Standard Questions

The following questions are sent by the secretariat to organisations which express interest in joining the ISSP. The questions assume that such organisations already have an annual survey series of some sort in operation, to which they will be able to add the ISSP module. If this is not the case, the institutes are asked to indicate how they plan to fund and organise the data collection.

The questions are:

1. What background demographic and social or economic variables does your questionnaire contain?

2. Are you prepared to extend these if necessary to make them comparable with the other ISSP countries?

3. Is your sampling method a full probability method (**please note that ISSP requires that participating members not use substitution in their sampling and field procedures**)?

4. How is it designed? Please fill in the form on the next page.

5. What is the planned achieved sample size and expected response rate?

6. Will your data be deposited in a national Social Science Archive and, if so, after how long?

7. If not, is it freely available to social science users?

8. Are you prepared to deposit it centrally with the International Social Survey Programme's archive, GESIS Data Archive and Data Analysis, Cologne (Köln)?

9. How secure is your funding and where does it come from? (There is no central ISSP funding.)

10. To what extent is your survey series a continuous one?

11.If your survey is funded from year to year, will you be able to fund a postal survey in the years where funding is absent?

12. Will you be willing to replicate the modules that we agree upon, subject, of course, to your being able to add whatever national questions you wish at the end of the module?

13. Are you willing to accept English as the official language of drafting and discussion?

14. Please read the ISSP Working Principles.
Are you prepared to participate in the ISSP according to the Working Principles and it's Appendices?

Sampling design

Please note that ISSP guidelines requires full probability sampling with no substitution

Target Population, Population coverage, Geographic coverage	

Sampling frame (areas, starting points, registers)	
Remark (problems, deviations, modifications)	

Sampling design (sampling stages, clusters, primary/secondary sampling units, selection procedures)	
Remark (problems, deviations, modifications)	

Sample size (gross sample size, expected net sample size)	

Special Features of the design (unequal sampling probabilities etc.)	

Example: Sampling design - just to illustrate what is expected from you

Target Population, Population coverage, Geographic coverage	Persons 18 years or older who are resident within private households in Cntry, regardless of nationality and citizenship, language or legal status. Homeless and institutional populations are excluded. Islands in region W excluded.

Sampling frame (areas, starting points, registers)	Area-based sampling, using frame of area units constructed from 1999 Cntry Census
Remark (problems, deviations, modifications)	

Sampling design (sampling stages, clusters, primary/secondary sampling units, selection procedures)	Stratified three-stage probability sampling stages: area units, households, persons. Stage 1: Area units (PSUs) are sorted into 106 strata. Greater Capitol is divided into 18 geographical strata, Greater NextCity into 9, and the rest of Cntry into 89 strata, defined by degree of urbanisation (up to 6 categories) and region (10 regions). Sample size is allocated to strata in proportion to the (Census) number of households. The sample size is then divided into PSUs, based on 5 to 8 sample households per PSU (fixed within strata). Within each stratum, PSUs are randomly selected, and total number of sampled PSUs is 400. In addition, extra PSUs are selected in Greater Capitol. Stage 2: Within each sampled area unit, interviewers make a complete listing of all resident households (dwellings/ doors). For all towns and cities (67% of PSUs), the interviewer will be given a Census map clearly showing the area unit; for rural areas field supervisors will create a rough map and description of the boundaries. The completed listing will be passed to a field supervisor, who will then apply a random start and interval to select households systematically. Stage 3: 1 resident (18+) selected at random using Kish grid.
Remark (problems, deviations, modifications)	

Sample size (gross sample size, expected net sample size)	Gross sample size = 2 700 Expected sample size = 1450 to 1600

Special Features of the design (unequal sampling probabilities etc.)	In principle, the design produces an equal-probability sample of households. The only variation in selection probabilities will be due to selection of a random person within households. Due to over-sampling in Greater Capitol and variation of probabilities in the last stage, a weight will be included in the data file.