Statement on Data Protection and Confidentiality of Your Answers in Verbal or Written Interviews

For the survey "Leben in Deutschland" (Living in Germany), TNS Infratest Sozialforschung and TNS Infratest in Munich are working together with DIW Berlin (German Institute for Economic Research). All these institutes are working in full compliance with the provisions of the German data protection legislation and share joint responsibility for data protection in the framework of this project.

The results of this survey will be reported solely in anonymous form, which means that no one looking at the data will be able to trace answers to any individual respondent. The institutes mentioned above will never provide any data to a third party that would allow any individual to be identified. This also applies to follow-up surveys, in which a respondent is interviewed again after a certain period of time and the data from several interviews are combined using a code number, that is, without use of the respondent’s name or address.

If the respondent is under 18 years of age and no adult is present at the time of the interview, please give this statement to the respondent’s parents, legal guardian/s, or adult companions, requesting their approval.

If the cooperation between DIW Berlin and TNS Infratest Sozialforschung should end before conclusion of the overall project (at which time all personal data will be deleted), all of the material will be handed over to DIW Berlin, which will take on sole responsibility for data protection.

The anonymized data collected in the survey “Leben in Deutschland” are not only important for DIW Berlin’s research work; they are also provided by DIW Berlin to other scholars in Germany and abroad, who use these findings as the basis for their own research and teaching. As stated above, all data will be released only in anonymous form so that no recipient of the data will be able to deduce the identity of any respondent.

The persons responsible for the compliance with data protection regulations are:

TNS Infratest GmbH & Co. Wirtschaftsforschung  
TNS Infratest Sozialforschung GmbH  
DIW Berlin (Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung)

Winfried Hagenhoff  
Managing director

Dr. Nico A. Siegel  
Managing director

Prof. Gert G. Wagner  
Chairman Executive Board

Questions concerning data protection will be answered by the DPM of TNS Infratest:

Dr. Almut Pflüger  
089 / 5600 - 1176
Fax: 089 / 5600 - 1730

Alexander Eickelpasch  
10117 Berlin

Address of TNS Infratest-Institutes:

Landsberger Straße 284  
80687 München

Mohrenstraße 58  
10117 Berlin
What happens with your answers?

1. Our TNS Infratest employee inserts your answers into the questionnaire. The questionnaire will be provided either on paper and filled out with pencil, or provided and filled out on a laptop computer. In the case of a self-completed interview, you will write in the answers yourself.

2. At TNS Infratest Sozialforschung, your address is separated from your questionnaire. Possibly unclear answers will be clarified beforehand by phone. Data and address are labeled with a code number and saved separately. As a result, nobody looking at your answers will be able to discern who provided them. The address will be kept on file at TNS Infratest Sozialforschung, but only up to the completion of the overall survey. It will only be used to contact you for a subsequent interview at a later point in time.

3. The interview data from the questionnaire is converted into numeric form and saved—in anonymous form, without your name or address—on a data medium (diskette, CD, DVD).

4. After that, the data (without name or address) is analyzed by a computer. The processor counts all the answers and calculates results such as percentages.

5. The overall results and the results for particular sub-groups are then presented in tabular form.

6. In all cases:

   Your participation is voluntary. No disadvantages will result if you decide not to participate. It is understood that all participating institutes keep strict compliance with all data protection regulations. You can be absolutely assured that

   - your name and your address will not be passed on to third parties
   - no data that can be used to identify your person will be passed on to any third party.

Thank you very much for your participation and your trust in our work!