7ᵗʰ Meeting of the Praia Group Task Team on Participation in Political and Public Affairs

Findings of the Expert Appraisal of the Draft Questionnaire

&

Plans for Cognitive Testing
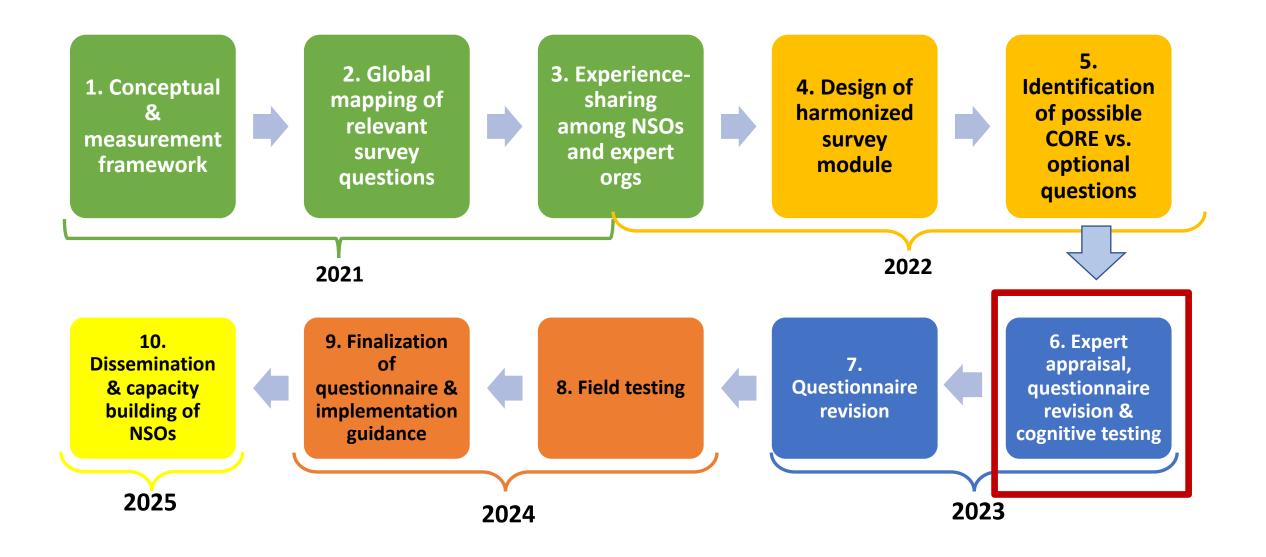
Tue 18 April 2023 9.00-10:30 EST

Simultaneous interpretation in French & Spanish

GOVERNANCE STATISTICS
PRAIA CITY GROUP

Survey Development Process
Task Team on Participation in Political and Public Affairs

Today's Agenda

1. Update since we last met

2. Latest version of the questionnaire

3. Findings from the expert appraisal conducted by Statistics Norway

4. Next steps: Cognitive testing (2 options for interested NSOs)

5. Available support for participating NSOs

Classification of Statistical Activities 2.0

BETTER DATA BETTER LIVES

United Nations Statistical Commission
54th Session

28 February - 3 March 2023 | New York

unstats.un.org | @UNStats | #UN54SC

ECONOMY · ENVIRONMENT · POPULATION · SOCIETY · TRADE

Domain 4 – Governance statistics

401	Non-discrimination and equality
402	Participation
403	Openness
404	Access to and quality of justice
405	Responsiveness
406	Absence of corruption
407	Trust
408	Safety and security
	40801 Crime and criminal justice
	40899 Safety and security statistics, n.e.c.
499	Governance statistics, n.e.c.

(f)　　Endorsed the revised Classification of Statistical Activities as an international standard classification; recommended its inclusion in the International Family of Classifications; and particularly welcomed the explicit inclusion of the topic of governance statistics and human rights in the classification;

Classification of Statistical Activities 2.0
Main features and updating process

UNECE Task Team on updating the CSA classification

CSA 2.0

The Classification of International Statistical Activities was originally developed for use in the Database of International Statistical Activities maintained by UNECE – in 2005, small update in 2009.

Custodian: the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians.
In 2020, an update was requested to include new, emerging areas of statistical work.

Task Team:
Canada, Ireland, Mexico (Chair), New Zealand, Eurostat, UNSD and UNECE.

Updating process

- **Task Team** worked over 2 years, the final version reflects a consensus.
- **Updated version:**
  - Aims to retain the coherence of the classification.
  - Align as much as possible with existing standards, frameworks and models.
  - Become a global classification.
- **End of 2020:** survey among international organizations to get information on how CSA was used and identify needs for updates (14 responses).
- **Large consultation in spring 2022** – with all countries and international organizations (83 responses).
- **General support** to adopt and for the CSA to become a global classification
  - 46 countries and 14 international organizations are using or planning to use it.

Global classification

- **June 2022 –** Draft CSA 2.0 and explanatory notes were presented to the Conference of European Statisticians.
- **October 2022** – Draft CSA 2.0 submitted to UN Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications.
  - Recommended for endorsement by the UNSC.
- **2023** – 54th Session (agenda ítem 3(j)) - Items for discussion and decision: International statistical classifications).
  - Endorsed by the UNSC in its 54° session (Feb. 28th - March 3rd).

Custodianship of the CSA to be transferred from the CES Bureau and UNECE to UNSD as the Secretariat of the UNSC.

CSA 2.0 main purposes

The classification can be used for two main purposes:

Based on the **process** related to a statistical activity, CSA can be used to classify statistical events, capacity building activities, training courses, working groups, publications or statistical standards, etc.

Based on the **output** of a statistical activity, CSA can be used to classify data and metadata (particularly domains 1 to 5 which are related to subject-matter activities).

Structure

- **Hierarchical classification** with 3 levels.
- **First level –** statistical domains.

Subject-matter domains

1. Demographic and social statistics.
2. Economic statistics.
3. Environment statistics.
4. Governance statistics.
5. Cross-cutting statistics.

Other domains

6. Statistical infrastructure and methodology.
7. Strategic and managerial activities.

- **Second level:** statistical activities within the domains.
- **Third level:** further breakdown.

Main changes

- **Two new subject matter domains:**

  - **Domain 3** – Environment statistics

    Activities are aligned to the Framework for Development of Environment Statistics

  - **Domain 4** – Governance statistics

    Activities are aligned with the Handbook on Governance Statistics

Domain 4 - Structure

This Domain replaces and expands subdomain **1.8 'Justice and crime'** of the earlier version of the Classification (CSA 2009).

401 Non-discrimination and equality	**406** Absence of corruption
402 Participation	**407** Trust
403 Openness	**408** Safety and security
404 Access to and quality of justice	40801 Crime and criminal justice
405 Responsiveness	40899 Safety and security statistics
	499 Governance statistics, n.e.c.

INEGI

Domain 4 – Participation

> **402** Participation

Covers statistical activities on the ways in which **individuals take part in political and public affairs**, including:

- ➤ Registering to vote, voting or standing as a candidate in elections.

- ➤ Being members of legislative, executive and judicial bodies.

- ➤ Accessing positions in the public service.

- ➤ Being a member of a trade union.

- ➤ Engaging, individually or as members of political parties and other non-governmental organizations, in political activities.

INEGI

Latest version of the questionnaire (1)

A. Participation in electoral processes and referendums

A.1 Eligibility

A.2 Registration

A.3 Voting

A.4 Participation in election-related activities

A.5 Experience of political intimidation or violence during elections

B. Participation in political and civic life

B.1 Political parties

B.2 Membership in political and civic organizations

B.3 Participation in other political and civic activities

Latest version of the questionnaire (2)

C. Enabling environment of participation

C.1 Interest in political and public affairs

C.2 Information on political and public affairs

C.3 Adult population with stereotyping attitudes and values

C.4 Self-reported political efficacy

C.5 Perceived levels of freedom of expression, freedom to join political orgs and freedom to criticize government actions or performance

D. Self-identification

Expert appraisal of the questionnaire on 'Participation in Political and Public affairs'

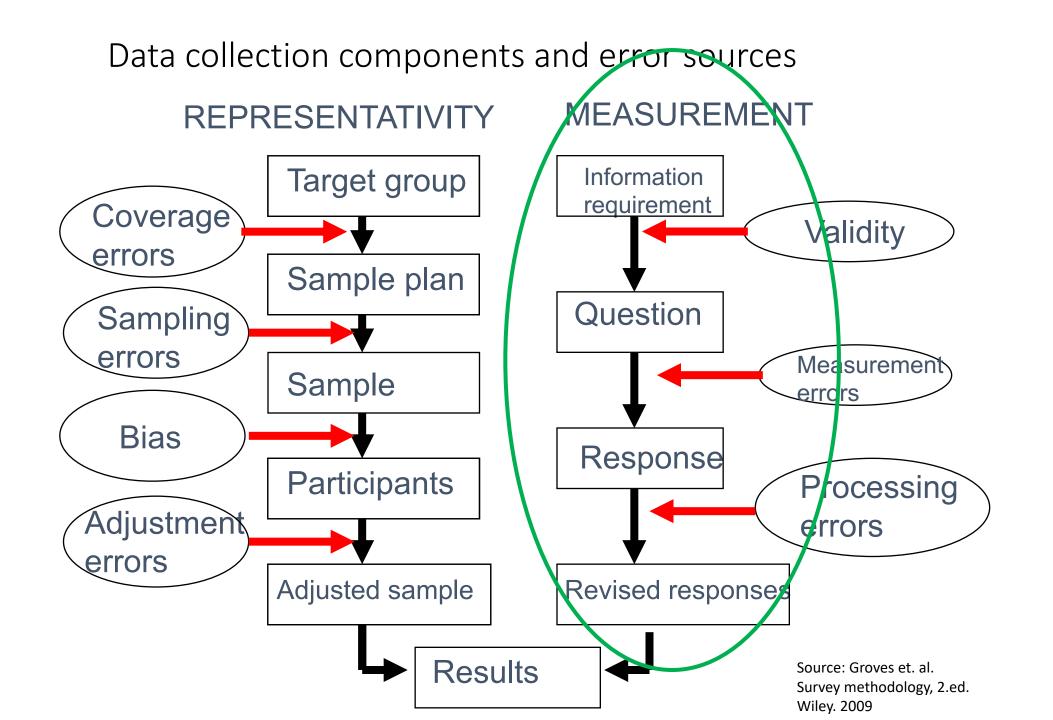By Karianne Lund & Frode Berglund, Division for Methods

Statistisk sentralbyrå
Statistics Norway

An expert appraisal is…

- Evaluation of the questionnaire
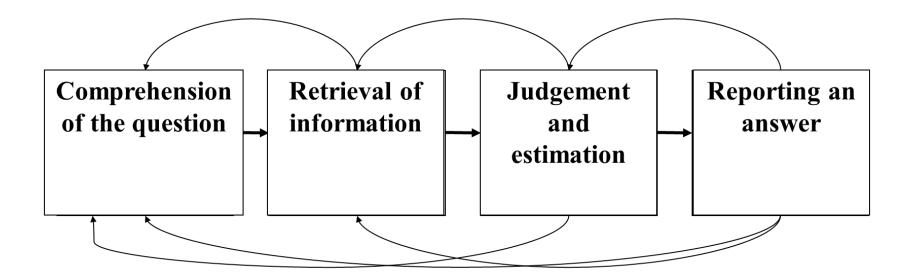
- Done by two independent survey methodologists

- Respondents not involved – resource effective but not a realistic test

- Aim: to detect possible errors in order to give suggestions on how to improve the questionnaire

There is no

- **Perfect** questionnaire, so
- it needs to be evaluated by **absence** of errors,
- Or, try to be aware of and avoid pitfalls

- So, what can go wrong?

Data collection components and error sources

REPRESENTATIVITY

MEASUREMENT

Target group

Coverage errors

Sample plan

Sampling errors

Sample

Bias

Participants

Adjustment errors

Adjusted sample

Information requirement

Validity

Question

Measurement errors

Response

Processing errors

Revised responses

Results

Source: Groves et. al.
Survey methodology, 2.ed.
Wiley. 2009

A response process model

(Tourangeau, 1984)

Kilde: Tourangeau 1984

Measurement errors

Measurement errors are related to the data collection

The respondent: E.g. characteristics and motivation, sloppy reporting

The data collection: The chosen mode for data collection might not be adequate for the survey, e.g. telephone interview with sensitive questions

The questionnaire: A well developed and thoroughly tested questionnaire could be the basis for reducing measurement errors, hence good «in data»

The interviewer: «Helps» when the respondent is stuck and thus introduces bias

Testing reveals

- If respondents understand the questions as intended
- If respondents are qualified to answer
- These are important to reveal, as we know that respondents answer even if they do not understand as intended or if they are not qualified. If so, interpretation of data will be wrong

Something's missing

- Voting in advance (in countries where you can do that)

- Source of information (q is about «trusted» media, not where information is obtained)

- Media is «medium» i.e., radio, tv, paper, not about qualities about the source (in Norway, the public media is different from private)

- Why not party preference? (Useful for analytical purposes)

Key observations

Cross cultural comparability – relevance?

PR 10.2   During the **most recent** election, how much did you fear electoral **violence,** such as state security forces assaulting protestors, or partisans of opposing parties <mark>attack</mark>ing each other?

Not at all	1
A little bit	2
Somewhat	3
A lot	4
(Don't know)	98
(Prefer not to say)	99

- NO: For example not (as) relevant to ask questions about state security forces assaulting protestors, but highly relevant to ask questions about advance voting (and party sympathies)?

PR 23.2e.	Men make better political leaders than women do	4	3	2	1	98	99
PR 23.2f.	Women's families should decide whether or not women can participate in politics or not	4	3	2	1	98	99
PR 23.2g.	Because most women do not have the necessary education or political skills, men should decide for them	4	3	2	1	98	99

Specification of data requirement, difficult to interpret «a family member»?

PR 11.3   You said that somebody **offered you something in exchange of your vote** for a particular candidate/party. Please indicate from this list with whom this happened…? (MULTIPLE RESPONSES ALLOWED)

A family member	1
A friend, colleague, etc.	2
Someone in your community, who is other than family, friends or colleagues	3
A government personnel, such as a public servant, or government official	4
Security forces, such as police, military	5
(Don't know)	98
(Prefer not to say)	99

Vague reference periods create retrieval/ judgement problems

PR 13.   Outside elections, are you involved in any political or civic activities organized by **ANY** political party?

Yes	1
No	2
(Don't know)	98
(Prefer not to say)	99

PR 9.   In the run-up to the [NAME OF THE ELECTIONS OF INTEREST / MOST RECENT ELECTIONS] held in [MONTH/YEAR], did you **voluntarily** engage in any of the following election-related activities? By "voluntarily," we mean you did this without being paid in return.

PR 11.   Please tell me if **you personally or someone else you know** experienced the following situations during the electoral campaign or at the voting stations.

«Outside elections»
«In the run-up»
«During the electoral campaign»

Mismatch question – response options hinders standardized interviewing

PR 21. To what extent do you **participate in or follow online discussions** on political and public affairs on social media networks, such as Facebook, Twitter, or [COUNTRY-SPECIFIC]?

You follow this type of online discussions AND YOU CONTRIBUTE to these discussions, by sharing/posting content or responding to posts	1
You follow this type of online discussions BUT IN A PASSIVE WAY, by reading it or listening to it	2
You do NOT follow or participate in this type of online discussions	3
(Volunteered: You are not active on online social networks)	4
(Don't know)	98
(Prefer not to say)	99

PR 4. Did you **vote** in the [NAME OF THE ELECTIONS OF INTEREST / MOST RECENT ELECTIONS] held in [MONTH, YEAR]?

Yes	1	➔	SKIP TO PR 6
No	2	➔	ASK PR 5
No, but I justified my abstention [IF APPLICABLE, i.e., in countries with compulsory voting with enforced sanctions]	3	➔	ASK PR 5
No and I have not yet justified my abstention, but I will [IF APPLICABLE, i.e., in countries with compulsory voting with enforced sanctions]	4	➔	ASK PR 5
(Don't know)	98	➔	SKIP TO PR 8
(Prefer not to say)	99	➔	SKIP TO PR 8

Double negations may create misinterpretations

PR 5.   May we know the reasons **why** you **did not vote** in these elections? Was this because …?

- Same question wording for countries with a <u>passive or hybrid</u> voter registration system

		Yes	No
PR 5a.	You did not have your identification documents, such as national ID, voter's ID	1	2
PR 5b.	You did not have enough information on how to vote	1	2
PR 5c.	The voting lines were too long	1	2
PR 5d.	You had difficulty accessing the voting stations, such as too far, lack of transportation, poor road conditions, etc.	1	2
PR 5e.	You did not see your name on the voter's list	1	2
PR 5f.	You could not take time off to go vote	1	2
PR 5g.	You feared for your safety due to possible election-related violence	1	2
PR 5h.	You were sick/ill or you have a disability and the voting stations were not easily accessible to you	1	2
PR 5i.	You thought your vote would not make a difference	1	2

Double/multidimentional questions produce less precise data

PR 6. I am now going to read you a list of **potential problems that voters can encounter** when they go to vote. Did you **personally** encounter any of these problems when you went to vote?

		Yes	No
PR 6a.	Voting lines were too long	1	2
PR 6b.	The voting machines malfunctioned [if applicable, i.e., in countries with automated voting system]	1	2
PR 6c.	You did not see your name on the voter's list	1	2
PR 6d.	You had problems with your identification documents, such as national ID / voter's ID	1	2
PR 6e.	You had difficulty finding the preferred ballot card [if applicable, i.e., in countries with preferential voting systems]	1	2
PR 6f.	You had difficulty using the ballot card because it was not in your language, or the print was difficult to read	1	2
PR 6g.	There was violence in or around the voting stations	1	2
PR 6h.	You had difficulty accessing voting stations, such as too far, lack of transportation, poor road conditions, etc.	1	2
PR 6i.	You have a disability, and the voting stations were not easily accessible to you, or you were hospitalized and it was difficult to get the assistance you needed to vote [if applicable, i.e., in countries where measures are in place to allow hospitalized people to vote]	1	2

What does «yes» mean? How can we analyse these data?

Proxy questions produce less precise data

PR 11. Please tell me if **you personally or someone else you know** experienced the following situations during the electoral campaign or at the voting stations.

		Yes, I personally experienced	No, I did not personally experience but I know someone who did	No, I did not personally experience	(Don't know)	(Prefer not to say)
PR 11a.	Someone tried to **intimidate or coerce you to vote or NOT vote** for a particular candidate or party	1	2	3	98	99
PR 11b.	Someone tried to **prevent you from voting**	1	2	3	98	99
PR 11c.	Someone tried to **offer you something in exchange of your vote** for a particular candidate/party	1	2	3	98	99
PR 11d.	You saw the **police or soldiers** assault opposition candidates and/or their supporters	1	2	3	98	99
PR 11e.	You saw **supporters of different political parties** engage in aggressive or violent behavior	1	2	3	98	99
PR 11f.	You experienced voter intimidation **on the internet or in social media**	1	2	3	98	99

«Or someone you know»

Scales with no neutral position may force people to have an opinion that does not reflect reality

PR 23.   Please tell me how willing **you** would be to vote for a **presidential candidate** [or Prime Minister] for this country who is …. ?

		Very willing	Somewhat willing	Somewhat not willing	Not willing at all	(Don't know)	(Prefer not to say)
PR 23a.	A woman	4	3	2	1	98	99
PR 23b.	A person from an ethnic/religious/linguistic minority group	4	3	2	1	98	99
PR 23c.	A person with a disability	4	3	2	1	98	99
PR 23d.	A gay/lesbian/bisexual/ transgender/non-binary	4	3	2	1	98	99
PR 23e.	Other minorities [COUNTRY-SPECIFIC]:	4	3	2	1	98	99

PR 22.   To what extent do you **agree or disagree** with the following statements on online discussions of political and public affairs on social media networks, like Facebook, Twitter, or [COUNTRY-SPECIFIC]? (Select all applicable)

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	(Don't know)	(Prefer not to say)
PR 22a.	Online discussions on political and public affairs on social media have helped to bring new voices into political discussions	4	3	2	1	98	99
PR 22b.	Online discussions on political and public affairs on social media have allowed people to get more involved with issues that matter to them	4	3	2	1	98	99
PR 22c.	The language and tone used in online discussions on political and public affairs on social media are often violent or hateful	4	3	2	1	98	99
PR 22d.	Online discussions on political and public affairs on social media are filled with misinformation and propaganda	4	3	2	1	98	99

Questionnaire design recommendations

1. Reduce text amount

2. Prepare text for uni mode

3. Consider order of response options/categories

4. Option1/Option2: Option 2, or tailored?

5. CBM and user testing

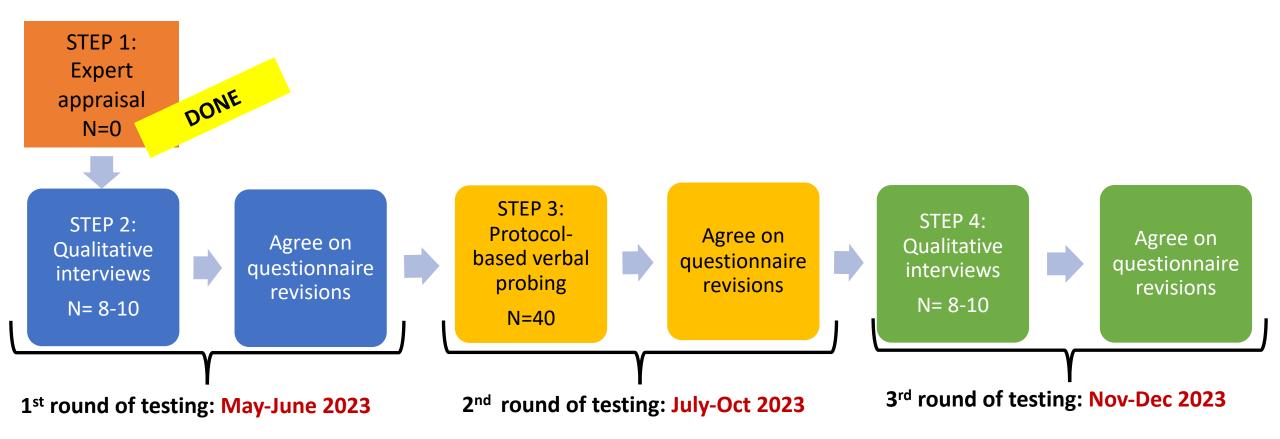6. Test in several countries with different profiles

7. V1/V2/V3? Redesigned V3?

Are you interested in joining a small *'working group'* to help revise the questionnaire, based on the expert appraisal findings?

Please write to
group.praia@gmail.com

4-step test design envisioned by Statistics Norway

Cognitive testing works best as an *iterative process*

STEP 1: Expert appraisal N=0

DONE

STEP 2: Qualitative interviews N= 8-10

Agree on questionnaire revisions

STEP 3: Protocol-based verbal probing N=40

Agree on questionnaire revisions

STEP 4: Qualitative interviews N= 8-10

Agree on questionnaire revisions

1st round of testing: May-June 2023

2nd round of testing: July-Oct 2023

3rd round of testing: Nov-Dec 2023

Outside Norway

- Norway might be a good start, but not necessarily representative for other countries

- Our suggestion is that **NSOs in other countries contribute to one or the other of these steps, based on the expertise and resources they have available**

- SSB might assist with training and implementation abroad

We want to identify cognitive problems related to...

- Understanding the intent of the question and the meaning of terms *(across different socio-cultural contexts, languages, etc.)*

- Remembering relevant information

- Lacking motivation to invest the necessary efforts to respond accurately

- Choosing an appropriate response category

- Hesitating or refusing to respond to some (sensitive) questions

See cognitive testing aims & categories of probe questions in Willis (2015).
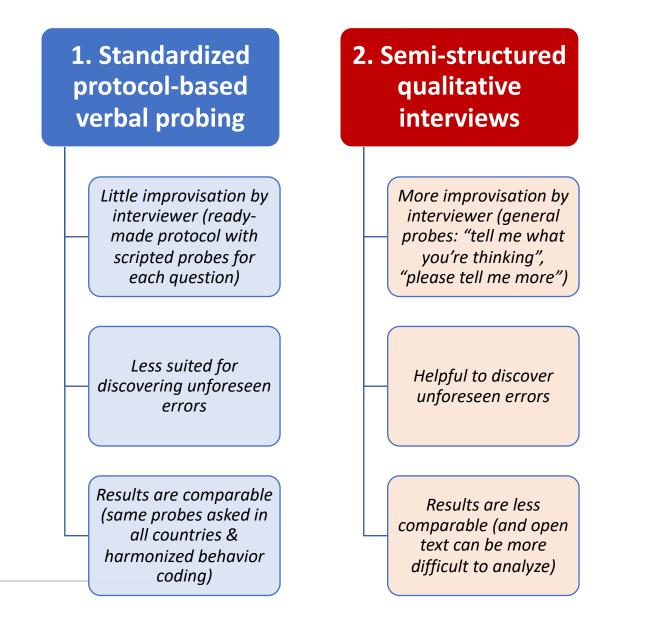
Respondent perspective & response burden

A high response burden (time consuming / difficult questions) decreases the quality of data.

→Leads to "satisficing" i.e. making mental shortcuts when answering

Our objective: Decrease the response burden, hence increase/maintain data quality
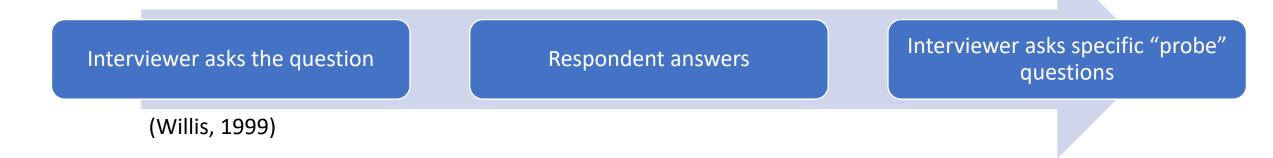
Two (among many) methods for cognitive interviewing

1. Standardized protocol-based verbal probing

2. Semi-structured qualitative interviews

Little improvisation by interviewer (ready-made protocol with scripted probes for each question)

More improvisation by interviewer (general probes: "tell me what you're thinking", "please tell me more")

Less suited for discovering unforeseen errors

Helpful to discover unforeseen errors

Results are comparable (same probes asked in all countries & harmonized behavior coding)

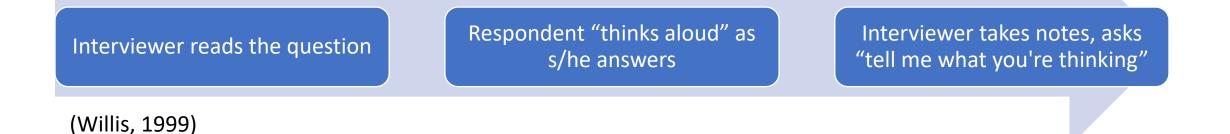*Results are less comparable (and open text can be more difficult to analyze)*

Option 1: Protocol-based "verbal probing"

- The interviewer "probes" the respondent with (already scripted) questions about their thought processes while answering the survey questions (Willson & Miller, 2014)

- Interviewer is active as s/he "probes" the respondent for the basis of their responses

Interviewer asks the question	Respondent answers	Interviewer asks specific "probe" questions

(Willis, 1999)

Option 2: Semi-structured cognitive interviewing, or qualitative interviews

- Interviewers instruct the respondents to "think aloud" as they answer the survey questions – "Tell me what are your thinking"

- Respondents "verbalize their thought processes as they went about answering a survey question" (Willson & Miller, 2014)

- Interviewers should be as neutral and uninvolved as possible

Interviewer reads the question

Respondent "thinks aloud" as s/he answers

Interviewer takes notes, asks "tell me what you're thinking"

(Willis, 1999)

Two methods for cognitive interviewing: Resources required

1. Standardized protocol-based verbal probing

N = higher (25-40)

Less training
(how to administer all scripted probes, manuscript)

Costs may be higher: May need to hire interviewers & offer a stipend to 25-40 respondents

2. Semi-structured qualitative interviews

N = smaller (5-10)

More training
(how to manage qualitative interviews efficiently + how to formulate spontaneous probes)

Costs may be lower: In-house expertise may be available & stipend to only 5-10 respondents

Support available

- Detailed protocol for Option 1 & general guidelines for Option 2

- All material available in English, French, Spanish & Portuguese

- Virtual training sessions for interested NSOs:
  - Training on protocol-based verbal probing (Option 1)
  - Training on qualitative interviews (Option 2)

- Peer support from other participating NSOs ('French Group', 'Spanish Group', 'Portuguese Group')

- Technical support at all time from the core team

Please write to us as soon as possible (group.praia@gmail.com)

1. **All stakeholders:** Do you want to join the 'working group' which will be revising the questionnaire (3-4 meetings over the next 3 weeks)?

2. **NSOs**: Do you want to take part in the cognitive testing of the revised questionnaire? Which method?