Surveys among deaf, blind and mentally disabled population:

**Some experimental versions of adapted questionnaires.**

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**Expert Workshop:** Protocol development for hard-to-reach and hard-to-identify groups in living conditions surveys to enhance cross-country comparative research

Date: 28th-30th of April 2014

**Session III:** Survey methods strategies for hard-to-reach and hard-to-identify populations - Data collection and indicator building (chair: Tóth István György)
Outline

• Disabled people in surveys?
• 4 goals of adapted questionnaires.
• Specific methods: shorts demos.
• Conclusions.
I will talk about ...

• Sensory Disabled people
  • The Deaf;
  • The Blind;
• The Mentally disabled (slow, learning disability).

I will not talk about ...

• Physically disabled:
  → most of the time, no adaptation needed.
• Heavy Mentally disabled:
  → most of the time, no possible adaptation.
But where are they in surveys? ...

- In large opinion and attitude surveys, the disabled people are technically excluded from the data collection, they are not taken into account because:
  - Institutions
  - Physically unable to participate: vague concept
    - For the Deaf: face to face is impossible
    - For the Blind: only the use of response cards is impossible
  - Mentally unable to participate

- There is almost no specific survey among disabled people, but if so, it is a survey about disability itself or limitations...
Why conduct quantitative surveys among the disabled?

4 GOALS
1. Comparison between disabled and non-disabled

- With random samples: NO
- With additional samples or specific oversampling among a specific population: YES
2. Bias reduction

• It is highly probable that “ineligible” and “non-response because of a handicap” are not “at random” and that a strong link exists between non-participation to surveys and the responses given to the survey questionnaire.

• We consider that there is a high risk that people with a sensory handicap (and especially Deaf) will constitute a statistical particular group on some indicators used in the surveys.

→ NMAR : we want to reduce the non-response bias induced by the lack of these people in standard surveys procedure;

This reduction, if any, will be very light.
3. Study populations with new tools

- New tools can be used in specific surveys among disabled populations.
- Some new adapted methodologies will allow to study populations so far little studied with quantitative methods.
4. Fight against a kind of discrimination

• The strict contact procedure leads to an exclusion of the people with an handicap.
• The general consequence of excluding people with a sensory handicap for sensory disabled people is that they are not represented in the data collection surveys.
• In the use of the opinion statistics, disabled people feel discriminated when results are extrapolated to the whole population, for example.
• Opinion surveys are part of public opinion and there is an ethical problem in excluding a part of the population from the data collection of opinion (*especially opinions concerning citizenship itself*).
Specific methods for the Mentally disabled

- Easy to read language
  - Questions are translated by experts
- Use of pictograms and smileys
- In some cases, it is possible to choose the easy to read version for everyone!
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deaf Web-based (online or tablet-pc) questionnaire with sign-language</td>
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<td>Blind Face to face with braille show cards</td>
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<td>Mentally disabled Face to face or web based with &quot;easy to read&quot; and pictos</td>
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Is it worth it?