



# European Attitudes Survey, 2004/2005

## 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 (3 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 Main Questionnaire:-** The main questionnaire is to be completed by the target respondent once identified.
- 2) **The Supplementary Questionnaire:-** (3 pages). This questionnaire should be completed at the end of the main questionnaire. There are three different versions of this questionnaire (only one version per respondent) – 3 female versions and 3 male versions. The supplementary questionnaire has been colour-coded for males (blue) and females (yellow) respondents to make it more user-friendly.
- 3) **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.

#### 1.1 *The Work Allocation Sheet:*

This is the standard Work Allocation 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 work assignment 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; 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 SUBSTITUTE 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 work assignment sheet, there is no need to approach it, code as outcome code '17' on your work assignment sheet.

## **1.3 Contacting the Respondents**

You should call to each address on your work assignment 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**

You are supplied with the usual brochure. 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 are 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.

## **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 work assignment 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, C & D. However, if you never even get access to the

household (e.g. if the address given has been demolished - outcome 16), 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 work assignment 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 HOUSEHOLDS ON YOUR WORK ASSIGNMENT SHEET.

### **3 The Main Questionnaire**

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 – D30):** These questions relate to health and medicine.

**Section E (E1 – E20):** These questions relate to how people feel citizens and members of society should behave..

**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.

**Section G (G1 to G130):** These questions relate to attitudes towards working inside and outside the home.

## **4 The Supplementary Questionnaire**

### **4.1 General Points**

The supplementary questionnaire should be administered to the target respondent at the end of the main questionnaire. It is to be left to be completed after you have gone with a reply paid envelope and ask the respondent to put it in the post when they have completed it.

There is a total of 6 versions of the supplementary questionnaire, 3 for males and 3 for females. Only one supplementary questionnaire needs to be completed in respect of each main questionnaire completed. The supplementary questionnaires are each numbered F1, F2 F3 for

females and M1, M2, M3 for males at the top right hand corner. The number of the relevant questionnaire for administering to each target respondent is printed on your work assignment sheet. It is important that you give 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 leave 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.*

#### **4.2 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.

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.

#### **5 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 Monday April 25<sup>th</sup>. 2005. If it looks as if this is going to pose any problems to you please contact; Pauline Needham or Eileen Kelleher and let us know as soon as possible.**