



ADMINISTRATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONNAIRE IN R4

As in Round 3, the ESS Supplementary Questionnaire contains two sets of items. It begins with the 21-item Schwartz Scale of Human Values which is proving to be of such excellent analytical value. There then follow a small number of test questions devised by ESADE in consultation with City in order to test different wordings or approaches to measuring the same variables. These methods experiments are an integral part of the ESS, designed to inform future question design both in the ESS itself and more widely. There are three different versions of the test questions, each administered to a split ballot of one third of respondents.

In Round 4 all countries will use the same experimental design. The only difference allowed is that some countries prefer to administer this part of the ESS face-to-face and others by self-completion, and this choice remains. But the decision is to be taken and communicated in advance (see below).

- So, all countries will field three versions of the supplementary questionnaire (whether face-to-face or self-completion) to a different group of respondents (see below). Each version will contain the same 21-point Schwartz scale of human values, followed by a DIFFERENT variant of the 12 test questions
- As in Round 3, a split-ballot design is to be carried out, dividing the sample into three RANDOM SUB-GROUPS (A, B, and C), each of whom will get the appropriate version of the Supplementary Questionnaire. Thus, no single respondent will ever be required to answer more than 12 test questions (plus the Schwartz scale).

The CCT have produced six different versions of the Supplementary Questionnaire – Versions F-2-F A, F-2-F B, and F-2-F C (face-to-face), and Versions S-C A, S-C B and S-C C (self-completion). **Each country will request in advance EITHER the three face-to-face versions OR the three self completion versions. As noted, this is not for interviewers to decide, but for NCs (with survey houses) to determine in advance for each country.**

Occasionally respondents in countries using the self-completion method may in fact require interviewer help in administering the questions (say because of poor sight or literacy problems). **In these exceptional circumstances only**, interviewers would use the same self-completion version and would complete it with the respondent. This will be recorded in the interviewer questionnaire.

ACTION POINTS:

1. NCs will consult and decide as soon as possible (if they have not already done so) whether the Round 4 Supplementary Questionnaire is to be administered in their country by face-to-face or self-completion methods, and they will inform London accordingly.
2. As in R3, NCs will inform City in advance of their proposed method of randomly splitting the sample into Groups A, B and C for the Supplementary Questionnaire. Please e-mail ESS@City.ac.uk
3. City will send the appropriate three versions (face-to-face or self-completion) to each NC for translation, etc.

Note that where a self-completion methodology is employed the evidence suggests that a significantly higher response rate is achieved if the interviewer waits whilst the respondent completes the questionnaire. Furthermore from a methodological perspective it is best if the time between completion of the main and supplementary interviews is as short as possible (and ideally if the supplementary is completed immediately after the main interview).

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