for the good or service rendered.

Unoccupied dwelling: Dwelling that is not being used either by tenants or owners.

Organism: Institution that, among other things, helps homeless persons.

NGO: Association or foundation that, among other things, helps homeless persons.

Adoption of legal measures: Presentation of a report in front of a court.

Adoption of police measures: Presentation of a report to the police, without submitting it to court.

Belongings: Personal belongings

Own accommodation: Accommodation a person considers his or her own, regardless of whether it is rented or owned.

Social worker: University graduate with a diploma in social work, former welfare officers.

Long-term work: Continuous work for over six months.

Unemployed: Unemployed person who is neither retired nor unable to work

Retired: Person who no longer works and receives a pension.

Disability: In labour relations, situation of permanent disability.

Refugee: Person who, due to wars, revolutions or political persecutions, has to seek refuge outside his or her country.

Employment regulation: Process whereby a company adjusts the number of employees to its genuine needs, producing a series of dismissals.

Minimum integration income: Variable amount that is granted as a social aid to persons who fulfil the minimum requirements established by the Autonomous Community of residence.

Unemployment benefits: Amount received when unemployed, after having contributed to the social security for at least one year.

Disability pension: Pension received for having a recognised disability of over 55%.

Retirement pension: Pension received when a person no longer works, as long as s/he fulfils the conditions of age and time contributing to the social security.

Widow's pension: Pension received when a spouse dies.

Non-contributory pension: Pension received by persons over 65 years old with minimum income or with no income, and who have not contributed to the social security for enough years to entitle them to a retirement pension.

Training or education courses: Training activity, official or not, lasting over 10 hours.

Health status: Subjective reception of the person's own health status.

Health card: Document that entitles the holder to go to a National Health System health centre or hospital.

Serious or chronic illness: Serious or recurrent, if chronic, alteration of the person's health.

Medicine to be able to sleep: Soporific.

Medicine to calm the nerves: Anxiolytic and anti-depressants.

Low alcohol content beverage: Alcoholic beverage such as wine, beer, cava, cider, etc. and mixes with soft drinks.

High alcohol content beverage: Alcoholic beverage like brandy, rum, gin, whisky, etc. and mixes with soft drinks. .

Drug: Substance or preparation that has a stimulant, depressive, narcotic or hallucinogenic effect.

Joint: Cigarette made with a combination of tobacco and some other drug, like hashish for example.

Games of chance: Games that do not depend on the ability or skill of the players, but are only attributable to luck; e.g., dice.

De facto situation: State of the person as regards his or her relationship with his or her partner.

Single: A person who is not married

Married: A person who is married.

Common law couple: Persons in a relationship that is not legally or administratively recognised.

Widower: Person whose spouse has died and has not married again.

Legally separated: A person who has interrupted their life with their spouse, maintaining the marital relationship with a court order.

De facto separation: A person who has interrupted their life with their spouse, maintaining the marital relationship without a court order.

Divorced: A persons whose marital relationship has been legally annulled.

Friend: Reliable person who is not a relative of the interviewed person.

Institution that fosters minors: Institution where minors live without legal tutors, under the charge of the competent authorities.

Day centre: Centre that assists homeless persons, but does not provide accommodation or catering services.

Social services: Resources of the public institutions to help underprivileged people.

Subsidy: Public welfare compensation that has a financial nature and a specific duration.

Victim of a crime: Person who experiences a damage due to a breach of the law.

Victim of an aggression: Person who experiences a damage due to an action destructive of another person's right.

Juvenile court: Court designed for dealing with the criminal relations of persons aged 14 to 18 years old.

Other courts or tribunals: Refers to all other courts or tribunals excluding juvenile courts.

Juvenile detention centre: Place where the re-educational measures ordered by the juvenile courts are undertaken.

5.2 Identification variables

Identification of the centre

Province: The 50 provinces and the 2 autonomous cities the Spanish state is divided into.

Municipality: The municipality where the selected centre is located.

Centre code: Five-digit identification of the centre according to the directory of the Survey on Homeless Persons (Centres).

5.3 Classification variables

Geographical characteristics

Reference Autonomous Community Autonomous Community where the centre where the interview is performed is located.

Place of birth: If born in Spain, this refers to the Autonomous Community. If born abroad, this refers to the country where the person was born.

Nationality: Nationality of the person interviewed. Considering the following options: Spanish, foreign and both.

When analysing the data, persons with a double nationality will be considered Spanish.

Characteristics relative to the person

Sex

Age: The age of the person interviewed, structured according to the following age groups:

- From 18 to 29 years old
- From 30 to 45 years old
- From 46 to 64 years old
- Over 64 years old

Time residing in Spain: The time the person has lived in Spain, in accordance with the following scale:

- From 0 to 12 months
- From 13 to 35 months
- From 3 to 5 years
- Over 5 years

Time residing in the Autonomous Community of residence The time the person has lived in the AC, in accordance with the following scale:

- From 0 to 12 months
- From 13 to 35 months
- From 3 to 5 years
- Over 5 years

Registration in the census: Registration in the Municipal register of inhabitants

Mother tongue: First language or language that a person learns.

Languages apart from his/her mother tongue: Languages that a person acquires after her/his mother tongue.

Occupation: Classified according to the National Classification of Occupations 2011 (CNO-11), with one digit, according to the following:

- 0 Military occupations
- 1 Directors and managers
- 2 Scientific and intellectual professionals and technicians
- 3 Technicians; support professionals
- 4 Accountancy, administrative and other office employees
- 5 Workers in catering, personal and protection services and salespersons
- 6 Skilled agricultural, livestock, forestry and fishing sector workers
- 7 Craftspersons and skilled workers in manufacturing and construction (except installation and machinery operators)

- 8 Installation and machinery operators and assemblers
- 9 Elementary occupations

The previous sections have been grouped as follows, for use:

- Executives, technicians and support professionals (0,1,2 and 3)
- Administrative employees; catering services workers; personal, protection and security services workers; retail workers and the like)
- Workers skilled in agriculture, fishing, industry and construction (6,7 and 8)
- Unskilled workers (9)

Level of studies (Educational level): Considering the types of educational levels envisaged in the National Classification of Education (classification of educational level curricula) (CNED-2000), as follows:

Z Illiterate persons

B Primary education

C Programmes for training and labour integration that do not require a first stage Secondary education qualification (over 300 hours)

D First stage of secondary education

E Programmes for training and labour integration that require a first-stage Secondary education qualification (over 300 hours)

F Second stage of Secondary Education

G Programmes for training and labour integration that require a second-stage Secondary education qualification (over 300 hours)

H Advanced Specific Vocational Training studies and the equivalent, plastic arts and design, and sports studies

I Other education lasting 2 years and over that requires a Post-secondary education qualification

J First and second-cycle University education

K Official professional specialisation studies

L Third-cycle University Education

The previous sections have been grouped as follows, for use:

- Uneducated persons (Z)
- Primary studies (B and C)
- Secondary studies (D, E, F, G)
- Advanced studies (university and non-university (H, I, J, K, L)

Alcohol intake: Intake will be classified into four categories considering the amount of pure alcohol consumed a week, considering the following criterion:

Light, from 1 to 175 c.c. of pure alcohol/week

Moderate, from 176 to 525 c.c. of pure alcohol/week

High, from 526 to 700 c.c. of pure alcohol/week

Excessive, over 700 c.c. of pure alcohol/week

Drug use: Considers whether the person has ever taken drugs.

Family situation: Considering the situation of the person the day of the interview, classified into the following categories:

- Single
- Married
- Common law couple
- Widowed
- Legally separated
- De facto separation
- Divorced

6. Sample design

6.1 Introduction

The sample has been designed in order to obtain information on a **national level** regarding the group considered to be **homeless persons**, taking into account both their number and the socio-economic characteristics.

The lack of a framework for the direct selection of the target population makes it necessary to use an indirect sampling where the basic sampling units are **both accommodation and catering services**, which are rendered to this type of population. The demand for these services is used to estimate the total number of persons included in the concept of homeless person.

The criteria used when designing the sample are similar to those used for the survey conducted by the INE in 2005. They are based on the French experience, and adapted to characteristics that are typical of Spain.

6.2 Type of sampling

The survey uses a two-stage sampling with first stage unit stratification.

The first stage units are the *centres* located in municipalities over 20,000 inh. that render their services to the population under study.

The framework for the primary units is the directory of centres, derived from the Survey on Homeless Persons (Centres), carried out previously by the INE in 2011, and whose data refers to 2010.

The centres have been stratified according to a dual criterion: type of service provided and number of services.

Regarding to the type of service, the centres are stratified according to the accommodation and catering services offered, in such a way that, if a centre renders both services, it is considered to be in both strata.

The framework is composed of a total of 532 centres, nevertheless, bearing in mind the aforementioned, and for the purposes of the sample selection, there are 42 centres rendering accommodation services and 426 rendering catering services.

In order to ensure the sample is representative, and since it is impossible to keep an interviewer at one same centre over a long period of time, and impossible to interview all persons who use the services the centre offers, when considering the sample stages it is necessary to bear in mind the following notions:

1. *Survey days*, during the collection period assigned to each centre, with a view to distributing the sample uniformly over time.
2. *Time intervals during the survey days*. Referring to the time interval in which the interviewer collects data. These are defined so that no person can receive more than one service during said period.

3. *Persons who demand the services* on the day and intervals selected. The selection of these persons depends on the information provided by the centres, depending on whether they have a list of users, a waiting list, etc. When possible, the survey has implemented a same probability selection criteria and used a sampling fraction that considers the reasonable number of interviews that can be carried out by the interviewer during the selected period.

The second-stage units comprise the **services** provided by the centres.

6.3.- Size of the sample

In line with the French experience, and considering the difficulties this survey involves, the high level of non-response that could appear, and the impossibility of establishing a uniform criteria for the selection of the persons in the centres, the size of the sample has been established as **3000 services**.

The following aspects have been considered to establish the sample size of the first stage units (centres):

- The survey establishes a daily number of three interviews, considering that it takes about 30 minutes, on average, to fill in the questionnaire.
- The structure of the centres (there are a few big centres and a lot of them too small). Within each type of services rendered, they have been stratified according to their size and the number of days that they are visited during the fieldwork. It will be carried out over the course of **six weeks**

The strata considered and the number of visits by stratum are defined as follows:

1. In centres selected for rendering **accommodation services**:

- Stratum 1: Centres with fewer than 10 services: 1 day
- Stratum 2: Centres with between 10 and 20 services: 3 days
- Stratum 3: Centres with between 20 and 50 services: 6 days
- Stratum 4: Centres with between 50 and 80 services: 12 days
- Stratum 5: Centres with between 80 and 300 services: 14 days
- Stratum 6: Centres with over 300 services: 18 days

2. In centres selected for rendering **catering services**:

- Stratum 1: Centres with fewer than 12 services: 1 day
- Stratum 2: Centres with between 12 and 40 services: 4 days
- Stratum 3: Centres with between 40 and 90 services: 8 days
- Stratum 4: Centres with between 90 and 150 services: 12 days
- Stratum 5: Centres with between 150 and 250 services: 12 days

Stratum 6: Centres with between 250 and 400 services: 16 days

Stratum 7: Centres with over 400 services: 18 days

The allocation among the different types of services has been proportional to the number of services, obtaining a sample size of 1221 and 1788 accommodation and catering services, respectively.

In order to reach the objective of 3000 services, and taking into account the structure of the framework, a sample of 150 centres will be selected. In 68 of these centres, accommodation services are studied, and in 82 of them, catering services are studied. Among them, 130 are different, but there are 20 centres in the sample in which both accommodation and catering services are rendered.

- The size of the sample of centres in each Autonomous Community is as follows:

Distribution of the sample of centres

Autonomous Community	Total	Accommodation	Catering
Andalucía	19	8	11
Aragón	5	2	3
Asturias, Principado de	6	3	3
Balears, Illes	4	2	2
Canarias	8	4	4
Cantabria	3	2	1
Castilla y León	8	3	5
Castilla-La Mancha	5	3	2
Cataluña	18	8	10
Comunitat Valenciana	11	5	6
Extremadura	3	2	1
Galicia	14	6	8
Madrid, Comunidad de	16	4	12
Murcia, Región de	6	4	2
Navarra, Comunidad foral de	3	1	2
País Vasco ¹	14	7	7
Rioja, La	3	2	1
Ceuta and Melilla	4	2	2
Total	150	68	82

6.4 Sample selection

The sample of centres is selected on a national level, within each stratum.

¹ In País Vasco, all the centres in municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants have been studied, according to the Agreement signed by Eurostat.

Since the sample of services (persons) in the centres is fixed, they have been selected with a probability that is proportional to the number of services rendered.

The sample selection does not consider centres that have **rendered fewer than four services**.

For the selection, centres have been organized in each stratum, according to the province they belong to.

The selection of the sample of services has been performed with equal probability.

In line with the different situations, and considering the fact that the persons are the research units selected according to the services they require, the sample has been selected as follows:

- In centres that render **accommodation services** and on the assumption that there were a list of persons accommodated during one night, the interviewer selects the sample of services using said list. The criterion is as follows: If m is the number of persons in the list and n is the size of the sample to be selected, in our case $n=3$, p is calculated as the whole part of the quotient m/n , and a number i is selected randomly, with $1 \leq i \leq n$, interviewing persons who are in the position $i, i+p, i+2p, \dots, i+(n-1)p$.

If a centre, for whichever reason, does not provide or does not have a list, the persons will be selected in terms of the order of arrival or departure, considering the moment of the interview, that is to say the first ns . If several of the persons accommodated arrive to or depart from the centre simultaneously, thus preventing the interviewer from implementing the aforementioned mechanisms, the selection of the n persons to be interviewed will be made randomly, for example selecting one person in each group arriving or departing simultaneously until completing the sample size.

- In centres offering **catering services** the interviewer selects persons by order of arrival to the centre to receive said service. If the massive flow of people to the centre prevents the use of said selection mechanism, the interviewer will once again use the most random manner of selecting persons for the survey. For example, selecting persons whilst they are eating and trying to get them to wait till the end for the interview, or making the selection on their arrival when the interviewer is available.

6.5 Estimators

The characteristics estimated are total, or quotients of two totals, and refer to the behaviour of the population during a typical day.

The estimator of a total of a characteristic $X = \sum_{i \in U} x_i$ where U is the population of homeless persons that will be a linear estimator such as $\hat{X} = \sum_{i \in M} w_i \cdot x_i$ where M is the sample of homeless persons and w_i is the raising factor of that homeless person that is interpreted as the number of homeless persons in the population represented by the homeless person i in the sample.

The calculation of the raising factor of the homeless persons has been undertaken in two stages, first calculating the raising factors of the services sampled and then calculating the raising factor of the homeless persons that have requested those services.

When performing this calculation, it is important to consider that, in order to ensure the sample is representative, the centres selected have been distributed over the days of the week, from Monday to Friday, and over the different weeks during which the survey lasted.

V.1 Raising factor of the services

The raising factor of the services is the inverse of their selection probability.

Since services have been selected in two stages -centres have initially been selected by strata and then services (catering or accommodation) have been selected in each of these centres-, the probability of the final selection is the result of the centre's selection probability by the selection probability of the service in the centre.

The selection probability of the centre c , P_c , in stratum h is given by:

$$P_c = n_h \frac{s_c}{S_h}$$

where:

S_h is the total amount of services offered by the centres in stratum h on an average day according to the framework.

n_h is the number of centres selected in stratum h .

s_c is the number of services rendered in a centre c on an average day according to the framework.

(As regards centres in the País Vasco, there has been no first stage sampling, since all centres have been sampled. Therefore, in this case $P_c=1$).

The selection probability of a service i in a centre c is:

$$P_{i/c} = \frac{d_c}{42 \cdot s_c}$$

where :

dc is the number of services sampled in the centre c , required by persons regardless of whether they are surveyable or not and $42 \cdot s_c$ is the estimated total number of services offered over six weeks, which is how long the investigation lasts.

Factor 42 is a time-based raising factor used to estimate the total amount of services rendered by the centre over six weeks, considering the behaviour of the centre on an average day.

Therefore, the final raising factor of the service i in the centre c is:

$$w_i = w_c \cdot w_{i/c} = \frac{1}{P_c} \cdot \frac{1}{P_{i/c}}$$

V.2 Raising factor of the persons

In order to obtain the raising factor applicable to persons, the survey uses the previous factor and implements a shared weight method. The shared weight method provides unbiased estimates when the sample (Services) is selected from a framework different to that of the research units (Persons).

This method was presented by Ernst in 1989 applied to the calculation of longitudinal raising factors in panel surveys. Subsequently, P. Lavallé extended the scope of implementation to a vaster context in 1995.

Since a person can request more than one service, in order to go from the services factor to the persons factor, this procedure allocates to each person the services raising factor, deflated by the total amount of services demanded by that person during a specific period of time, in this case one week.

The raising factor for the person k , demanding services i is :

$$f_k = \frac{1}{6 \cdot (sd_k)} \sum_i w_i$$

where :

sd_k is the number of services required by the person k in the week before the interview and $6 \cdot (sd_k)$ is the total amount of estimated services the person k demands over the six weeks the research lasts.

(Value 6 is a time-based raising factor that is introduced given that persons are asked questions referring to the demand of services during one week.)

The sum is extended on the services of the sample demanded by person k .

V.3 Reweighting by Autonomous Community.

Given that the sample has been designed to provide estimates on a national level, estimates by Autonomous Community can present high sampling errors.

So as to correct this lack of precision, the sample has been calibrated in order to make the estimated accommodation services coincide with the external figure obtained from the framework, on an Autonomous Community level.

The total for the accommodation services is used, due to this type of services being considered to be requested almost exclusively by homeless persons, which does not occur in the case of catering.

The calibration has been carried out using the INSEE' CALMAR Macro in the SAS code.

7. Collecting information

7.1 Introduction

Due to the particularities of this research, such as the situation of the persons it targets, the type of information requested, as well as the difficulties in locating the respondent, the data collection for this survey is complex.

The situation of the respondents recommends that the interviewer working directly with them fulfil a series of prerequisites that are not necessary in other research. Thus, it is fundamental to find interviewers concerned with the research and with the sensitivity necessary to communicate with the members of this group. Regarding this fact, the selection of the interviewing personnel will be carried out from among social workers, psychologists and sociologists.

7.2 Geographical scope and timeframe

The data collection will be carried out over the course of six weeks, beginning on 13 February and ending on 25 March. Thus, the data collection will take place within the period during which the greatest demand for accommodation and catering services is recorded.

The data collection is extended to the entire Spanish territory, in those centres located in municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants. Nevertheless, in the region of País Vasco, it will be handled solely by EUSTAT.

7.3 Organisation of the fieldwork

The data collection, within the scope of the INE, was carried out by the Tyspa Estadística y Servicio S.L. company, using to this end 73 interviewers and 23 inspectors.

The information collection method has been the computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI). The questionnaire was translated into English, French and Arabic, in order to enable the development of the interviews with those respondents with language difficulties.

For the purpose of improving the collaboration of the selected centres, it has been regarded as necessary to make contact with them through the personnel from the provincial delegations of the INE. The objective of contacting them is to inform the persons in charge of the centres about the goals of the survey, and to evaluate the conditions offered by these centres for an adequate conducting of the interviews.

8. Processing the information

Once the collection of the data was finished, the recording file was generated. This recording file has undergone a filtering process, which has been carried out by the Promotor Unit, in order to detect possible absences and inconsistencies in the information submitted. This process has generated a base operation file.

The processing of the operation file has been carried out together with a statistical software package, which will make the preparation of the tables anticipated in the survey operation plan possible.

9. Dissemination

The results preview will be published on 21 December 2012.

The detailed results will be published in 2013.