

"One voice for everybody"

Christian SCHOBER

**NPO & SE Competence Center - Vienna University of
Economics and Business
Austria**

Forum on Accessibility Data and SDG



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14.20h - 15.50h**



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:



Caritas

- 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



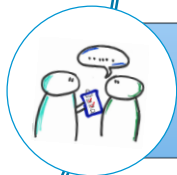
Involvement of stakeholders and self-advocates



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

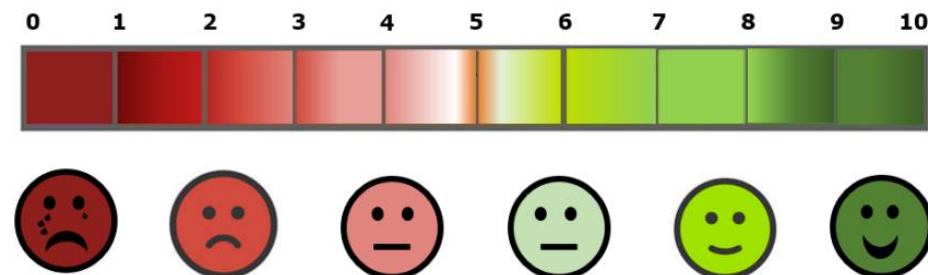
Scope: A total of four working group meetings with self-advocates took place during the entire research process.

- 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-standing] 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



Current results 2/3 - Situation during survey

- 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



VIENNA UNIVERSITY OF
ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS



**Kompetenzzentrum für Nonprofit Organisationen
und Social Entrepreneurship**

Welthandelsplatz 1/D2/3.Stock
1020 Vienna, Austria

Dr. Christian Schober
Wissenschaftlicher Leiter
Senior Researcher

T +43-1-313 36-5888
M +43-699-19250584
christian.schober@wu.ac.at
www.wu.ac.at

