

Chapter 3

Measuring social exclusion for the ESS core module

Suggestions from

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3.1 Preface

There is an intense discussion on the role and feasibility of indexes in social indicator research, social reporting, and the related quality of life research. A new status report on indexes in QOL research is in the pipeline, prepared by ISQOLS (Hagerty et al 2002). This report is based on contributions from a series of researchers, currently preparing their instruments to allow index constructions.

The attraction of indices is that they reduce the number of variables to be taken into account in further analyses and to characterize the situation in an area. For example the Dutch Social cultural center was always using one single index to characterize the living condition of people. Jeroen Boelhouwer will present this vision in section 3.1.

However, as we said above, not all people agree with this idea. For example Joachim Vogel of Statistics Sweden is strongly against this approach. He presents for this point of view the following arguments.

In the Nordic tradition QOL research is closely linked to social planning of the welfare state. This applies in particular to Statistics Sweden, which has to give priority to objective facts which fit in econometric and other models, and relate directly to goals in social and economic planning of transfers and services, labour market policy, housing planning, training etc. On the other hand, the ULF survey system, its richness of routine data collected since decades, offers a unique environment for experiments. However, there have been no serious attempts at constructing indexes, neither by the research community nor at Statistics Sweden.

There is no obvious theoretical foundation for such constructs, which could be based on consensus, neither among researchers, nor in society at large. Simple additive indexes without theory will not contribute to our understanding, but obscure reality. In short, neither the administration nor the general public will be interested in esoteric indexes without clear relation to reality.

Given the strength of his arguments Vogel was asked to provide suggestions for indicators of exclusion for the ESS.

There is also a debate about the use of objective and subjective measures of quality of living conditions and exclusion. In order to be able to cover also the subjective component of quality of life Ruut Veenhoven as been asked to provide us with the most commonly used subjective indicators for quality of life.

First the suggestions of the three experts will be presented. Next we will present the arguments of the CCT for their choice of questions for the ESS.

3.2 Suggestions for indicators to be included

3.2.1 *Suggestions of indicators by Jeroen Boelhouwer*

In every SCP report you will find a mixture of attention drawn to domains of living conditions and attention for special categories of the population. For example: a report on housing conditions deals not only with general housing conditions, but also with housing of the youth, the elderly or poor people. In reports on the youth, besides describing the general state of the youth attention is paid to their housing conditions, education, income, et cetera. As said: most of the SCP publications have a 'best resources' base. Because of the different data resources being used, the connection between these aspects most of the times cannot be made. As an integrative tool the SCP developed in 1974 an overall monitoring instrument: the living conditions index (LCI), based on the survey on living conditions. The aims assigned to the study on living conditions in 1974 were fivefold:

1. The first aim was to depict the living conditions as a *single entity*;
In the seventies integrated information was needed for bridging the opposite posed notions of 'well-being' and 'deprivation'. Today again there is a sharp focus on deprived groups in the Netherlands. At the same time, the approach to such problems is no longer in terms of a one-dimensional solution. Improving the quality of life is not only carried out through offering jobs, but via improving livability and social participation as well.
2. To have the possibility to tell if things are getting worse or better, we have to evaluate this index in terms of *positive and negative*;
3. To do so, we don't want to publicise absolute figures each year. An important aim is to identify trends, so we want to create a *time series* for observing changes;
4. To get some clues on the cause of changes in the living conditions it can be a great help to see changes in the separate indicators. So the fourth aim set to the study was not only to monitor living conditions as a single entity, but to *monitor developments in the separate indicators* over time as well;
5. However, in order to explain changes over time we not only take into account changes in the separate indicators, we also use other information. We examine for example to what extent age, income, education and labour influence the living conditions. The last aim was therefore to situate the description of social and cultural conditions in a *broader context* of background information.

The next step in developing the LCI was to determine which areas were to be included in the umbrella notion of living conditions. An important starting-point was that a main task of the SCP is to make policy recommendations to the government. For that reason, clusters were selected that were (more or less) capable of being influenced by government policy. The actual indicators, as well as the variables comprising these indicators, were then defined within each cluster. Until 1993 the term used was 'the index on well-being', a term often associated with subjective feelings or with happiness. Since the index was designed to create an objectified picture, the SCP now prefers the term 'living conditions index'.

Because no all-encompassing theory was available for making a selection, the SCP's decision in 1974 was to choose indicators and variables which can be presumed in their totality to say something about a person's current living conditions, or state of well-being. In so doing, the SCP adopted a position based more on pragmatics than on principle, keeping in view its primary objective of depicting living conditions as a comprehensive whole. We did, however, draw from the experiences of others, in particular the 1973 OECD list of indicators. A number of requirements were set for the indicators:

1. They were to be focussed on '*output*'. The number of dwellings actually built was less important for the LCI than peoples housing conditions, and the number of doctors was not as important as the state of health of individuals.
2. The indicators were to be *general in nature*. The indicators have to be applicable to the entire population rather than to specific groups. So there are, for example, no indicators about working conditions, as the unemployed obviously don't enjoy them.
3. They were to measure *objectified* characteristics of living conditions. Rather than speak of 'objective indicators', we use the term 'objectified' -as the choice of indicators, and the implicit assumption of what is good and what is not, is at least normative. Anyhow, the chosen indicators are not subjective nor satisfactions. This in order to avoid personal preferences and individual interpretations of concepts and, more important, because of our purpose, which is to be relevant for policymakers.
4. It was to be clear, at least implicitly, whether they had a *positive or a negative effect* on well-being. Otherwise we wouldn't be able to tell whether the living conditions as a whole is changing, whether it is getting better or worse.
5. They also had to be measured at an *individual level*. This makes it possible not only to monitor developments at the national level, but to break down living conditions for different groups in society as well.

Taken together, we believe the indicators provide an objectified description of individual living conditions. The LCI is nowadays composed of indicators from eight areas, as can be seen in table 1. This choice of clusters and indicators is, however, by no means final, and has changed over the years. I'll come to this later on.

Relevance of the LCI for policy(makers)

What could be the relevance of the Living Conditions Index for policy and policymakers? Let's start by recalling that the main aim of the LCI is to monitor the social and cultural developments in the Netherlands: is it getting better, or is it getting worse? In this way the LCI is a descriptive instrument to identify trends in the living conditions. Moreover, the LCI can help us keeping track of deprived groups in society. If it goes better in the Netherlands, are there any groups lagging behind, and if so: which groups? This is related to an important goal of policy in the Netherlands: as many people as possible sh

ould profit from economic growth. Ideally, there should be an equal distribution of growth between groups (and individuals). When groups fall behind or do not profit for a longer period, it is possible that new policies have to be considered.

However, the LCI can provide us only with a superficial glance of groups lagging behind and the causes of it. To tell something more about the exact reason of their deprivation, other resources are needed. With the LCI we can point out and identify deprived groups, but thereafter we have to look at other data to come up with a more complete answer about the reasons of their deprivation. That is, if it is possible at all to identify the exact causes of their deprivation. In social sciences it has been proved very hard to identify exact causal relations between outcomes and policies. So many things influence developments in society that providing policymakers with an exact model of causalities is very near to impossible.

Table 1: clusters and indicators of the living conditions index since 1997

Clusters	Indicators
1. Housing	a Type of ownership b Type of building c Number of rooms d Area of living room e Scary spot in the neighbourhood f Year of construction
2. Health	a Number of psychosomatic symptoms b Number of nine serious illnesses c Number of other illnesses
3. Purchasing power	a Number of household appliances b Number of hobby articles
4. Leisure activities	a Number of hobbies b Number of nondomestic entertainment activities c Organisational membership
5. Mobility	a Car ownership b Season ticket for the railway
6. Social participation	a Active contribution to activities of organisation b Volunteer work c Social isolation
7. Sport activity	a Number of times sporting a week b Number of sports
8. Holiday	a Holiday trip in past year b Holiday trip in foreign country c Number of holiday articles

An additional problem could be that not all the indicators comprising the LCI can equally be influenced by government policy. Though this was one of the requirements for the indicators set at the very beginning of the study on living conditions, we succeeded for some indicators better than for other. For example the number of psychosomatic symptoms is on the verge of being an objective and a subjective indicator. The same holds for the scale of social isolation. This is not to say that subjective indicators are unable of being influenced by policy at all, but it is very hard to tell what exactly caused a change in such indicators. On the other hand, this only is a minor problem, for a main goal of the LCI is to provide policymakers with a *global image* of living conditions, with which trends and deprived groups can be identified.

Of course the worst off groups have an accumulation of arrears. Policymakers can judge the importance of arrears in one area different from arrears in another area. The judgement of people who don't go to theatres or to museums (things government subsidizes and likes people to do) might depend partly on other factors. It shall be worse if they don't go out to other places of entertainment as well, or if they don't meet people in other ways, or if they are poor, et cetera. On average, arrears in more than one domain of living conditions are worse than arrears in one domain only.

So, the relevance of the LCI for policy and policymakers can be divided in the following steps:

- the LCI monitors the development of living conditions via an integrated way as well as via various domains and indicators, and for the Netherlands as a whole as well as for subgroups;
- in this way we can also identify deprived groups;
- when they are identified, causes of their deprivation can be looked for (if this is not possible by the living conditions survey, then other data have to be used);
- on the basis of the importance given to the arrears and to the causes, new policies can be found needful.

However, we have to bear in mind that the LCI can only be interpreted in a *relative* sense. We can only tell if things are getting better or worse if we have a time series to look at. This goes for the development of living conditions in the Netherlands as a whole, as well as for the development of living conditions for subgroups. For example: the elderly have traditionally bad living conditions compared to other age groups. By itself this is a not very worrying insight, for –on the average- their houses are smaller, and they are less able to sport and participate in non-domestic entertainment activities than younger people. The situation becomes more alarming if their living conditions decline, or even worse, keep declining over a longer period of time.

Constructing one single index

An important question is how to integrate the different indicators into one single index. While money can be used as a counting unit to aggregate or compare economic

indicators, no such unit is available for social indicators. Just like there is no theory available for selecting clusters or indicators, there is no theory for combining the indicators into one index as well. There are a lot of different possibilities to cope with this problem, such as consulting experts or summing the figures unweighted. One other method is to look at the change in percentages of the various indicators, and to construct an index as the unweighted average.¹ For example: in year x 25% owns a car and 30% participate in an organisation. In the next year of measurement, 50% owns a car and 35% participate in an organisation. A combined index will rise from 100 to 115 [that is: $100 + ((50-25) + (35-30))/2$]. Another method is to define goals and calculate to what extent these goals are met. This method is used by the UNDP for their Human Development Index.

Because of the lack of external criteria for weighting the indicators, the SCP chose for a rather pragmatic solution. The starting point was the common dimension of the chosen indicators, which all contribute positively or negatively to the living conditions. Moreover, a single indicator which correlates better with the others should have a greater weight. Another starting point was that it had to be an *individually based* index, since we not only wanted to follow developments for the Netherlands as a whole, but for different groups in society as well. We decided to *statistically* construct the living conditions index from the eight clusters mentioned earlier. In the beginning we used factor analysis to construct the index.

We now use nonlinear canonical correlation analysis (the program is called OVERALS) to do so. This procedure enables us to cluster the indicators not only theoretically, but in the analysis as well. Besides that, the procedure can be used to weight the indicators. In short, this analysis -which is a variation on principal component analysis- calculates the weights so as to maximise the sum of the item-total correlations. OVERALS also has the advantage that variables do not have to be measured at the interval level (which is an assumption of PCA). Another advantage is that the *categories* of the indicators receive weights besides the indicators themselves, thus enabling us to compare the categories too. OVERALS looks first at the influence of the separate indicators within one cluster. Then every cluster is equally weighted in the combined index; irrespective of the number of indicators included in a cluster. This also is an advantage to previous used techniques.

Living conditions and resources

As you may have noticed, in the index itself there are no indicators for education, income, source of income or paid employment. They were left out in 1989. This change was motivated by theoretical considerations. Until 1989 the living conditions index contained indicators which can be seen as 'output' or 'realised opportunities', like the type of housing and the activities someone participates in. On the other hand the index contained some elements which contribute to *realising* the opportunities, like level of education, income and paid employment. We thought that these elements could better be seen as *resources* which enhance peoples opportunities to achieve certain living conditions (see figure 7 for a graphical presentation).

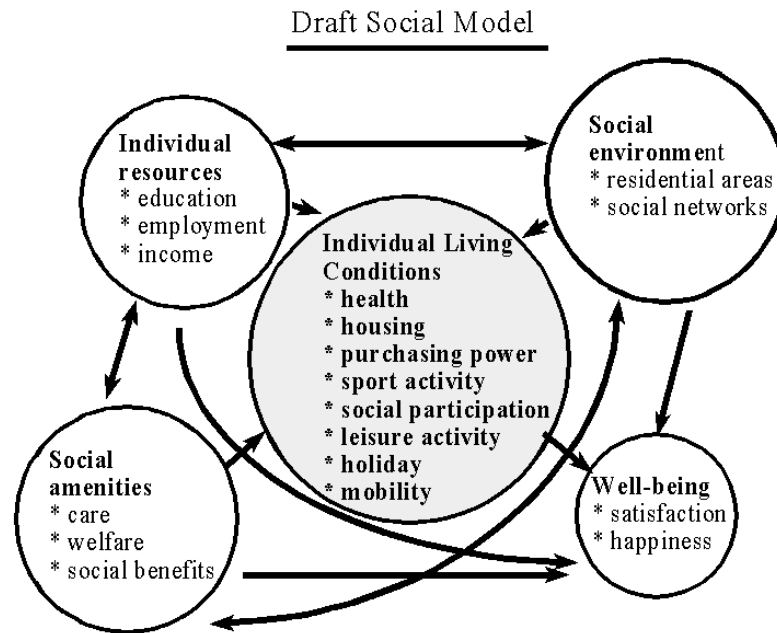
So we now use these resources to describe the backgrounds of living conditions and have removed them from the index. When describing these backgrounds we posit a causal relation: the more resources a person has, the more likely he or she is to enjoy better living conditions. In this way the living conditions index reflects the degree to which people realise their opportunities. This makes it possible to consider if government policy is needed to improve the conditions by which more people can realise more of their opportunities. The removal of the resources from the LCI did, however, not affect the main structure of the index. Without these indicators, the remaining ones correlated in the same way as they did before.

The splitting up of living conditions and resources, and the theoretical considerations that motivated it, now raise the question of what to do with health. From the standpoint that resources create the preconditions for achieving certain living conditions, there is something to be said for classifying the health cluster under the resources. One might argue that good health is a prerequisite for good living conditions as defined by the index. On the other hand, one could also regard peoples state of health as an *outcome* of government policies or other factors that make for optimal living conditions. For this reason we have decided thus far to retain health as part of the index proper.

Objective living conditions and subjective satisfactions

There are also no subjective opinions of individuals in the index. The most important argument for leaving them out, is that we analyse living conditions in terms of policy-relevant indicators. Our purpose is to furnish the government with concrete handles for achieving a desired result. Identifying the exact sources and determinants of happiness would be so complicated, if at all possible, that research on subjective feelings would yield little information relevant to policy-making. But, because of their obvious relationship, we regularly examine the relationships between the living conditions index, satisfactions, subjective health and general happiness (see figure 1 for a graphical presentation).

Figure 1: Draft social model



Analysis of this relation shows that the better some ones living conditions are, the happier he or she is. Moreover, the correlation between happiness and the overall SCP index is stronger than that between happiness and the separate indicators in the index.ⁱⁱ In other words, combining the different aspects of living conditions into a single index is also worthwhile for studying how those conditions are related to happiness.

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3.2.2 *Suggestions of indicators of Joachim Vogel*

The two sets of core variables defined in the ESS blueprint serve different but yet similar functions. The first set of items ("general social and political trends") has an interest in its own right as well as provides a background to the targeted studies relating to selected topics. The other set concerns a fixed set of standard socio-demographic variables ("social structure") found in all surveys, serving to classify the population according to their position in various dimensions relevant to the current topical issues. These background variables are of a general nature (gender, generation, social class, labour market status, family, ethnicity, region), reflecting the major sources of variation in social research. They are "multidimensional", in the sense that each of them measure several types of variation. Background variables of this character are usually designed to classify the entire population, to support reliable disaggregations, and to facilitate analyses of covariation over the entire variable range.

Social class, education, family composition, age, sex, ethnic status, and region are well established entities, and there is usually good consensus over their conceptualisation. Hence, the same type of variation is covered in most surveys, there is a well developed sense for the essentials of such a set of background variables, and the implementation will be less of a theoretical than a technical issue, given the ESS data collection context and demand for international comparability.

In its preparatory work of the Methodology group came up with a third complementary way of thinking about the core module. By adding an outsider perspective to the core module we would like introduce social exclusion (in a wide sense), vulnerability and personal insecurity in various life domains into the ESS standard repertoire. This set of indicators would be useful for the two general purposes of the ESS core module, serving as general background in targeted research, as well as social/economic data in its own right. Among the issues discussed in the methodology group were *unemployment, economic hardship and victimisation*. As I read the discussion in the methodology group, the focus of the discussion was not on these special domains per se, but on social exclusion in a wider sense. In the following I will develop this idea towards a more general approach for the core module, still with the restriction of producing an extremely short list of questions (about 20).

Putting the searchlight on vulnerability, hardship and social exclusion, will move us to **general welfare research** and **the social indicator tradition**. There is a long tradition in conceptualising, collecting and publishing such information in a coherent way in the general surveys of living conditions (usually called Quality of Life Surveys, Level of Living Surveys, General Households Surveys or Household Panels) and their reporting system (social reports), existing in most developed countries. These surveys are designed for *parsimonious* and *simultaneous* data collection within many social domains, and to produce a small set of social indicators within some 10 domains (usually education, social mobility, employment, working environment, income, material living standards, housing, leisure, transports, social networks, participation, victimisation and health). The first international attempt in this direction, and international agreements was made by OECDs social indicator program of the 1970s, including a final list of 39

indicators to be collected by general social surveys (finally carried out by 7 countries). Similar comparative attempts were made in Scandinavia in the 1980s (4 countries), and a number of national attempts followed after 1980. Early starters at national level were Sweden (1968) and UK (1973).

In 1994, Eurostat moved into this area with **the European Community Household Panel (ECHP)**. The most recent comparative survey of interest was launched by the Wissenschaftszentrum in Berlin (WZB) in a concerted effort between some 15 participating countries. The **European Welfare Module (EWM)** is a small set of parsimonious social indicators to be included in already running national surveys, or launched as new surveys. ECHP and EWM are the two contemporary reference projects to guide the construction of the ESS core module. The ECHP will be terminated in 2002, after eight panel waves, which also will terminate many of its time series. It remains to be seen how many countries will participate in the EWM. Hence, there is a strong argument for the ESS to take on the responsibility for continuing a small set of base line data on social exclusion based on EWM and ECHP.

There is plenty of experience of conceptualising and measuring social exclusion in this tradition, since focusing on the vulnerable in all (most) of the social domains was a prime objective for the projects designed in the social indicator tradition. In parallel, we have seen an expansion of domain research, inspiring and inspired by the social indicator tradition, expanding the empirical studies of the early surveys of living conditions. Today, we also have a long tradition in the national Household Panel Surveys conducted in several countries, as well as other (cross-sectional) general surveys. The common denominator of all these surveys is a **parsimonious and regular screening**, plus a lot of experience of developing, collecting and reporting such data. This is precisely what we are looking for.

This proposal covers some 20 items in this direction. Starting from the general social indicator tradition, this proposal is not restricted to employment, income and victimisation only, but takes a wider perspective, also including housing, health, social networks and participation, all within the total frame of some 20 items. The advantage of this extension is a better coverage of social exclusion, which will offer a better choice of background information for specialised modules. Concurrently, this approach will also provide a minimum set of social indicator (social exclusion) module to the ESS, useful for social research in its own right.

These suggestions are based on experience and planning of national and comparative projects, including the conceptualisation and measurement of the OECD social indicator program, ECHP and EWM, and empirical and methodological evidence from 30 years of Swedish social indicator work and social reporting.

Criteria for inclusion

There are two sets of criteria to consider, relating to theoretical aspects and data quality. We are looking for positions which represent states of *more or less permanent disadvantage*, implying strong restrictions or *loss of resources* to control one's living conditions in a wider sense. This position could be evaluated by objective criteria, but given the purpose the ESS (attitudes, values) there should also be a *personal understanding of the marginalised position by the respondent himself*, with its behavioural or attitudinal consequences, which speaks for subjective indicators.

From a technical point of view *objective criteria* should be preferred. Indicators should be designed to support *maximum comparability*. Furthermore, indicators should classify at least 10 percent into the disadvantaged group, in order to produce *a minimum of at least 100 cases* in the disadvantaged group.

Employment indicators

Suggested topics:

1. unemployment history
2. involuntary inactivity/part-time work
3. job security
4. work alienation

Discussion

The first option of measuring unemployment hazards would be *current unemployment*, which unfortunately wouldn't fit our inclusion criteria. First, current unemployment will require a much larger sample than the proposed ESS sample. Expanding the reference period by measuring **the incidence of unemployment during the last 5 years** will overcome this problem. The retrospective measurement of unemployment history is standard procedure in the Labour Force Surveys (LFS).

Unfortunately, this category not only includes persons fitting our criteria of permanent status, loss of resources, and personal awareness of precariousness, but also cases of frictional unemployment, e.g. youth and migrants in transition from education to work, between jobs, between housing location and in the course of family formation. Therefore we need complimentary questions to close in on our criteria. Two follow-up questions should cover the **number of unemployment spells** (which gives a continuous variable) and the **experience of long-term unemployment** over the last 5 years.

This set of questions was included in the European Household Panel (ECHP) as well as the European Welfare Module (EWM), in the Scandinavian Welfare Surveys and many national studies. There is a variation concerning the definition of long-term unemployment (6 or 12 months). The small survey sample of the ESS speaks for 6 months.

Question 1:

Please look back over the past 5 years. Have You ever been unemployed during this time?

If YES: How many times?

If YES: Has any of these periods lasted for (6) 12 months or more?

Involuntary inactivity

Unemployment, whether measured as current status or in a five-year retrospective perspective, only relate to open unemployment. In order to capture all types of employment problems we should focus on all types of involuntary inactivity, also including "discouraged workers" (inactive persons who have given up looking for work) and involuntary part-time workers. In this case the reference period should be current status. This information could be collected as a follow-up question (for persons aged 16-64) of the measurement of labour market status included in the other part of the core module. This general question should deliver a classification of the respondent's current labour market status, including the two categories *inactivity* and *part-time work*. These two categories should be asked about *their reasons not to work (or work on a part-time basis)*. This will add one question, which only will have to be presented to about one fifth of the total sample.

This indicator is included in the Labour Force Surveys, as well as in most general social surveys, such as the ECHP and EWM.

Question 2:

What is your main reason for not working/working less than full-time?

(Want but cannot find a (full-time) job/other)

Job security

Indicators of **job insecurity** focus either on the *contractual situation* (limited duration or permanent/further notice) as in the Labour Force Surveys, or on the *respondents own estimate* of his/her chances on the labour market, based on the hypothetical question that he would lose his job. The latter obviously comes closer to our criteria of awareness of vulnerability. Working on a temporary contract is in fact often a related to highly skilled expertise, which could not be interpreted as cases of social exclusion from employment. Hence, this question can only be used as complementary information to the second concept.

Question 4, as defined below should be used in conjunction with question 2 to summarise all persons aged 16-64 who have an insecure position on the labour market, including persons currently unemployed, discouraged workers, involuntary part-time workers and persons with weak job security.

Question 3 :

Do You have a job of limited duration or is it an employment of permanent/further-notice basis?

Question 4:

In case You would loose Your job, how difficult would it be to find an equivalent job?

(easy/difficult/practically impossible)

Work alienation

Condensing the quality of a person's working environment to the format available in the ECC core module is practically impossible. Instead we should settle for an indicator measuring the respondents overall assessment of his working conditions, which includes a weighting of all aspects. The most direct and most objective single indicator is a forced choice focusing on the reasons to work (the *instrumental* or *intrinsic value* of work). This approach also comes close to our criteria of awareness. This question is frequently used in working environment research, but not in social indicator research. It has been used in the Swedish surveys since 30 years, and was found to discriminate well with other indicators of working environment.

Question 5:

Which of the following opinions fits best with Your job?

You do what You have to do, but the only that matters is the pay;

this is a special job, in addition to the pay it gives You a sense of personal satisfaction

Economic resources

There are five alternative ways of the measuring economic hardship, of which two are certainly a good choice from theoretical as well as methodological viewpoints. In income and poverty surveys detailed questions are asked to build up disposable household income, from which to arrive at *monetary poverty*. The measurement of disposable income is far to time consuming to be acceptable to the ESS. Many surveys reduce this measurement to a simple question (a few income groups to choose between for the respondent), which certainly is much less reliable, and in particular would fail to identify the excluded group (in poverty).

The second alternative could be to go for a consumption-based poverty estimate, using the *consensual poverty* concept to identify the vulnerable category, falling below a certain level of consumption. This would require at least 10 indicators, which exceeds the space available in the core module. This would then be a good candidate for an ESS topic in its own right, which would require very limited additional space.

A parsimonious set of questions would then have to directly address the overall material living conditions in one or two questions, without a lengthy list of necessities. At the national level we have good experience of a standard question on *difficulties to make ends*

meet. This indicator works well at national level since there is a logical point of reference in the national context (time), and a common national cultural expression in place. The same applies to questions on *income satisfaction* (EWM, ECHP). Unfortunately, these preconditions are missing in comparative studies, where the semantic expression (of "making ends meet") is not always fully comparable or even in place. This indicator is heavily affected by individual levels of aspirations, as well as by the general national income level, which also will influence the responses. Hence this type of indicator will not produce comparability.

This leaves us with two alternatives. The first is access to a *cash margin*, which could for instance be defined as the net monthly full-time average income in the European Union (1500 euro). This indicator has primarily been used in the Scandinavian tradition.

Finally, there is the possibility of a direct question on the *behavioural consequences of economic hardship*, which would add an objective element to the measurement process. This indicator has been used in the Swedish surveys since 30 years. This should be our main approach.

Question 6:

If You were to find Yourself in an unforeseen situation, where You had to raise 1500 euros within a week, could You manage that?

Question 7-11:

Has there been any occasion during the last 12 months when there has been no money left and You had to ...

(borrow from relatives or friends to be able to meet the food expenses;

borrow from relatives or friends to be able to pay the rent;

ask for social assistance to be able to meet the food expenses;

ask for social assistance to pay the rent;

give up trying to pay the rent on time;)

Health

There is a long tradition in health surveys, using laymen's self-diagnostic information. There are three parallel ways of measuring morbidity, the first two aiming at a global measure. All three are usually included in larger health surveys.

The introductory question is usually a simple straightforward *global evaluation* ("Your general health"); the second approach concerns *permanent illness* ("any longstanding illness") followed by related questions on pain, functional consequences, debute, medication etc. The third approach is providing a *list of diseases* to the respondents, which could vary much depending on the general purpose of the survey.

General social surveys forced to settle for a parsimonious set of questions tend to favour the first two (global health) techniques. The European Community Household Panel as well as the European Welfare Module go for the second approach, but without the follow up questions. ECHP also includes the first question.

The first approach is usually the best predictor, which is the general experience from health research. There are two variants presented below. Of these three questions the first could be sufficient for our purpose.

Question 12

How is Your health in general?

(very good, good, fair, bad, very bad)

Question 13:

How is Your health compared to other people of Your age?

(very good, good, fair, bad, very bad)

Question 14:

Are You hampered in Your daily activities by any chronic physical or mental health problem, illness or disability?

(yes, severely, to some extent, no)

Indicators of poor housing

The measurement of housing conditions is difficult to condense into a few questions. The only alternative in this case would be to fall back on a general overall evaluation of housing satisfaction. The following question is included in the European Welfare Module.

Question 12:

Please tell me, by means of this list, how satisfied You are, all in all, with Your apartment or house.

(10-grade scale)

Indicators of victimisation

Victimisation concerns the households exposure to crime. The general social surveys focusing on social indicators usually cover three aspects, including victimisation by *violence* and *theft*, and various indicators of *fear of violence*. These questions are standardised since 3 decades (Sweden). The International Crime Survey (van Dijk, Mayhew and Kiliyas 1990) with its detailed screening is of little guidance for a condensed measurement.

The *objective risk* of being victimised is perhaps of limited interest, since much of the incidences are related to special situations (certain professions, work related to security, health care, traffic and social workers) or special roles (violence between young men, younger women attacked by their (ex)partners). Far more relevant are the *subjective reactions* to crime in the formation of values and attitudes. Fear of crime is the largest in the most vulnerable but least victimised segments (the elderly). There is a variety of indicators in this category used in surveys, usually focusing on behavioural consequences.

Three indicators are suggested for victimisation, with focus on violence, theft/burglary, and fear of violence.

Question 15-18:

Have You been exposed to any of the following incidents during the last 12 months?

...violence which required medical attention

...other incidents of violence with no medical requirement

...personal threats

theft or burglary

Question 19:

Question :

Has it happened during the last year that You have refrained from going out in the evening for fear of being assaulted, robbed or otherwise molested?

(yes frequently; yes once or twice; no)

Social networks

Exclusion from personal contacts should be approached by questions on various types of contacts (family, other relatives, neighbourhood, working mates, and near friends). From there combined classifications of isolation and versatility could be derived. This would require at least 4 new questions. Family contacts should already be included in the classification of socio-structural position, and would require no further questions. Separate questions on other relatives and neighbours would be required.

These questions are part of the standard repertoire of social indicator studies (EWM, ECHP, national surveys). Social contacts with working mates could (in this special context) be substituted for labour market participation, which would eliminate further questions. Finally, the concluding question (friendship) also comes from the Scandinavian experience, where it has been used for 25 years. This item is also included in the EWM.

Question 20-22:

How often do You meet (or talk to) other relatives (friends; any of Your neighbours)?

Question 23:

Do You have a close friend with whom You can discuss intimate and important matters?

Participation

The purpose of measurement in this domain should be to identify persons isolated from participation in collective decision-making. This would include non-voting and non-participation (in meetings) of political organisations and unions. This is the base line information in most social indicator programs. Usually participation in meetings is replaced by membership. Participation in meetings should be preferred, since it excludes passive membership. In addition, most surveys also carry a list of other organisations,

which however would not be feasible for the ESS core module.

Question 24:

Did You vote in the last election?

Question 25:

Did You during the last 12 months participate in a meeting arranged by any political organisation (trade union)?

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3.2.3 Suggestions of indicators by Ruut Veenhoven

Ruut Veenhoven suggests to include questions concerning Subjective Wellbeing as an extension of the objective indicators already mentioned. He suggest the following measures:

1. A Single happiness item

Taking all things together, would you say you are:

*very happy
quite happy
not very happy
not at all happy*

2. A Single life satisfaction item (schoolmark)

All things considered how satisfied are you with your life as-a-whole now?

*10 satisfied
.
.
1 dissatisfied*

3. A ten item Affect Balance Scale (ABS)

During the past few weeks, did you ever feel (yes/no)

- particularly excited or interested in something*
- so restless that you could not sit long in a chair*
- proud because someone had complimented you*
- very lonely or remote from other people*
- pleased about having accomplished something*
- bored*
- on top of the world*
- depressed*
- that things were going your way*
- upset because someone had criticized you*

Ruut Veenhoven comments that the last question takes more time but is the least affected by cultural differences.

3.3 Evaluation and improvement of the questions

3.3.1 *Comment on measurement of social exclusion by the CCT*

The CCT thought that figure 1 provided by Jeroen Boelhouwer is a useful starting point for the development of a set of coherent questions for social exclusion. So the idea was to combine questions concerning the resources of the individual respondent with questions concerning the objective living conditions of the individual respondent and his/her social environment and also his/her evaluation of his/her subjective wellbeing. We expected the societal characteristics to be collected in a different way and added to the data file as contextual data.

With respect to the index construction the CCT was, on the one hand, inclined to prefer an approach leading to one or more indices for general exclusion or exclusion in different domains if it would be possible. On the other hand the indicators suggested by Joachim Vogel had the attraction to be used more frequently in an international context as the questions suggested by Jeroen Boelhouwer.

The first issue to be discussed was of course the choice of the domain and the number of questions per domain. About this issue a discussion has taken place between the CCT and Joachim Vogel.

The following questions were presented to Joachim Vogel concerning domain specific indices and the number of questions for each domain.

1. How should we determine the social exclusion in each domain ?
- 2.1.a. For employment there are 5 questions with two subquestions. How should they be combined to one index ?
- 2.1.b. Should we really include alienation in the index ? Isn't that a very different aspect?
- 2.2. For Economic resources there are two questions : should they be combined or should we only make a combination of the scores on the different components of question 7-11 ? If so how ?
- 2.3 For health you suggest to use only one question (12) so there is no problem
- 2.4 For housing there is also only one question so there is no problem
- 2.5 Victimization has again two quite different questions which are difficult to combine. Do you suggest to make a sum score for 15-18 or what ?
- 2.6 For social networks there are again two questions. How should they be combined ?
- 2.7 For participation there are also two questions and there is again the combination problem.

The reply of Joachim Vogel was as follows. The indicators were selected to offer variation and flexibility, and not designed to justify index construction as such. This does not exclude targeted combinations of exclusion indicators, such as 'multidimensional exclusion', 'social support', or 'economic deprivation', but this should then be conceptualised from the perspective of the specialised module, probably with complementary indicators included in that module.

Looking at the 25 indicators on my list, it is quite obvious that 'domain' indexes are not generally feasible, since there is no clear theory linking/explaining the relations between indicators. This is obvious with employment, economic resources and victimisation, as you have noted, while more acceptable with social networks, participation and economic deprivation. I would prefer not to combine the three health indicators.

In summary, let's leave it to the researchers to develop their own constructs. Since we are dealing with a very limited set of indicators we should give priority to the value of the single indicators. The methodology group does not necessarily have to take any decisions concerning indexes.

The CCT was not willing to accept this options and made a second effort. The following argument was made:

You suggest that we measure social exclusion in 7 domains. Within each domain you have specified a number of questions. The reason for these questions are, I suppose, that they are needed to measure social exclusion in the domain. Why should we otherwise introduce these questions ?

Let us look at the first domain Employment. You want to find the a social exclusion group which satisfies two criteria:

1. The members should be in a "state of more or less permanent disadvantage, implying strong restrictions or loss of resources to control their living condition" with respect to the specific domain.
2. The group must be "larger than 10% of the population"

One simple operationalisation would be:

1 ask people their employment status and

2 ask those who are inactive or part time working whether this is voluntary or not

One can say that the people who are involuntary unemployed are the social excluded in this domain.

This is more or less the argument when you suggest the second question. But we suppose that you expect not to obtain sufficient cases in this group. Therefore you suggest a different approach first.

So you suggest to ask :

Have you ever been unemployed during the past 5 years ? yes/no

Then you say , correctly, that this is not enough to determine social exclusion. Therefore we should also ask

1.a How many times have you been unemployed ? more than x time / not

1.b Has any period lasted for 12 month or more ? yes/no

So these two questions are needed because otherwise we can not determine exclusion. This suggests a typology like:

Category	1 unemployed	1a >x times	1b>12 month
1	yes	yes	yes
2	yes	yes	no
3	yes	no	yes

4

no

Then the category 1, 2 and 3 are the most likely candidates for social exclusion while 4 is not. There is still a difference in degree between category 1 and the categories 2 and 3. But we are still not sure even about category 1 that this is social exclusion. For example the unemployment periods maybe several spells of pregnancy or voluntary unemployment because of education.

So a next question to be added could be:

Why have you been unemployed in the longest unemployment period ? coded as Voluntarily / not

Adding this criterion to that of category 1 there is probably no doubt that we obtain still a sufficiently large group of social excluded people with respect to employment.

A third possibility to operationalize this concept is to use question 3 and 4 in some way.

For question 5 we do not see a role in this context.

We give this overview to indicate on the basis of your own arguments that you implicitly and sometimes explicitly are using ideas about typologies to determine which questions to specify. We tried to show that without such an ordering principle it is not clear why the different questions within each domain should be asked.

If fact in the employment domain, looking at my argument, one can already see three different alternatives for measuring exclusion with respect to employment. Why do we need all three ? Why don't we take the best ?

Joachim Vogel replies:

My proposal represents a minimum set of social indicators within a small set of domains (20 items agreed, plus follow-up questions to subgroups). All of them explicitly address social exclusion. As such, this set represents the state of the art of social indicators; these indicators are included in practically all general welfare surveys, and thereby they provide a link to other research. Furthermore, this module provides data -for a welfare research area on its own right, as well as provides opportunity for the other modules to relate to social exclusion and general living conditions. I suggest that we should offer the core modules as a whole as a menu to researchers, and not exclusively go for an overarching concept of social exclusion (a latent variable), and define indicators for this purpose only. There is not enough theory available.

Still, we need to think in this direction of typologies, and there are certainly theoretically logical combinations to be recommended from the methodology group (which is what You are doing); we need not restrict ourselves to one exclusion indicator. So let's look at employment. The suggested questions are the basic indicators used in general welfare surveys as well as in Labour Force Surveys, according to ILO recommendations. These questions provide the following levels and variants of exclusion:

- (0) Persons currently fully employed, no experience of unemployment ("the included" reference group)
- (1) Involuntarily inactive/part-time persons (current status)

- (2) Persons with long-term unemployment experience
- (3) Persons with repeated unemployment spells
- (4) Combinations of 1, 2 and 3, in particular:
 - (4a) combination of 2 and/or 3 (all with 'severe employment problems')
 - (4b) combination of 1 or 2 or 3 (all with 'some labour market problems=B4)

Which indicator will be used will be a matter of context, and vary between researchers. I think the indicators measuring job security (items 3-4) should be seen as a further aspect (exclusion indicator 5), as well as alienation (question 5; exclusion indicator 6). I don't think we need a new question on reasons for unemployment; this opens an entirely new issue which goes beyond the scope of this module.

The discussion ended with the following sequence of arguments:

Saris: I understand that you do not want to make an argument for indices for social exclusion for the different domains. But then the question comes up why we should use 7 questions for unemployment and 5 for economics, 3 for health, 1 for housing , 5 for victimization, 2 for social net works and 2 for participation ?

Vogel: The reason is that there are several subdomains, as well as recognized core indicators we cannot do without. Also note that some of the questions are follow-up questions

Saris :The extreme domains - employment, economics and housing require an argument. Why so many questions about employment and so few on housing. I could as well ask one question about employment: how satisfied are you. Or I could ask several questions about housing: Do you have enough space ? Is the house in good shape ? How is the quality compared with the price ? Neighborhood ? etc.

Vogel : Why should we have equal numbers of indicators for all domains? I would not advise to reduce any of the employment indicators, and neither would I expand the housing section (in that case a much larger set of indicators would be required, which would exceed the agreed number and rationale of the exclusion module (20))

This discussion did not lead to a clear conclusion but at least the different point of view and possible ways of using the social exclusion questions are presented in the above presented discussion.

3.3.2 *Central Co-ordinating Team selection of items for the pilot*

The discussion above suggests that there are characteristics and actions of the individual nations (called social amenities in figure 1) which determine partially the living conditions of the people in their countries. These characteristics can not be measured by this survey but could be supplemented from other sources.

Secondly there are the resources of the individual people such as income, education and employment. Measures for these variables have been suggested by Joachim Vogel and by Erikson and Jonnson in the previous chapter.

Thirdly there are throughput variables referred to as 'individual living conditions' by Jeroen Boelhouwer and some were also included in the list of Joachim Vogel.

A fourth set of variables are the output variables which are the subjective well-being variables suggested by Ruut Veenhoven.

Finally there are also social environment variables mentioned in Figure 1 of Boelhouwer. These variables require measurement on community level and will not be included in the survey but could be added to the survey data connected with the areal code which will be included in the set of variables.

The expert papers on this subject show that the choice of different domains is somewhat arbitrary. We thus felt relatively free to look at some issues afresh. For instance, we wonder whether 'exclusion' from sports activities, certain leisure activities and holidays are even in the same hemisphere as some of the other items that tap more severe forms of social exclusion. So, these domains will be omitted. We also noted that a Putnam-like measure of social trust was missing, as were more robust measures of purchasing power or financial exclusion.

Given this starting point a selection was made of the questions to be included in the core questionnaire for the pilot. Note that these were selected in order to cover the various dimensions of exclusion without an explicit expectation that these would be combined to form a social exclusion index or scale. Both the 3 expert papers and the wider literature on social exclusion highlight the different possible ways of measuring social exclusion, and the different weight attached to the various factors, according to the analyst or the focus of the research. Our intention was to cover the range of factors (within limited number of items) in order for analysts to choose which items to include and how to combine them.

Questions concerning background information on the individual

As measures of individual resources we have to include at a minimum: education, employment and income.

The questions on education suggested in Chapter 1 provide good measures for these resource. For employment we would like to add the following questions of Joachim Vogel:

Q1a *Have you ever been unemployed and seeking work for a period of more than three months? Yes/No*

Q1b *If YES: Has any of these periods lasted for 12 months or more? Yes/No*

Q1c *If YES: Have any of these periods been within the past 5 years? Yes/No*

If employed full or part time

Q2 *If you lost your job for some reason, how difficult would it be for you to find an acceptable replacement job within three months? Would it be...
very difficult, fairly difficult, fairly easy, or, very easy?*

Q3 *How likely or unlikely is it that you will unwillingly lose your job over the next year for any reason? Is it...
very likely, quite likely, quite unlikely, or, very unlikely?*

We need Qs 1a-c as measures of social exclusion, while Qs2 and 3 should tap job insecurity among those who have not had recent experience of unemployment.

Financial exclusion-

As mentioned above, the CCT evaluated the financial exclusion items in the proposals too weak and suggested to add questions Q17, Q20 and Q21 besides the questions Q18 and Q19 suggested by Joachim Vogel. The set of questions is thus:

Q17 *CARD Which of the phrases on this card comes closest to how you feel about your household's income these days?*

- *Living comfortably on present income*
- *Coping on present income*
- *Finding it difficult on present income*
- *Finding it very difficult on present income*

This question is an addition, drawn from the BSA survey.

Q18 *Has there been any occasion in the last year when you have had to ask friends or relatives for a loan to make ends meet? Yes/No*

Q19 *If for some reason you were in serious financial difficulties and had to borrow money to make ends meet, how easy would that be?
Very difficult, quite difficult, neither easy nor difficult, quite easy, very easy.*

Q20 *Has there been any occasion in the last year when you have had to delay paying bills because you had no money available to pay them?*

These questions are about financial exclusion of a very severe kind. They are of the sort that most measures of social exclusion across Europe tend to include.

- Q21 *Looking back over your life, how often have there been times when you would say you were living in poverty by the standards of that time?*
Never, rarely, occasionally, often

Questions concerning Living conditions

The SCP suggested to include the following aspects: health, housing and security, purchasing power, sports activities, social participation, leisure activities, holidays and mobility. We will specify only questions for the domains: health, housing and security, purchasing power, social participation and mobility. We suggest the following questions for these aspects.

Health

- Q4 *How is your health in general?*
Very good, good, fair, bad, or very bad?

This is the Standard question of epidemiologists and the best predictor of objective health

- Q5 *Are you hampered in your activities by any longstanding illness, or disability, infirmity or mental health problem?*
Yes a lot, Yes to some extent, No

Housing

- Q6 *How many bedrooms and living rooms does your household occupy in total?*

We will thus be able to calculate the number of people per room. We omitted one of the two questions proposed, believing that satisfaction is a poor measure of exclusion compared to an objective measure of housing density. Satisfaction measures in contrast are inversely related to expectations, which are in turn inversely related to chronological age.

Security

- Q7 *Have you or your household been the victim of theft, burglary or assault in the last 5 years?*
- Q8 *How safe do you – or would you - feel walking alone in this area after dark?*
Very unsafe, quite unsafe, quite safe or very safe

This last questions is a proposed addition

Social/personal networks -

- Q9 *How often do you meet **socially** with friends, relatives and work colleagues?
Every day, several times a week, once a week, several times a month, once a month, less often, never*
- Q10 *Do you have a friend or relative with whom you can discuss intimate and personal matters? Yes/No*
- Q11 *How often, if at all, do you participate in the activities or use the facilities of any club, society or association not related to your work?
Every day, several times a week, once a week, several times a month, once a month, less often, never*

Mobility

- Q12 *Do you or does anyone in your household have regular use of a car? Yes/No*

Again we have omitted one item here, believing it to be only spuriously related to social exclusion.

- Q15 *Compared to other people in your age group, how often do you take part in the social life and social activities around here?*
- Much less than most*
- Less than most*
- About the same*
- More than most*
- Much more than most*

This last question is on (perceived social isolation and will be combined with others in a possible index of social exclusion.

Subjective variables

As output variables we suggest to use the Putnam items of social trust and the standard subjective wellbeing question:

Social trust

- Q13 *Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? Most people can be trusted/ Can't be too careful*
- Q14 *Do you think that most people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance, or would they try to be fair? Try to take advantage/ try to be fair*

Although subjective measures, these two questions are key ones in the Putnam literature on social capital, the lack of which can be construed as an important form of social exclusion.

Subjective well being

- Q16 *Taken all together, how would you say things are these days – are you very happy, fairly happy or not too happy?*

This is the US GSS version of the so-called 'happiness' question that has been widely used internationally.

3.3.3 *Post-pilot discussions*

The CCT decided that only two sets of questions of the exclusion part had to be tested in detail in the pilot study: measures of frequencies of contacts and the social trust questions. The first set was evaluated in order to evaluate how the frequencies could be asked given the discussion in the methodological literature (Schwartz et al*). The second set was tested in detail because we were convinced that the dichotomous scale which was normally used for this questions was not the best method. The following results have been obtained.

The measurement of frequencies of contacts

To measure the frequency of the different activities three methods have been used. The first method specifies 7 categories with numeric specification of the activity in the categories (B7, F1 and F3). These frequencies are ordered from every day (1) to never (7). The second measure (L1 to L3) uses also 7 categories but with verbal category labels and ordered from never (1) to very often (7). Finally, the third method (L4-L6) uses again a 7 points category scale but now the category labels are again numeric and ordered from never (1) to every day (7).

All three measures have been presented to the respondents in the main questionnaire by the interviewer.

The quality of these different methods is presented below. Since the method effects are very small and nearly the same, only the reliabilities are presented.

Reliabilities Method	Internet		family/friends		Organizations/clubs	
	NL	GB	NL	GB	NL	GB
Numeric 7 cat	.98	.95	.79	.66	.85	.80
Verbal 7 cat	.94	.97	.76	.85	.88	.93
Numeric 7 cat	.99	.98	.80	.87	.94	.97

In both countries for all three topics the last method is the best one which is a 7 point numeric scale going from a low frequency to a high frequency. Although this is true the differences with the verbal scale going from low to high are not very large. Partially this may be due to the fact that these questions were asked very quickly after each other. However we should mention also that this result is in agreement with the result of the test of another variable where also the method with numeric labels turned out to be the best (Saris and Gallhofer 2002).

Before to make a recommendation we checked if the preferred measures also had the expected relationships with other variables. We expected the frequency of internet use to go together with education; the frequency of contact with family and friends should vary with the importance of family and friends and the frequency of participation in organizations should go together with membership of such organizations (we chose a sports club). The data showed that the expected relationships are indeed present in the British as well as the Dutch data as shown in the next table.

Relationship between		frequency of contact with		
and		Internet	family/ friends	organizations/clubs
education	GB	.325		
	NL	.271		
Importance Friends	GB		.119	
	NL		.159	
Doing sport	GB			.322
	NL			.368

All these expected relationships are significantly different from zero even though we did not correct for measurement error. These results support the validity of these measures.

Conclusion: On the basis of these results we recommend for the first round of the ESS to use the numeric 7 point scale with the scores going from low to high in the main questionnaire.

The measurement of social trust

For the measurement of social trust three questions are used. The first concerns whether one can trust people or has to be careful. The second questions asks whether people are fair or will try to take advantage. The third concerns the question whether people try to help or only look for themselves. These judgments are asked using three different methods. The first method requires judgements on a bipolar 11 point scale (C15,C16,C17). The second requests in the drop off form judgements on a bipolar 5 point scale (N16.N17,N18). The third method asks judgements in a forced choice format with only two categories (N47,N48,N49). In the British pilot two versions of the questionnaire were used. The first version of the main questionnaire provided show cards for the 11 point scales while the second version did not. In that case the full instruction was given by the interviewer and no show card was used at all. Given this situation in the table evaluating the quality of the different measures two British questionnaires are presented and one Dutch questionnaire.

Reliability and validity of the social trust measures

	Trust-careful			Fair-take advantage			Helpful-Selfish		
	NL	GB1	GB2	NL	GB1	GB2	NL	GB1	GB2
Reliability									
11 pts cat	.89	.80	.81	.84	.77	.86	.73	.85	.79
5 pts cat	.91	.96	.90	.93	.85	.80	.90	.85	.88
2 pts cat	.88	.75	.83	.84	.79	.79	.81	.82	.83
Validity									
11pts cat	.92	.94	.93	.91	.93	.93	.88	.94	.92
5 pts cat	.96	.93	.87	.96	.91	.83	.96	.91	.86

2 pts cat	.90	.89	.92	.89	.90	.91	.89	.91	.92
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This table shows that the forced choice two point scale is definitely worse in both countries than the 5 or 11 point scale with respect to validity while often the validity is the lowest i.e. the same as saying that the method effect is the largest. The evaluation of the 11 and 5 point scale is not so easy. One problem is that for an unclear reason the validity of the 5 point scale is lower in version 2 than in version 1 in Britain even though the questions were exactly the same and the administration (self completion) is also the same. If we ignore this point the validity of the 5 point scale is systematically lower than the validity of the 11 point scale in Britain but the opposite is true for the Dutch sample. With respect to the reliability the 5 point scale is better in the Dutch sample and also most of the time in the British samples.

This result is a bit in contradiction to our expectations and previous results with respect to the effect of the number of categories (Andrews 1984, Scherpenzeel and Saris 1997, Corten and Saris 2002) and the results for the measurement of satisfaction (Saris and Gallhofer 2002). A possible explanation could be that other factors on which the measures using the different methods vary. The most likely explanation is that the mode of administration has reduced the expected difference. Possible factors are: self administration of the questions, the number of fixed reference points. These factors have been reported in previous studies (Scherpenzeel and Saris 1997, Corten and Saris 2002) to have a positive effect on the reliability. Saris and Gallhofer (2003) mention that a long scale, like an 11 point scale, requires fixed reference points otherwise there is too much variation in response functions across respondents which will look as lack of reliability.

Finally the table does not show a clear difference between the version 1 and 2 of the 11 point scale. The difference was that in version 1 show cards were used while this was not the case in version 2. The table shows that at least with respect to reliability and validity there are no significant differences between the two versions. So far we can not make a strong case pro or con the use of show cards. We will come to this question in the next section.

Conclusion: For the time being we would suggest to keep the measurement of social trust in the main questionnaire the same as it was in the pilot projects i.e. a 11 point scale.

3.4 Final selection of items for Round 1

As a result of the pilot analysis, and reviewing the overall length of the core questionnaire, the following items were included in the core questionnaire. As outlined in section 3.5, the items were selected in order to cover the various dimensions of exclusion without an explicit expectation that these would be combined to form a social exclusion index or scale. Our intention was to cover the range of factors (within limited number of items) in order for analysts to choose which items to include and how to combine them.

For items involving subjective judgments, 11 point scales with labels at the end points were used, with the most negative value label placed at 0 and the most positive value label at 10. This scale was chosen on the basis of the results of the pilot studies and previous studies by Andrews (1984) and Scherpenzeel and Saris (1997).

The items in the questionnaire are included below.

- A8 **CARD 3:** *Using this card, generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful¹ in dealing with people? Please tell me on a score of 0 to 10, where 0 means you can't be too careful and 10 means that most people can be trusted.*

<i>You can't be too careful</i>											<i>Most people can be trusted</i>	<i>(Don't know)</i>
00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	88	

- A9 **CARD 4:** *Using this card, do you think that most people would try to take advantage² of you if they got the chance, or would they try to be fair?*

<i>Most people would try to take advantage of me</i>											<i>Most people would try to be fair</i>	<i>(Don't know)</i>
00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	88	

- A10 **CARD 5:** *Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful³ or*

¹ "Can't be too careful": need to be wary or always somewhat suspicious

² "Take advantage": exploit or cheat; "fair": in the sense of treat appropriately and straightforwardly.

that they are mostly looking out for themselves? Please use this card.

People mostly look out for themselves										People mostly try to be helpful		(Don't know)
00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	88	

B29 CARD 13 All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays? Please answer using this card, where 0 means extremely dissatisfied and 10 means extremely satisfied.

Extremely dissatisfied										Extremely satisfied		(Don't know)
00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	88	

C1 CARD 17 Taking all things together, how happy would you say you are? Please use this card.

Extremely unhappy										Extremely happy		(Don't know)
00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	88	

C2 CARD 18 Using this card, how often do you meet **socially**⁴ with friends, relatives or work colleagues?

Never	01
Less than once a month	02
Once a month	03
Several times a month	04
Once a week	05
Several times a week	06
Every day	07
(Don't know)	88

³The intended contrast is between self-interest and altruistic helpfulness.

⁴ "Meet socially" implies meet by choice rather than for reasons of either work or pure duty.

C3 Do you have anyone with whom you can discuss intimate and personal⁵ matters?

Yes	1
No	2
(Don't know)	8

C4 CARD 19 Compared to other people of your age, how often would you say you take part in social activities⁶? Please use this card.

Much less than most	1
Less than most	2
About the same	3
More than most	4
Much more than most	5
(Don't know)	8

C5 Have you or a member of your household been the victim of a burglary or assault⁷ in the last 5 years?

Yes	1
No	2
(Don't know)	8

C6 How safe do you – or would you - feel walking alone in this area⁸ after dark? Do – or would – you feel... **READ OUT**

very safe,	1
safe,	2
unsafe,	3
or, very unsafe?	4
(Don't know)	8

⁵"Intimate" implies things like sex or family matters, "personal" could include work or occupational issues as well.

⁶ Events/encounters with other people, by choice and for enjoyment rather than for reasons of work or duty.

⁷ Physical assault

⁸ Respondent's local area or neighbourhood.

C7 *How is your health⁹ in general? Would you say it is ...* **READ OUT**

<i>very good,</i>	1
<i>good,</i>	2
<i>fair,</i>	3
<i>bad,</i>	4
<i>or, very bad?</i>	5
	(Don't know) 8

C8 *Are you hampered¹⁰ in your daily activities in any way by any longstanding illness, or disability, infirmity or mental health problem?* **PROMPT IN RELATION TO PRECODES.**

	Yes a lot	1
	Yes to some extent	2
	No	3
	(Don't know)	8

F31 **CARD 57** *Which of the descriptions on this card comes closest to how you feel¹¹ about your household's income nowadays?*

	<i>Living comfortably on present income</i>	1
	<i>Coping on present income</i>	2
	<i>Finding it difficult on present income</i>	3
	<i>Finding it very difficult on present income</i>	4
	(Don't know)	8

⁹ Physical and mental health.

¹⁰ "Hampered" = limited, restricted in your daily activities

¹¹ "Feel": 'describe', 'view' or 'see'.

F32 CARD 58 *If for some reason you were in serious financial difficulties and had to borrow money to make ends meet¹², how difficult¹³ or easy would that be? Please use this card.*

<i>Very difficult</i>	1
<i>Quite difficult</i>	2
<i>Neither easy nor difficult</i>	3
<i>Quite easy</i>	4
<i>Very easy</i>	5
<i>(Don't know)</i>	8

Additional questions on employment status and income in the core demographics (section F) could also be used in analysis.

ⁱ See for example the Pierce Quality of Life Benchmark Project and the Quality of Life Index as used in Ontario.

ⁱⁱ See Boelhouwer and Stoop (1999, p 62).

¹² "To make ends meet": cover the costs of everything you need to pay.

¹³ Easy or difficult in any sense.