

ESS-DACE Deliverable 6.11

Final Report on Indicators of Societal Wellbeing

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The aim of the task 6.5 was to disseminate and popularise a set of evidence-based indicators of societal well-being that have been developed by the ESS team since 2006.

The main components of the task were:

a) establish a cross-national study group on societal well-being (which will meet at intervals, whether at one of the host's centres or at pre-existing conferences) and the production of a small web portal for further discussion.

b) No budget was available in the previous grant period to field-test the selected indicators. We seek to correct this by searching for resources testing of the items and their alternatives. This may be through collaboration with a research partner who will provide space on a commercial survey. A report will be produced on the feasibility of carrying out field test exercises.

c) To facilitate take-up and use of these indicators by other surveys, a short 'user-guide' and analysis will be produced, including the background to their development, their theoretical basis, evidence of their methodological soundness and advice for their use and interpretation.

We will try to include some or all of the items in the European Social Survey Round 7, whether as a rotating module or as part of the core questionnaire (depending on agreement from the Central Coordinating Team and, ultimately, only with the support of the Scientific Advisory Board). If the items were to be accepted as a rotating module, we can tag discussions onto the end of other scheduled meetings to develop its final form.

The following brief report summarises activity against each of these objectives and concludes by assessing the prospects for cross-national work on societal wellbeing.

A. Cross-national study group on societal wellbeing and the production of a web portal.

It did not prove viable or necessary to construct a permanent group focusing on societal wellbeing. One of the features of the period spanning this and the previous ESSi project on attitudinal indicators was the increasing hegemony of individual measures of subjective wellbeing ('happiness economics') within the policy making community, to the exclusion of much interest in perceptions of societal functioning. This might seem puzzling given the major shocks experienced by the major European economies during the period from 2008 but it was the culmination of a long trend since the publication of Layard's (2005) work in the UK and the Stiglitz Report in 2009.

This said, there were many opportunities for ad hoc discussions at specialist and general conferences. Eric Harrison (City) and Ineke Stoop (SCP) took part in sessions at the Quality of Official Statistics – QoS Conference (Athens 2012), the International Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS) conference (Venice, 2012), the World Statistics Conference of the ISI (Dublin 2011), as well as addressing smaller meetings in Brussels and elsewhere. Harrison sat on the Technical Advisory Group for the UK Office for National Statistics as it developed its Measuring National Wellbeing Programme.

Harrison oversaw the development of a web portal with multiple strands of thematic navigation – theme, country, domain and networks. The period of the project saw a growth in

international initiatives in wellbeing studies, and the growth of Eurostat sponsored and/or self-starting Wikis made the need for an independent portal increasingly redundant. The shell of the web portal is preserved at www.societalwellbeing.weebly.com

B. Field-testing of Indicators

Deliverable 6.5 outlines the truncated feasibility study for field testing indicators. This was brought to a premature end when the CST authorised the use of the innovation sample (WP7) to field a prototype module of indicators on IPSOS Omnibus Surveys in Great Britain and Poland. These countries were chosen on the same criteria as those for the main pilot of ESS, namely that one should be an English-speaking country and another should test the translation and represent different national characteristics from those of North Western Europe. Costs also were a consideration.

The module was fielded face to face in Great Britain in April 2012 and Poland in March 2013. The Polish module was translated according to the usual ESS protocols and signed off by Eric Harrison and Ana Villar. As part of an omnibus survey it was not possible to specify totally harmonised background variables but a limited number were selected for their utility as predictor variables. A copy of the module items as fielded is appended to this report, as is the data protocol. The technical reports from the British and Polish fieldwork are available on request.

In addition to the omnibus testing in two countries, the prototype module was included in its entirety on Lithuania's national survey that is used to carry the annual International Social Survey Programme module. The background variables were therefore internationally harmonised in line with the guidance of the ISSP methods group.

The resources and opportunity to undertake this amount of data collection were unforeseen at the start of the project. As such there was very limited analysis time available. The data were checked for face validity and descriptive statistics generated for Great Britain and Poland. An excel booklet with these data and information about the performance of the various multi-item scales used can be found appended to the user guide (Del 6.7).

C. Facilitate take-up through production of a User Guide

This sub-task had to be attenuated due to limitations, staff turnover, and the diversion of existing staff's attention to the pursuit of ERIC status and management of the CCSS Research Centre after the death of Sir Roger Jowell. In addition, the user guide was downgraded in scale as it became clear that the outgoing Scientific Advisory Board did not view the inclusion of such indicators as a priority for ESS. However, under the new arrangements pertaining to the ESS ERIC, the core questionnaire is periodically reviewed in its entirety and competitions for rotating modules are ongoing.

A package of analytical documents entitled: 'A Prototype Module for Measuring Societal Wellbeing: User Resources' stands in place of the original User Guide. We believe this will prove highly valuable material for groups of substantive scholars and methodologists alike. We hope more specifically that it could form the kernel of a later application for an ESS rotating module.

Appendix 1

QUESTIONS FOR OMNIBUS APRIL 2012

Next I would like to ask you four questions about your feelings on aspects of your life. There are no right or wrong answers. For each of these questions I'd like you to give an answer on a scale of nought to 10, where nought is 'not at all' and 10 is 'completely'.

Q1. SHOWCARD WB01 Overall, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays?
Where nought is 'not at all satisfied' and 10 is 'completely satisfied'.

Not at all satisfied											Completely satisfied	(Don't Know)	Refu sed
00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	88	99	

Q2. SHOWCARD WB02 Overall, to what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile?
Where nought is 'not at all worthwhile' and 10 is 'completely worthwhile'.

Not at all worthwhile											Completely worthwhile	(Don't Know)	Ref used
00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	88	99	

Q3. SHOWCARD WB03 Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?
Where nought is 'not at all happy' and 10 is 'completely happy'.

Not at all happy											Completely happy	(Don't Know)	Ref used
00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	88	99	

Q4. SHOWCARD WB04 Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?
Where nought is 'not at all anxious' and 10 is 'completely anxious'.

Not at all											Completely	(Don't	Ref
------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	------------	--------	-----

anxious

anxious *Know)* *us*
ed

00

01

02

03

04

05

06

07

08

09

10

88

99

Now we want to ask you some questions about your views on British society.

Q5. SHOWCARD WB05 Using this card, how would you describe the quality of life in Britain compared to the average of the European Union countries? Is it... (READ OUT)

Much better	00
Somewhat better	01
A little better	02
About the same	03
A little worse	04
Somewhat worse	05
Much worse	06
<i>(Don't know)</i>	88
<i>Refused</i>	99

Q6. SHOWCARD WB05 Again using this card, how would you describe the quality of life in Britain now compared to twelve months ago? Is it... (READ OUT)

Much better	00
Somewhat better	01
A little better	02
About the same	03
A little worse	04
Somewhat worse	05
Much worse	06
<i>(Don't know)</i>	88
<i>Refused</i>	99

Q7. SHOWCARD WB05 Still using this card, what are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the quality of life in Britain be... (READ OUT)

Much better	00
Somewhat better	01
A little better	02
About the same	03
A little worse	04
Somewhat worse	05
Much worse	06
<i>(Don't know)</i>	88
<i>Refused</i>	99

Q8 SHOWCARD WB06 Using now this card, do you think that the life of those who are children today will be easier, more difficult or about the same as the life of those from your own generation? Will it be...
(READ OUT)

Much easier	00
Somewhat easier	01
A little easier	02
About the same	03
A little more difficult	04
Somewhat more difficult	05
Much more difficult	06
<i>(Don't know)</i>	88
<i>Refused</i>	99

Q9SET Is Britain a good place or not a good place to live for each of the following groups:

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q9a, Q9b, and Q9c]

Q9a ... for racial and ethnic minorities?

Q9b ... for gay or lesbian people?

Q9c ... for immigrants from other countries?

A good place	01
Not a good place	02
<i>(Don't know)</i>	88
<i>Refused</i>	99

Q10. Ideally if you had the opportunity, would you like to move permanently to another country, or would you prefer NOT to move permanently to another country?

Move permanently	00
NOT move permanently	01
<i>(Don't know)</i>	88
<i>Refused</i>	99

Q11. SHOWCARD WB07 Using this card, generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

Please tell me on a score of 0 to 10, where 0 means you can't be too careful and 10 means that most people can be trusted.

<i>You can't be too careful</i>		<i>Most people can be trusted</i>	<i>(Don't Know)</i>	<i>Refused</i>								
00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	88	99

Q12. SHOWCARD WB08 Using this card, do you think that most people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance, or would they try to be fair?

*Most people
would try to
take
advantage of
me*

*Most (Don't
people know)
would try
to be fair*

00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 88 99

Q13. SHOWCARD WB09 Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful or that they are mostly looking out for themselves? Please use this card.

*People mostly
look out for
themselves*

*People (Don't
mostly try to know)
be helpful*

00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 88

Q14SET SHOWCARD WB10 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please use this card.

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q14a, Q14b, and Q14c]

Q14a. The people who run the country are not really concerned with what happens to people like me

Q14b. There is nothing one can do to change things in our society

Q14c. Differences in income in Britain are too large

Strongly agree	00
Agree	01
Neither agree nor disagree	02
Disagree	03

Strongly disagree	04
(Don't know)	88
<i>Refused</i>	<i>99</i>

Q15. SHOWCARD WB11 Thinking now about British society, how important do you think coming from a wealthy family is for getting ahead in life? Please use this card

Not important at all	00
Not very important	01
Fairly important	02
Very important	03
Essential	04
(Don't know)	88
<i>Refused</i>	<i>99</i>

Q16SET SHOWCARD WB12 Please tell me on a score of 0-10 how much you personally trust each of the institutions I read out. 0 means you do not trust an institution at all, and 10 means you have complete trust.
Firstly...READ OUT...

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q16a-Q16E]
[ADD CODE REFUSED 99]

		No trust at all									Complete trust
Q16a	...Britain's parliament?	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Q16b	...the legal system?	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Q16c	...the police?	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Q16d	...the press?	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Q16e	...political parties?	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09

Q17. SHOWCARD WB13 Thinking about the provision of social benefits and services, please tell me how efficient you think the provision of health care in Britain is. Choose your answer from this card where 0 means extremely inefficient and 10 means extremely efficient.

Extremely

Q22. SHOWCARD WB16 All things considered, how satisfied are you with the kind of society we live in? Please use this card where 0 is extremely dissatisfied and 10 is extremely satisfied.

Extremely
dissatisfied

Extremely
satisfied

*(Don't
Know)*

00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 88

Q23. SHOWCARD WB16 AGAIN On the whole how satisfied are you with the present state of the economy in Britain? Still use this card.

Extremely
dissatisfied

Extremely
satisfied

*(Don't
Know)*

00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 88

Q24. SHOWCARD WB16 AGAIN Now thinking about the British government, how satisfied are you with the way it is doing its job? Still use this card.

Extremely
dissatisfied

Extremely
satisfied

*(Don't
Know)*

00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 88

Q25. SHOWCARD WB16 AGAIN And on the whole, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Britain? Still use this card.

Extremely
dissatisfied

Extremely
satisfied

*(Don't
Know)*

00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 88

Q26 SHOWCARD WB17 Now, using this card, please say what you think overall about the state of education in Britain nowadays?

Extremely
bad

Extremely
good

*(Don't
Know)*

00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 88

Q27 SHOWCARD WB16 AGAIN Still using this card, please say what you think overall about the state of health services in Britain nowadays?

Extremely
bad

Extremely
good

*(Don't
Know)*

00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 88

Q28 SHOWCARD WB16 AGAIN Still using this card, please say what you think overall about the state of pension provision in Britain nowadays?

Extremely
bad

Extremely
good

*(Don't
Know)*

00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 88

Q29 SHOWCARD WB17 How often do you think of the possibility of becoming a victim of a violent crime? Please use this card.

All or most of the
time 01

Some of
the time
02

Just
occasionally
03

Never 04

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*9
9*

DATA PROTOCOL FOR ROUND 6 OMNIBUS TESTING

1. Deliverables

- 1) Three datasets in SPSS format (one for each country) according to the specifications outlined in this document, which includes data from all variables and timing data
- 2) Top-line findings for all variables
- 3) Short technical report outlining testing procedures / methodology used in each country (5-10 pages in Word)

2. Principles of variable definitions

Missing values

Analysis of item non-response is an important part of quality control of survey items, and consistent use of missing values in the questionnaire and other documentation ensures uniform coding of skips in the interview. The aim is that the three data files from the omnibus surveys will contain detailed information on item non-response.

The missing values in the data files should be defined in the following way:

Not applicable: 6, 66, 666 etc., where the respondent has been routed away from the question.

Refusals: 7, 77, 777 etc., where the respondent has explicitly refused. This should be coded by the interviewers whether they are using CAPI or PAPI.

Don't know: 8, 88, and 888 etc. These codes must be available at every question. They can be included in the list of answering options presented to the interviewers, or placed in administrative columns, menus etc., depending on the routines of the survey organisation.

No answer: 9, 99, 999 etc. are codes for missing data not elsewhere explained, for example respondent/interviewer errors and production/system errors.

System missing: Sample 1 respondents should have their responses to the questions asked only to Sample 2 set as 'system missing'. Similarly, sample 2 respondents should have their responses to questions only asked to sample 1 set as 'system missing'

Hidden Codes are codes that are available for interviewers but not offered to respondents. Whether these should be coded as missing or not is indicated in Table 1.

Formats

The formats of variables are defined in Table 1. All numeric variables in the ESS Round 6 Omnibus data files have the formats Fn.0, i.e. they are of width n and with no decimal points.

The missing values often decide the format. If a routed variable has a scale from 1 to 5, there is room for "Not applicable" in value 6, and the variable will have the format F1.0. If the scale goes up to 6, the missing values have to begin at 66 and the format changes to F2.0 and so on.

3. Variable definitions in data files

Table 1 shows the official formats and contents of the variables to be included in the ESS Round 6 omnibus data file including variable names, format, code, description and value labels.

For the majority of variables, the Variable name will be the same as in the question number in the omnibus specification but with Q added to indicate Question e.g. Q1, Q2 etc.

The demographic variables should be added to the SPSS file so that they appear after IDNO.

Table 1 Variables to be included in each data file

VARIABLE NAME	FORMAT	CODE	VARIABLE DESCRIPTION & VALUE LABELS	COMMENTS
IDNO	Fn.0	-	-	Respondent identification number to be determined by Ipsos-MORI – must be unique identifier of respondent
TT_Q1	F5.0	Desc	Time taken for Question 1 (seconds)	Calculated as the difference between two time stamps: the time stamp at the end of the question (once the answer had been recorded) MINUS the time stamp when the interviewer started asking the question.
TT_Q2 THROUGH TO TT_Q55	F5.0	Desc	Time taken for Question 2 (seconds) THROUGH TO Question 55 (seconds)	
INTID			Interviewer ID	
ORDER	F1.0		Order of response options	Value labels 0'Matching order' 1'Opposite order'

VARIABLE NAME	FORMAT	CODE	VARIABLE DESCRIPTION & VALUE LABELS	COMMENTS
stflife2	F2.0	Desc	WB1. How satisfied with life as a whole (different wording) 00 Not at all satisfied 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 Completely satisfied 77 Refusal 88 Don't know 99 No answer	
wrthwhl	F2.0	Desc	WB2. Feel that things you do in your life are worthwhile 00 Not at all worthwhile 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 Completely worthwhile 77 Refusal 88 Don't know 99 No answer	
happy	F2.0	Desc	WB3. How happy did you feel yesterday 00 Not at all happy 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 Completely happy 77 Refusal 88 Don't know 99 No answer	
anxious	F2.0	Desc	WB4. How anxious did you feel yesterday 00 Not at all anxious 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 Completely happy	

		77	Refusal	
		88	Don't know	
		99	No answer	

qolctry	F2.0	Desc	WB5. Quality of life in country compared to European Union countries 00 Much better 01 Somewhat better 02 A little better 03 About the same 04 A little worse 05 Somewhat worse 06 Much worse 77 Refusal 88 Don't know 99 No answer	
qolnow	F2.0	Desc	WB6. Quality of life in country now compared to last year 00 Much better 01 Somewhat better 02 A little better 03 About the same 04 A little worse 05 Somewhat worse 06 Much worse 77 Refusal 88 Don't know 99 No answer	
qolnxtyr	F2.0	Desc	WB7. Quality of life in country in 12 months time 00 Much better 01 Somewhat better 02 A little better 03 About the same 04 A little worse 05 Somewhat worse 06 Much worse 77 Refusal 88 Don't know 99 No answer	
qolnxtgn	F2.0	Desc	WB8. Quality of life in country for future generation 00 Much easier 01 Somewhat easier 02 A little easier 03 About the same 04 A little more difficult 05 Somewhat more difficult 06 Much more difficult 77 Refusal 88 Don't know 99 No answer	
tolrace	F1.0	Desc	WB9a. Is country a good place to live for racial and ethnic minorities 1 A good place 2 Not a good place 7 Refusal 8 Don't know 9 No answer	
tolgylsb	F1.0	Desc	WB9b. Is country a good place to live for gay or lesbian people 1 A good place 2 Not a good place 7 Refusal 8 Don't know 9 No answer	
tolimmi	F1.0	Desc	WB9c. Is country a good place to live for immigrants	

		1	Move out permanently	
		2	Not move out permanently	
		7	Refusal	
		8	Don't know	
		9	No answer	
moveout	F1.0	Desc	WB10. Move permanently or not to another country	
		1	Move out permanently	
		2	Not move out permanently	
		7	Refusal	
		8	Don't know	
		9	No answer	
ppltrst	F2.0	Desc	WB11. Most people can be trusted or you can't be too careful	
		00	You can't be too careful	
		01		
		02		
		03		
		04		
		05		
		06		
		07		
		08		
		09		
		10	Most people can be trusted	
		77	Refusal	
		88	Don't know	
		99	No answer	
pplfair	F2.0	Desc	WB12. Most people try to take advantage of you, or try to be fair	
		00	Most people try to take advantage of me	
		01		
		02		
		03		
		04		
		05		
		06		
		07		
		08		
		09		
		10	Most people try to be fair	
		77	Refusal	
		88	Don't know	
		99	No answer	
pplhlp	F2.0	Desc	WB13. Most of the time people helpful or mostly looking out for themselves	
		00	People mostly look out for themselves	
		01		
		02		
		03		
		04		
		05		
		06		
		07		
		08		
		09		
		10	People mostly try to be helpful	
		77	Refusal	
		88	Don't know	
		99	No answer	
ppllkme	F2.0	Desc	WB14a. People who run the country are not concerned with what happens to people like me	
		00	Strongly agree	
		01	Agree	
		02	Neither agree not disagree	
		03	Disagree	
		04	Strongly disagree	
		77	Refusal	
		88	Don't know	
		99	No answer	
chngscty	F2.0	Desc	WB14b. There is nothing one can do to change things in	

			our society 00 Strongly agree 01 Agree 02 Neither agree not disagree 03 Disagree 04 Strongly disagree 77 Refusal 88 Don't know 99 No answer	
diffincm	F2.0	Desc	WB14c. Difference in income in country are too large 00 Strongly agree 01 Agree 02 Neither agree not disagree 03 Disagree 04 Strongly disagree 77 Refusal 88 Don't know 99 No answer	
wlthyfam	F2.0	Desc	WB15. Importance of coming from a wealthy family for getting ahead in life in country 00 Not important at all 01 Not very important 02 Fairly important 03 Very important 04 Essential 77 Refusal 88 Don't know 99 No answer	
trstprl	F2.0	Desc	WB16a. Trust in Country's Parliament 00 No trust at all 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 Complete trust 77 Refusal 88 Don't know 99 No answer	
trstlgl	F2.0	Desc	WB16b. Trust in the legal system 00 No trust at all 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 Complete trust 77 Refusal 88 Don't know 99 No answer	
trstplc	F2.0	Desc	WB16c. Trust in the police 00 No trust at all 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09	

		10 77 88 99	Complete trust Refusal Don't know No answer	
trstprss	F2.0	Desc 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 77 88 99	WB16d. Trust in the press No trust at all Complete trust Refusal Don't know No answer	

trstprt	F2.0	Desc 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 77 88 99	WB16e. Trust in political parties No trust at all Complete trust Refusal Don't know No answer	
hthcef	F2.0	Desc 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 77 88 99	WB17. Provision of health care, how efficient Extremely inefficient Extremely efficient Refusal Don't know No answer	
txautef	F2.0	Desc 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 77 88 99	WB18. Tax authorities, how efficient in doing their job Extremely inefficient Extremely efficient Refusal Don't know No answer	
dcndleq	F2.0	Desc 00 01 02 03 04	WB19. Doctors, nurses give special advantages or deal with everyone equally Give special advantages to certain people	

		05 06 07 08 09 10 Deal with everyone equally 77 Refusal 88 Don't know 99 No answer	
txadleq	F2.0	Desc 00 WB20. Tax authorities give special advantages or deal with everyone equally 01 Give special advantages to certain people 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 Deal with everyone equally 77 Refusal 88 Don't know 99 No answer	
tnsnpoor	F1.0	Desc 0 WB21a. How much tension is there between poor and rich people in country 1 No tension at all 2 A little tension 3 Some tension 4 Quite a lot of tension 7 A great deal of tension 7 Refusal 8 Don't know 9 No answer	
tnsnrace	F1.0	Desc 0 WB21b. How much tension is there between racial and ethnic groups 1 No tension at all 2 A little tension 3 Some tension 4 Quite a lot of tension 7 A great deal of tension 7 Refusal 8 Don't know 9 No answer	
tnsnrlgn	F1.0	Desc 0 WB21c. How much tension is there between different religious groups 1 No tension at all 2 A little tension 3 Some tension 4 Quite a lot of tension 7 A great deal of tension 7 Refusal 8 Don't know 9 No answer	
stfscty	F2.0	Desc 00 WB22. How satisfied with the society we live in 01 Extremely dissatisfied 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 Extremely satisfied 77 Refusal 88 Don't know 99 No answer	
stfecoc	F2.0	Desc 00 WB23. How satisfied with present state of economy in country 01 Extremely dissatisfied	

		10	Extremely good	
		77	Refusal	
		88	Don't know	
		99	No answer	
stfpnsn	F2.0	Desc	WB28. State of pension provision in country nowadays	
		00	Extremely bad	
		01		
		02		
		03		
		04		
		05		
		06		
		07		
		08		
		09		
		10	Extremely good	
		77	Refusal	
		88	Don't know	
		99	No answer	

