



How to become an ISSP member

ISSP membership

The International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) is a voluntary association of organizations which conduct annual social surveys. These may be universities, academic or private institutes. ISSP membership is institutional and country-specific. Each country can be represented by only one organisation or by a partnership of organisations.

Benefits of ISSP membership

- Global, continuous and highly respected scientific network
- More than 30 years of cross-national collaboration and survey experience
- Equal rights for members
- Annual meetings
- Influence on ISSP questionnaire contents
- Influence on political and methodological ISSP issues
- Immense variety of survey topics
- Early ISSP data access for ISSP members
- High publicity of the survey program (over 9,000 publications cite ISSP data)
- ISSP surveys can be either run as stand-alone survey or can be integrated into another survey. It is also possible to run two surveys in one combined survey.

Membership requirements

Members agree to conduct ISSP surveys in accordance with ISSP requirements, both methodologically and organisationally. These are in particular:

- Membership is expected to be continuous.
- Members are expected to participate regularly in the annual General Meeting for collaborative purposes.
- Members are expected to run all annual ISSP surveys.
- ISSP surveys are based on representative probability samples of the adult population in the member countries. Substitution or quota samples are not allowed.
- The target sample size per country is 1,400 cases. The minimum sample size is 1,000 cases.
- ISSP source questionnaires are designed for self-administration mode, but can also be administered in a face-to-face interview. Telephone interviews are not acceptable.
- ISSP source questionnaires consist of 60 questions not including the compulsory demographic variables. The order of these questions is fixed.
- The demographic variables can be asked according to country-specific requirements.
<https://www.gesis.org/issp/home/issp-background-variables/>

- Each national questionnaire should be a translation from the ISSP source questionnaire. As a minimum rule, at least two individuals with expertise from the areas of translation and survey methodology/ questionnaire design should collaborate in the translation process.
- New members obtain voting rights after successfully depositing data within three years and attending the ISSP General Meeting for the first time and within two years of membership.

For detailed requirements please see the ISSP Working Principles:

http://issp.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Rules_and_regulations/ISSP_WP_FINAL_2018.pdf

Funding

There are no membership fees. Member institutes have to fund their national ISSP survey and all travel expenses for ISSP meetings (General Meeting, work groups meetings, etc.).

How to apply for ISSP membership

An application process consists of several steps:

Applicants answer a standard list of questions and hand in a description of the sample design. The ISSP Methodology Committee (MC) will review the application for compliance with ISSP methodological rules and provide a recommendation. If necessary, the committee will ask for additional information and clarification.

On MC's recommendation, the application will be referred to the ISSP Standing Committee (SC). The SC reviews the application to determine whether the institute is in a position to conduct the annual ISSP surveys on an ongoing basis while maintaining high methodological standards.

Finally the application will be brought to a vote at the General Meeting.

Applications should contain:

- Full answers to the standard questions and description of sample design. Please find the questionnaire here:
http://www.issp.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Applying/Standard_Questions.pdf
- A letter of application, details and examples of research carried out by the institute(s).
- An organisational profile for each institute applying.

Further information

- <http://www.issp.org>
- <https://www.gesis.org/issp>
- http://www.issp.org/fileadmin/user_upload/PR_Docs/issp_flyer_print_version.pdf

Please direct any queries about membership and the ISSP in general to the ISSP Secretariat: issp.sec@gmail.com.

