



# European Attitudes Survey, 2002/2003

## INTERVIEWERS' INSTRUCTIONS

### 1. Background

The European Attitudes Survey is being conducted in more than 20 countries at this time throughout Europe in countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The basic objective of the survey is to record information on the views, attitudes and experiences of a nationally representative sample of respondents in each participating country. This will allow researchers to carry out international comparative research into the way in which people from different States in Europe behave and think about life. The broad areas covered in the survey relate to current social topics such as attitudes towards religion; morality; social justice; minority groups etc.

There are 3 documents to be completed as part of the survey. These are the main questionnaire; a short supplementary questionnaire (2 pages) and a household record sheet (2 pages). Each is described in detail in the appropriate part of Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 below. In summary, the three are as follows:

- 1) **The Household Record Sheet:-** (white two-sided page). This is to be used to identify the target respondent in the household approached and to record contacts made with the household.
- 2) **The Main Questionnaire:-** The main questionnaire is to be completed by the target respondent once identified.
- 3) **The Supplementary Questionnaire:-** (a single, double-sided sheet). This questionnaire should be completed at the end of the main questionnaire. There are six different versions of this questionnaire (only one version per respondent). The supplementary questionnaire has been colour-coded for males (blue) and females (yellow) respondents to make it more user-friendly.

#### 1.1 *The Quota Sheet:*

This is the standard quota sheet used in all surveys giving the address of each original household in your quota. It is from this address that you identify your target respondent who can be anyone aged 15 or over. We want you to call at each address on your quota sheet and identify and interview the target respondent in the relevant household. We will be using the 'next birthday' technique to pick our sample from within the selected households.

## **1.2 The Target Respondent**

When you make contact with the address given we want you to identify the person in the household who is currently aged 15 years or more and who has the next birthday in the household. Those with their next birthday in this month will be first; then those with a birthday in January, February etc. Those whose birthday falls next November will be last to be picked as a target respondent. It is not the age of the household member on his/her next birthday which is important but the order in which these birthday falls. ***It is vitally important for the success of the survey that you interview the target respondent and only the target respondent.*** If he/she is not available when you call, try to make an appointment and call back at a time when you can interview him/her in person. If the next birthday target respondent is not available when you make initial contact with the household you cannot substitute with another household member who is available and willing to complete the questionnaire with you. ***YOU MUST INTERVIEW THE PERSON WHO IS IDENTIFIED AS HAVING THE NEXT BIRTHDAY ON YOUR FIRST CONTACT WITH THE HOUSEHOLD. DO NOT SUBSTITTUE WITH ANOTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBER.***

Throughout this survey we are interested only in private households. We do not want you to include those living in institutions such as hospitals, nursing homes, convents, seminaries, prisons, etc. If you come across an institution on your quota sheet, there is no need to approach it, code as outcome code '17' on your quota sheet.

## **1.3 Contacting the Respondents**

You should call to each address on your quota sheet. After introducing yourself give a brief outline of what the survey is about. Have a copy of the brochure to hand which you can use to explain what you are doing.

At all times stress that **this is part of a much larger study which is being conducted throughout all of Europe at the same time.** It is important that we get as good a response as possible. We need to get accurate, reliable and complete information from respondents. Unless we do so we cannot carry out a comparable analysis of the position of Irish respondents relative to their European neighbours.

When you contact the household stress that **complete confidentiality can be guaranteed.** Under no circumstances will any of the information which respondents provide be associated with their name or address. The sort of report which we produce will contain only generalised statistical information and could not be used, under any circumstances, to identify anyone or relate any details to an individual.

## **1.4 The Sample**

The sample was selected on a random statistical basis from the national Electoral Register.

## **1.5 The Brochure**

There is a supply of the little brochures in your supplies. This provides some brief details on the survey. The main purpose of the brochure, however, is to provide the respondent with a name, contact details and a phone number should they wish to talk to us about the survey after you have left the household. You should have a copy of the brochure in your hand when you first contact the household. Use it to help to describe the survey to the household when you first meet the members. Make sure every respondent has a copy of the brochure before you leave the household.

## **1.6 Prompt 'Cards'**

There is quite a number of prompt cards for this survey. These have been prepared in the form of a small booklet. It is very important that this is used with each respondent so that we can be sure that each respondent in each participating country throughout Europe is provided with the same prompting for each question. We would point out that Card F11 which shows the full descriptions of the occupation of the respondent's parents is particularly important.

## **2 Household Record Sheet**

The purpose of the household record sheet is to ensure that we get a complete record of all contacts with the address selected. The final outcome on the record sheet is the one that you will transfer to the quota sheet.

**Date:** is the date of the approach to the address.

**Time:** time of day approach was made.

**Mode of contact:** This is whether you telephoned or approached the address in person. The first contact will have to be in person.

**Identified target respondent:** Although you may identify the target respondent early on in your dealings with the household, you may still need to return to complete an interview.

**Outcome:** should be filled in by you in respect of all approaches to the address.

**A & B:** If you do not manage to get an interview with the target respondent, it would still be very helpful if you can ask questions A & B. However, if you never even get access to the household (e.g. if the address given has been demolished - outcome 15), there is no need to try to estimate these answers.

It is important that you should complete the household record sheet in respect of all households on your quota sheet – EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE SURVEY WITH THE TARGET RESPONDENT AT THE ADDRESS

IN QUESTION. WE NEED YOU TO COMPLETE A HOUSEHOLD RECORD SHEET IN RESPECT OF EACH OF THE 20 HOUSEHOLDS ON YOUR QUOTA SHEET.

If you do not complete the questionnaire with the target respondent at the address then you will obviously not be in a position to complete Qs I to O on page 2 of the record sheet. You should, nonetheless, complete the front page and questions A to H of the Record Sheet in respect of all households even those in which the target respondent does not complete the main questionnaire.

## **2.1 General Points**

One main questionnaire will be completed in each household by the target respondent. As noted above a valid target respondent is everyone in the household aged 15 years or over and who has the next birthday person in the household. The questionnaire is divided up into six main sections.

**Section A (A1 – A10):** These questions relate to Media and Social Trust.

**Section B (B1 – B58):** These questions relate to politics including political interest, efficacy, trust, electoral and other forms of participation and party allegiance.

**Section C (C1 – C28):** These questions relate to religion, perceived discrimination and national and ethnic identity.

**Section D (D1 – D62):** These questions relate to immigration and asylum issues, including attitudes, perceptions, policy preferences and knowledge.

**Section E (E1 – E43):** These questions relate to involvement as a citizen, including membership of organisations, family and friendship bonds and citizenship values.

**Section F (F1 – F70):** These questions include a profile of the household composition, age, sex education and occupational details of the respondent, partner, parents, household income and marital status.

## **2.2 Specific Points:**

**Area code and respondent code:** Fill in the Area code and respondent code (from the quota sheet); your own code number, name; date and time interview began. Record time on a 24-hour clock basis.

### **Section A**

**A1 – A6.** If the respondent answers ‘no time at all’ to A1, there is no need to ask A2, likewise, for A3 and A4; A5 and A6.

### **Section B**

**B28:** Left is traditionally liberal political opinions and right is traditionally seen as conservative political views.

### **Section C**

**C10 & C12:** Make sure you ask about specific denominations, (i.e. Roman Catholic rather than Christian).

**C17:** Tick all that apply here. If the respondent names a group that is not on the list, code to 'other' and write in the specific group.

**C19:** If the respondent holds more than one citizenship, write in both here (even if one of these citizenships is Irish).

#### **Section D**

**D56:** This is basically a perceived percentage of all people living in Ireland who were not born in Ireland. If the respondent says 4 ½ percent, write this in as a fraction rather than as a decimal.

#### **Section E**

**E1 – E12:** There are 12 types of organisations included in these questions. We ask, regarding each of the items on the list, (a) whether the respondent has any links with the organisation; and (b) if they do (i.e. answers 1-4) if they have any personal friends in these organisations. Please take your time with this question to ensure that the respondent considers each one. You must make sure that 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4 is circled in respect of each of the 12 organisations under column (a). You should also circle 1 or 2 in column (b) in respect of those which have a code '1-4' in column (a).

#### **Section F**

**F1 – F4:** These questions provide us with some details of the respondent's household. Please use the relationship card to assign relationship codes to each member of the household in respect of the respondent.

**F6:** If the respondent is still in education, code the highest level of education completed so far.

**F8a & F8b:** The respondent can tick more than one activity in F8a and their main activity in F8b.

**F21:** Please try to be as specific as possible (e.g. if the respondent is a teacher, are they primary or secondary?)

**F39:** If the respondent answers that there are no qualifications or training needed for their partner's job, please write 'none' rather than leaving blank.

**F67 – F70:** These answers are given here for your own information, in case a respondent asks you at the end of the survey. If they do not know the answers themselves there is no need to prompt.

**F67:** The current Minister for Foreign Affairs is Brian Cowen (Fianna Fáil)

**F68:** The current Minister for Justice is Michael McDowell (Progressive Democrats)

**F69:** There are currently fifteen members of the European Union.

**F70:** China, France, Federation of Russian Republics (Russia), United Kingdom and United States of America hold the five permanent seats on the Security Council of the United Nations.

### **3 The Supplementary Questionnaire**

#### **3.1 General Points**

The supplementary questionnaire should be administered to the target respondent at the end of the main questionnaire. It can be completed by you with the respondent or it can be left to be completed after you have gone. If the interview has gone well and if the respondent does not seem to be tired of the process it is possible to run the supplementary questionnaire through with the main survey. If the respondent seems tired or to prefer to break off the interview at the end of the main survey suggest that you leave the supplementary survey. If the questionnaire is left behind, please try to arrange a time with the respondent when you will call back to collect it. You do not have to meet with the respondent when you call back. They could complete the supplementary questionnaire and, for example, leave it for collection on the hall table for you to pick it up. You do not have to meet with the respondent at that time. Alternatively, you could leave it with the respondent along with a pre-paid envelope back to the ESRI and ask the respondent to post it back when he/she has completed it.

There is a total of 12 versions of the supplementary questionnaire, six for males and six for females. Only one supplementary questionnaire needs to be completed in respect of each main questionnaire completed. The supplementary questionnaires are each numbered 1 to 6 at the top right hand corner. The number of the relevant questionnaire for administering to each target respondent is printed on your quota sheet. It is important that you administer the relevant supplementary questionnaire to the respondent. The gender of the respondent determines whether or not you should administer a yellow (female) or blue (male) version. It is important that you administer the relevant supplementary questionnaire number to each respondent.

***Make sure that you transfer the area code, respondent code and your interviewer number from the main questionnaire to the supplementary questionnaire.***

#### **3.2 Specific Points:**

**A to U:** The first set of questions A to U appear on all the supplementary questionnaires. The difference in the male and female versions of the supplementary questionnaires lies in this first set of questions. In the female form of the supplementary questionnaire the questions refer to the female pronoun – her. In the male version of the survey these initial questions refer to the male pronoun – his. This is the only difference in the male and female versions of the supplementary questionnaires.

**HS1 to HS36.**

**HS1 to HS6:** These questions appear on supplementary questionnaire number 1 and relate to time spent with various sections of the media and attitudes towards politics.

**HS7 to HS12:** These questions appear on supplementary questionnaire number 2 and relate to the economy and government and attitudes towards dealings with other people.

**HS13 to HS18:** These questions appear on supplementary questionnaire number 3 and relate to trust in state institutions and attitudes towards the economy.

**HS19 to HS24:** These questions appear on supplementary questionnaire number 4 and relate (similarly to number 1) to time spent with various sections of the media and attitudes towards politics.

**HS25 to HS30:** These questions appear on supplementary questionnaire number 5 and relate (similarly to number 2) to the economy and government and attitudes towards dealings with other people.

**HS31 to HS36:** These questions appear on supplementary questionnaire number 6 and relate (similarly to number 3) to trust in state institutions and attitudes towards the economy.

We recognise that there is some overlap between some of the questions on the supplementary questionnaires and those contained on the main survey. This may cause some annoyance on the part of the respondent. The questions are slightly different, however, and so try to reassure them that there is a slight difference and that there are good reasons for the apparent repetitions.

#### **4 Completed Questionnaires, etc.**

When you start interviewing initially, SEND THE FIRST TWO COMPLETED HOUSEHOLDS TO THE ESRI. THEREAFTER, RETURN EVERY FIVE COMPLETED HOUSEHOLDS IN THE BLUE BAGS. When you have returned your first two completed surveys please continue with your quota. Receipt of the first 2 returned will be acknowledged by the Institute. We will contact you if there are any problems with them.

Please return any unused questionnaires and other survey material when you have completed fieldwork.

**The deadline for completed work is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2003. If it looks as if this is going to pose any problems to you please contact Fergal Rhattigan; Pauline Needham or Eileen Kelleher and let us know as soon as possible.**