

Date last modification of documentation sheet: 05-07-2010

<i>ECHIM Indicator name</i>	A) Demographic and socio-economic factors 4. Total fertility rate
<i>Definition of the indicator</i>	The mean number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime if she were to pass through her childbearing years conforming to the fertility rates by age of a given year.
<i>Calculation of the indicator</i>	Total fertility rate is computed as the mean number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime if she were to pass through her childbearing years (generally defined as 15-49) conforming to the fertility rates by age of a given year. It is computed by adding the fertility rates by age for women in a given year (the number of women at each age is assumed to be the same, i.e. mortality is assumed to be zero during the child-bearing period).
<i>Relevant dimensions and subgroups</i>	- Calendar year - Country - Region (according to ISARE recommendations)
<i>Preferred data type and data source(s)</i>	Preferred data type: - National population censuses, population registers. Preferred source: - Eurostat
<i>Data availability</i>	Data are available for the EU-27 in the Eurostat database. The ISARE project on regional has not collected data on fertility rate.
<i>Data periodicity</i>	Data are updated annually.
<i>Rationale</i>	Basic demographic data. The total fertility rate is the completed fertility of a hypothetical generation and is also used to indicate the replacement level fertility, i.e. the fertility needed to compensate mortality loss. In more developed countries, a rate of 2.1 is considered to be replacement level.
<i>Remarks</i>	- Total fertility rate (TFR) is calculated as a period indicator (e.g. assuming that age-specific fertility levels remain constant in the future), not by birth cohorts. Completed fertility rate by birth cohort (CFR) refers to the average number of children at the end of reproductive period. TFR and CFR differ significantly if the timing of childbearing differs by time or by country.
<i>References</i>	- Eurostat metadata, fertility: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_SDDS/EN/demo_fer_esms.htm - Health Indicators in the European Regions (ISARE) project: http://www.isare.org - Eurostat database, fertility (select total fertility rate): http://nui.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=demo_find&lang=en
<i>Work to do</i>	-