## HIGH INCOMES AND AFFLUENCE: EVIDENCE FROM EU-SILC

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## Abstract

This paper examines the top tail of the income distributions in the EU-SILC 2012 data. Given that EU-SILC is based on sample surveys and split into "survey" and "register" countries, the paper first discusses issues related to data quality, including extreme outliers and underestimation of top incomes. The data is then used as it is to compute several income-based measures of richness and affluence, including simple headcount measures, transfer-sensitive measures, top income shares, and affluence gaps. The last part of the paper addresses the link between non-income information and high incomes. We find that EU-SILC is a useful complementary source on some aspects of the top incomes discussion, and semi-parametric modelling could be a useful framework both for outlier detection and improvements of the estimates of the top tail.

Statistics Finland. This paper was prepared for the International Conference on Comparative EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, Lisbon, 15-17 October 2014. The author wishes to thank Sir Anthony Atkinson for valuable comments and suggestions. All errors remain strictly at the author's responsibility. This work has been supported by the second Network for the analysis of EU-SILC (Net-SILC2), funded by Eurostat. The European Commission bears no responsibility for the analyses and conclusions, which are solely those of the author. Email address for correspondence: <u>veli-matti.tormalehto@stat.fi</u>.