



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

New ESCB experimental statistics: Household Distributional Wealth Accounts

Press briefing

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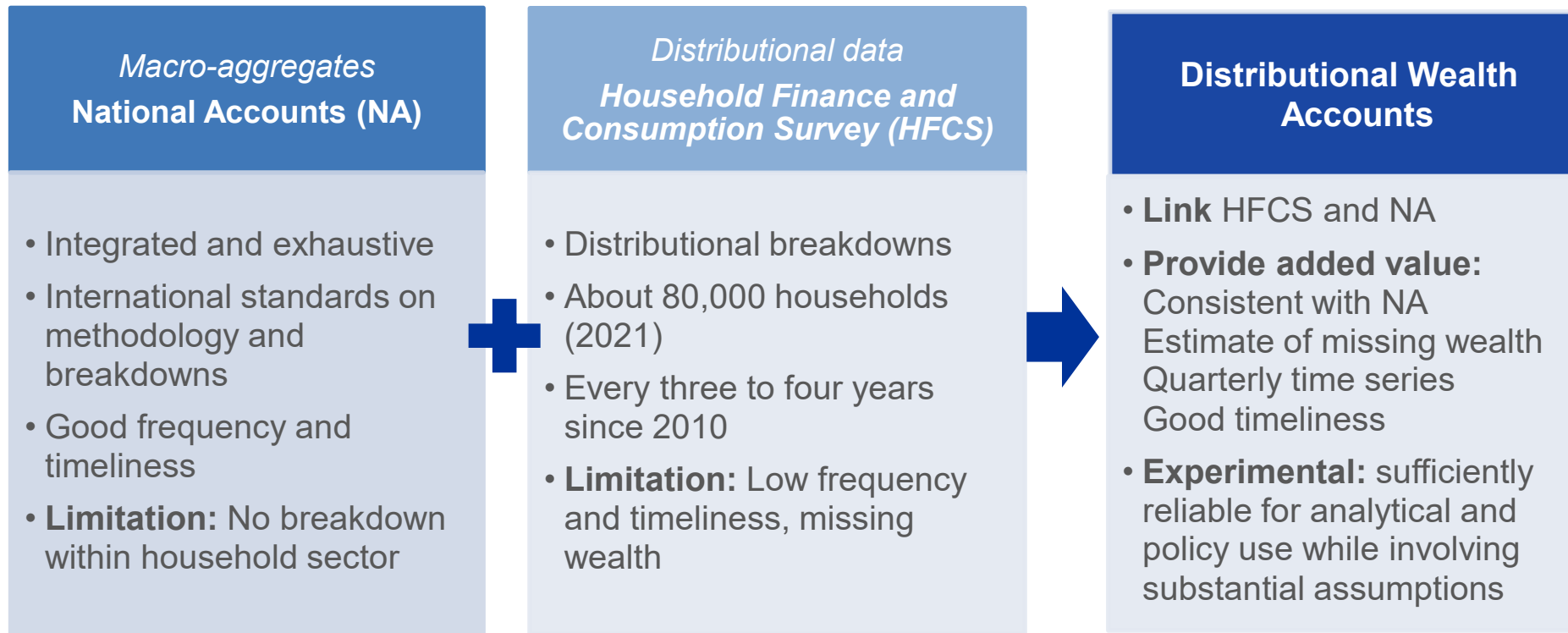
Overview

- 1 Distributional Wealth Accounts (DWA): main features
- 2 DWA - key developments
- 3 ECB publications, data access and visualisations

1. DWA: main features

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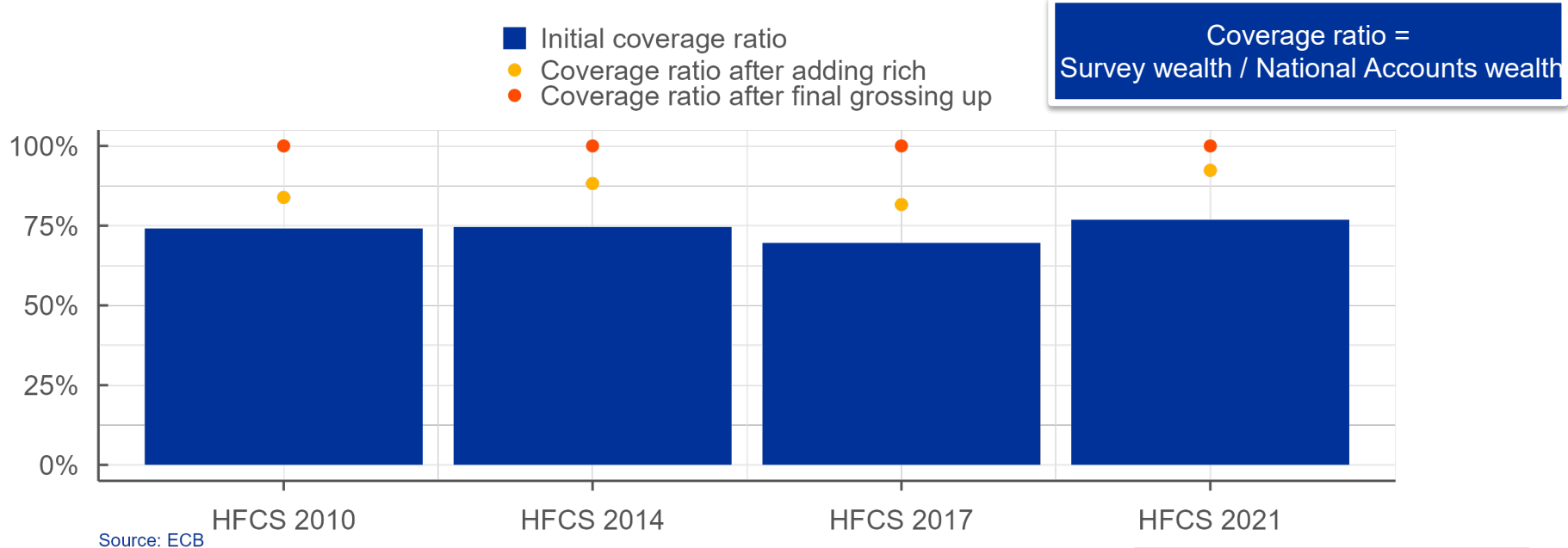
1.1 Linking micro and macro data on wealth



1. DWA main features

1.2 Comparing HFCS and NA totals

Challenge: closing the coverage gap on net wealth (*main assets minus liabilities**)



* See more details in slide 15

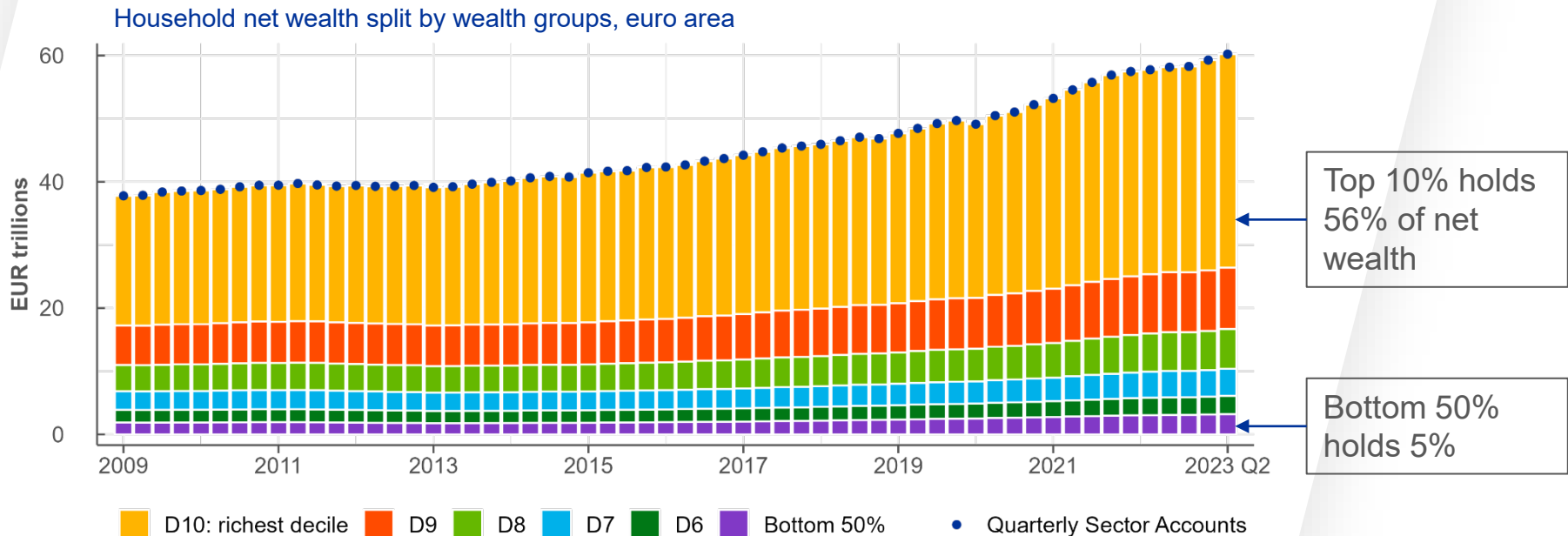
Gap is larger for some instruments, e.g. deposits, and differs across countries.

2. Key data developments

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2.1 Distinguishing developments by wealth decile

DWA distinguish developments by deciles, while so far National Accounts showed only totals for all households.



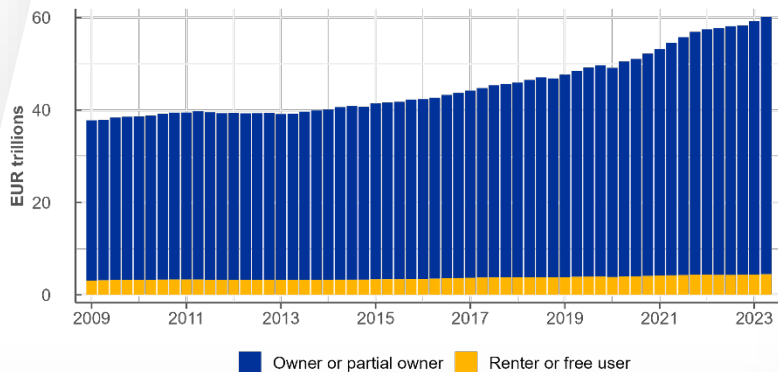
Source: ECB

2. Key data developments

2.2 Distinguishing developments by housing and working status

Household net wealth

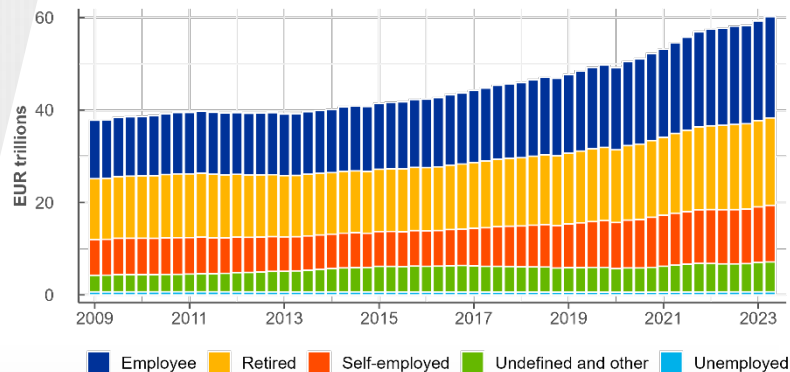
Housing status, euro area



Source: ECB

Growth concentrated amongst homeowners

Working status, euro area



Source: ECB

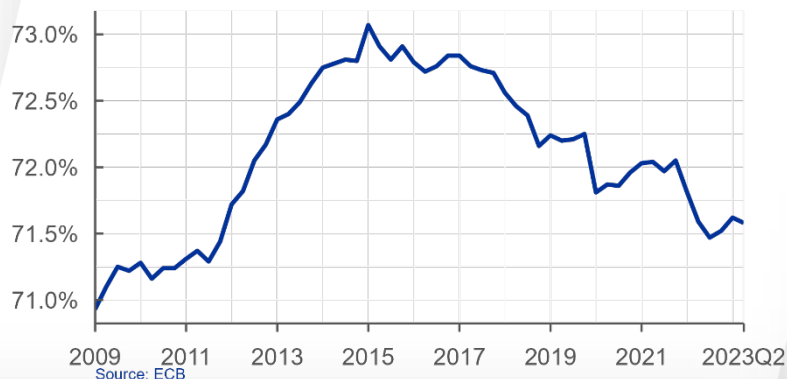
Working status not determinant

2. Key data developments

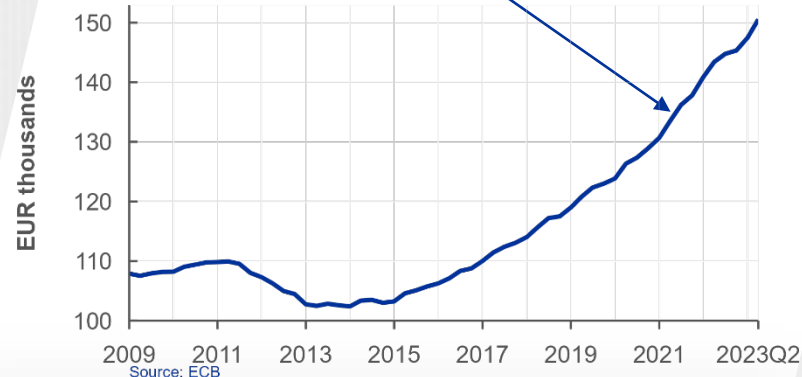
2.3 Inequality and trend in median net wealth

Median increased by around 40% from 2016 to Q2 2023

Gini coefficient, euro area



Median wealth, euro area



More than 60% of households are homeowners and have benefited from the rise in housing prices, leading to a slight decrease in wealth inequality (the Gini coefficient has declined by about 1 percentage point).

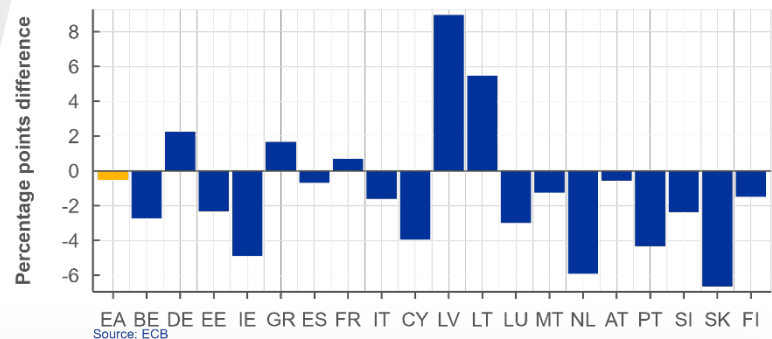
2. Key data developments

2.4 Share of wealth held by the top 5%

Share of wealth held by the top 5% of households, euro area



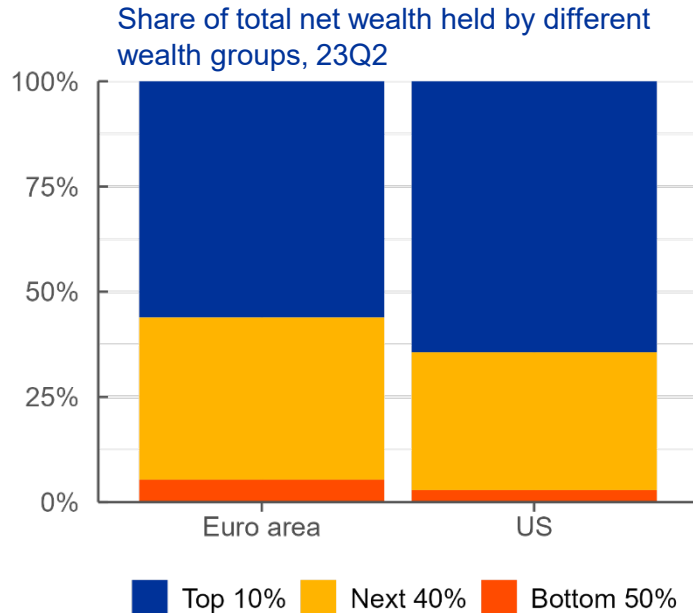
Change in holdings of the top 5% households between 2018 Q2 and 2023 Q2, by country and euro area



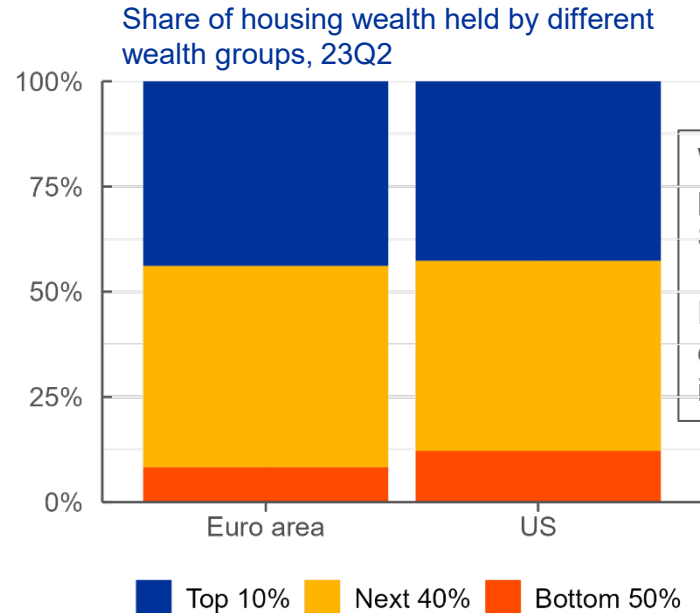
The share of wealth held by the top 5% in the euro area has not increased since 2015, and in fact has slightly decreased in recent years across most (though not all) countries. Still, the top 5% still hold close to 43% of wealth.

2. Key data developments

2.5 Comparison with the USA



Sources: ECB, FED



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Wealth inequality more pronounced in the United States.

Home ownership dampens inequality both in euro area and US.

Note: Data for the US include more instruments: currency, pension entitlements and consumer durables.

3. ECB publications, data access and visualisations

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Access to data:

- [ECB Data Portal](#)



Visualizations:

- [Interactive tables on ECB website](#)



Further information:

- [Overview note](#)
- [Detailed methodological note](#)



Future releases

- DWA is published 5 months after the end of the reference quarter

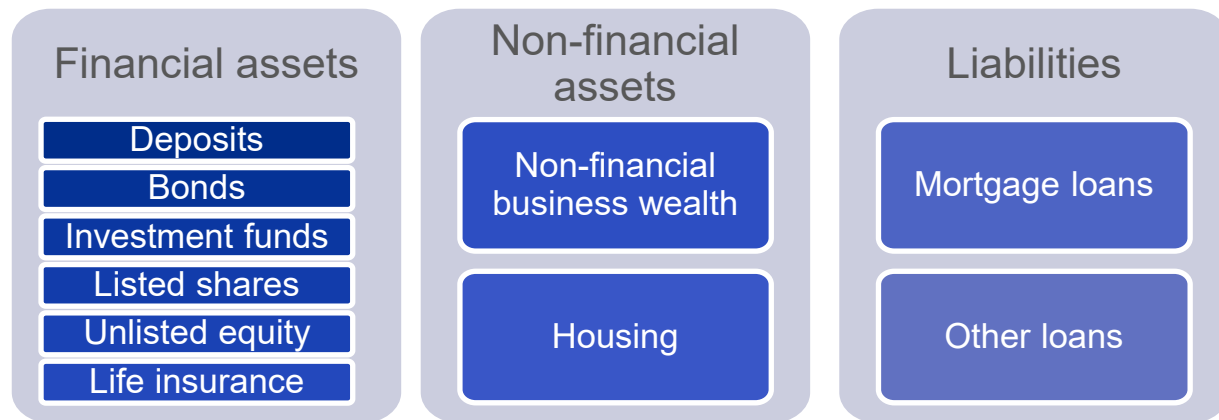
Annexes

Annex 1. DWA main features

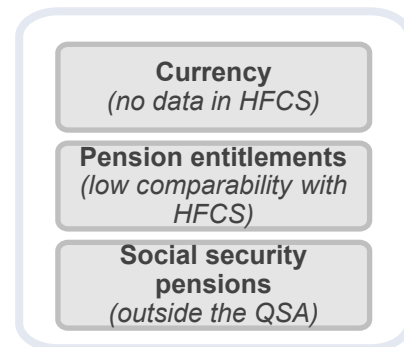
a. Wealth concept for DWA

Linking net wealth items between the household survey and Sector Accounts

Items with high or medium comparability included in DWA:



Items with low comparability not included in DWA:



The DWA cover about **90%** of the euro area households' assets and liabilities.

Annex 1. DWA main features

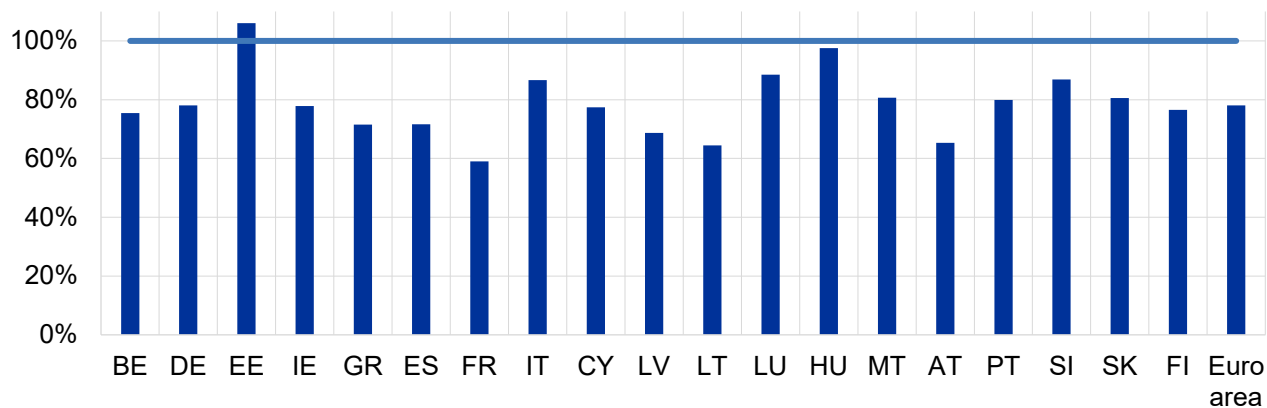
b. Net wealth: DWA coverage of the instruments available in national accounts

Code	Instruments	Assets		Liabilities	
		Included in DWA	Not included	Included in DWA	Not included
F21	Banknotes and coins		1%		
F2M	Deposits	13%			
F3	Debt securities	1%			
F4	Loans		0%	88%	
F5	Equity	12%			0%
F62	Life insurance	6%			
F6O	Non-life insurance		0%		
F6M	Pension entitlements		5%		
F8	Trade credits and other accounts receivable		1%		12%
	Housing wealth	54%			
	Business assets	7%			
	Total coverage in DWA	93%	7%	88%	12%
	Total sector accounts	100%		100%	

Annex 1. DWA main features

c. Coverage ratios for each country (for net wealth)

Initial HFCS/QSA coverage ratios, HFCS wave 4 (net wealth)



Annex 1. DWA main features

d. Estimation methods

Individual instruments (deposits, equity etc.) are matched, with some adaptations

- Concepts used in the NA and HFCS have to be bridged.

The missing wealthiest households are added

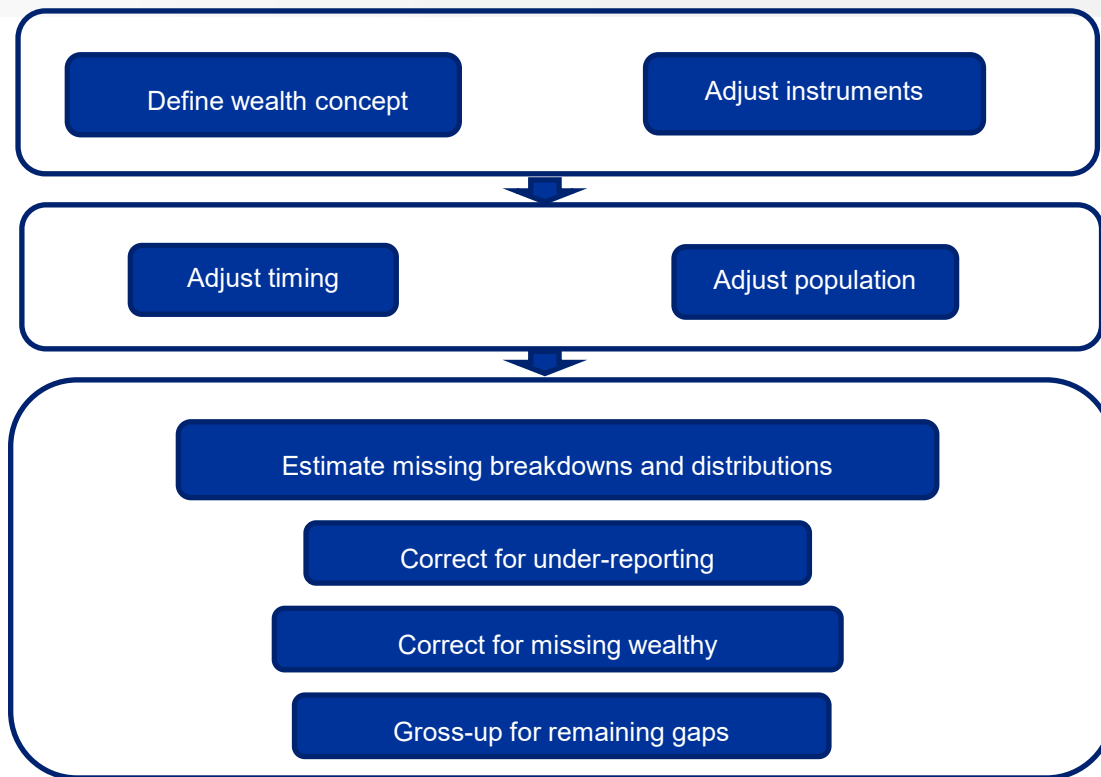
- Household survey results (HFCS) are augmented with (enriched) media sources and “synthetic” households, assuming the shape of the distribution of the top tail.

Quarterly time series are compiled by interpolation/extrapolation

- Captures recent trends affecting wealth inequality (e.g. due to price changes), though not all causes of changes in distribution.

Annex 1. DWA main features

e. More detailed steps from HFCS to DWA results



Annex 2. DWA publication & developments

Instruments, indicators and breakdowns published

