"One voice for everybody"

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Forum on Accessibility Data and SDG
Summary

The scientific pilot project "One voice for everybody - possibilities and limits for accessible surveys in social statistics" aims to reduce barriers for people with learning difficulties in surveys.

Timeline: From June 2017 to June 2018.
Scientific pilot project: "One voice for everybody..."

... possibilities and limits for accessible surveys in social statistics”

- developed by Statistics Austria as part of the "Responsible Science" initiative

- in cooperation with: 

- co-financed by:
Main objectives

- **Reducing barriers** for people with intellectual disabilities or learning difficulties
- Using **plain language** for accessible surveys in social statistics
- Investigating **possibilities and limitations** of institutional residents with intellectual disabilities or learning disabilities
- Uncovering **difficulties and issues** of people with intellectual disabilities
Project work packages

- Involvement of stakeholders and self-advocates
- Compilation of a questionnaire in plain language
- Feedback protocols regarding survey instruments
- Conception, design and conduct for accessible surveys
- Recommendations and guidelines for accessible surveys in social statistics and institutions
Participative approach:

Six people with intellectual disabilities or learning difficulties...

- are actively **involved as experts** according to “citizen science”:
- serve as **review group** to test the questionnaire in plain language
- are conducting peer-interviews and **take the role of a researcher**
- **will present parts of the study** at the final presentation

Scope: A total of four working group meetings with self-advocates took place during the entire research process.
Examples 1/2

- Please state your sex (male, female)
  
  **Learning**: It may be necessary to further explain the meaning of sex/gender
  
  **Proposal**: Reducing the complexity and asking directly for instance: „Are you a woman?“
Do you have any longstanding illness or [long-standig] health problem? [By longstanding I mean illnesses or health problems which have lasted, or are expected to last, for 6 months or more.]

- **Learning**: Interviewees do differentiate between sickness and disability

- **Proposal**: Splitting the question into two. „Have been sick for a long time?“ „Are you disabled?“
Current results 1/3: The questionnaire...

- should refrain from having too many answering options
- ought to avoid long sentences and complex terms
- should not contain too many problem-oriented questions (this may lead to negative feelings and refusal of the questionnaire)
- should be related to the respondent living environment
- consists of pictures, photos, pictograms and scales in order to establish common understanding
Some interviewees wanted to take a walk during the survey for better concentration

Important to plan a break when using long questionnaires

Preliminary discussion may increase confidence of respondents

Necessity of developing a certain level of trust in advance of the survey
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