

International Social Survey Programme

The entity that has organized the survey and is responsible for data collection - as well as key data on the entity's membership, governance arrangements, source of funding etc.

The ISSP is a self-funding association. Each country is responsible for its own expenses. The international coordination and the data archive are at the moment paid for by the Secretariat and the Data Archive. Meetings are paid by the host organization. Membership is applied for. Only three new members may be accepted each year.

ISSP is made up of several parts, namely:

- countries which are ISSP members
- the ISSP secretariat: This body coordinates the official activities of the ISSP.
- the ISSP archive: GESIS Data Archive and Data Analysis
- the ISSP sub-groups drawn up within the ISSP
- drafting groups for modules
- methodology research groups

The ISSP is in general running according to their [Working Principles](#).

A historical sketch of the initiation and origin of the survey.

The ISSP has its roots in two different surveys: The first is ALLBUS (the Allgemeinen Bevölkerungsumfragen der Sozialwissenschaften), which is run from the Zentrum für Umfragen, Methoden, und Analysen (ZUMA) in Mannheim, Germany. The second survey is the General Social Survey (GSS) of the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago.

In 1982, ZUMA and NORC decided to devote a small part of ALLBUS and the GSS to a common set of questions, centred on issues like job values, abortion and feminism. In 1984 the cooperation was repeated, this time with a new set of issues. These were the forerunners of the ISSP.

In 1983, the Social and Community Planning Research (SCPR) in London secured funds to hold meetings to further international collaboration. Accompanying ZUMA, NORC, and SCPR, the Research School of Social Sciences from the Australian National University joined and in 1984 representatives from the four organizations organized the ISSP. They agreed on four main points: 1) jointly develop topical modules dealing with important areas of social science, 2) field the

modules as a fifteen-minute supplement to the regular national surveys (or a special survey if necessary), 3) include an extensive common core of background variables, and 4) make the data available to the social science community as soon as possible.

Since that time, ISSP has grown to 48 nations.

Internet links to the website of the responsible organization

[The official website of the ISSP](#)

The frequency or repetitions of the survey. Possible explanation of this.

The ISSP survey is annual and has been since 1984.

A description of the survey's content, i.e. both focused rotational and / or core modules of the survey

The key questions focus on the economy, gender and the legal system. Moreover, a number of demographic questions are asked – however, these are not standardized between countries and thus make comparative analysis hard. Each survey also has its own special topic. These have been as follows:

- Role of Government (1985, 1990, 1996, 2006)
- Social Networks (1986)
- Social Inequality (1987, 1992, 1999, 2009)
- Family and Changing Gender Roles (1988, 1994, 2002, 2012)
- Work Orientations (1989, 1997, 2005, 2015)
- Religion (1991, 1998, 2008)
- Environment (1993, 2000, 2010)
- National Identity (1995, 2003, 2013)
- Social Relations and Support Systems (2001)
- Citizenship (2004, 2014)
- Leisure Time and Sports (2007)
- Health (2011)

An outline of the type of sample and the main data collection methods used

ISSP uses a national random sample of the adult population. The sample size is normally 1,400 and an absolute minimum of 1,000 is required.

All member countries have agreed to field a 15-minute long questionnaire once a year, which is added to national surveys. The questionnaire should be suitable for self-administration, but Kittilson (2007: 877) indicates that interviews may be conducted either in person, by telephone or mail back.

An account of the availability of the data to researchers, restrictions on access, etc.

The data are freely available to scholars upon registration.

Questionnaires, English version

The questionnaires are available [here](#).

The countries included in the different rounds

An Excel file of ISSP countries' participation is available on [this web page](#).

Cumulative file

There is no cumulative file.

Publications based on data

The ISSP supplies a [bibliography](#) of publications based on their data, with almost 5,000 entries.

Analytical summary...

Sources

Unless otherwise noted, all information is extracted from the website of the ISSP.

Kittilson, Maki Caul (2007). "Research Resources in Comparative Political Behaviour", ch. 47 in Russel J. Dalton & Hans-Dieter Klingemann (ed.): *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behaviour*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.