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SOEP Survey Papers
Series A – Survey Instruments (Erhebungsinstrumente)

SOEP-Core – 2024: Pre-recruitment (PAPI, with Reference to Variables)

SOEP Group

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2026

The variable names mentioned in this document belong to a collection of datasets, which is released with doi:10.5684/soep.core.v41o.

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Reading Aid

This representation of the questionnaire contains the same information as the portal `paneldata.org`.

The diagram illustrates the structure of a questionnaire entry. It shows two questions, Q72 and Q73, with their respective text, instructions, and answer options. Key elements are highlighted with different colors and labels:

- question number:** Q72, Q73
- question text:** "Now we would like to know something about you personally. Were you born in Germany?" and "What country were you born in?"
- interviewer instruction:** "This refers to Germany or the Federal Republic of Germany or the German Democratic Republic in the national borders at the time of your birth." and "Please enter the current name!"
- answer options:** Yes (1), No (2), No answer (-1)
- in blue: identifier for filter:** Q72:lsta1, bio, I0013, born in Germany
- in blue: filter with condition:** Q72:lsta1=2
- grey bar: open or numeric answer:** A grey bar representing an open answer field.
- in green: dataset name, variable name, variable label:** Q73:lsta2, bio, I0016, Country Of Birth

Here, in addition to the *question number*, *question text*, *interviewer instructions*, and *answer options*, you find printed in green the *file name* and the *variable name* with the *variable label*, which contains information from the question. If you see rows of green lines below the answer option, the questionnaire defines several variables or information is stored in more than one dataset.

The *routing by filters* is depicted in blue.

Each variable is preceded by an identifier, which usually contains the question number and which is used when the variable is used in filters in subsequent questions. Such filters are usually placed as input filters (gatekeepers) at the beginning of a question. An identifier that is referred to in the input filter of a subsequent question is marked yellow as an example.

This reading aid does not cover a few exceptional cases: If the filter (as gatekeeper) only affects one of several variables for a question, the filter is printed in blue behind the variable. There you will also find a "go to" command in the form 2 @ Q73. Here, the questionnaire skips to question 73 if answer 2 was given.

Phrases that are not already translated in English are displayed in German and preceded by [de].

0 Welcome to the first part of the “Living in Germany” study. Thank you for your willingness to support us and participate in the survey.

You have the option of completing the online questionnaire in English.

You have the option of completing the online questionnaire in Polish.

You have the option of completing the online questionnaire in Bulgarian.

You have the option of completing the online questionnaire in Russian

0_1 Dear participant,

We have invited you to take part in this survey in order to find out more about the living situation of people in Germany. Your support for this project is very important in order to find out how the citizens of this country are doing.

In this first short survey, we first have a few questions about yourself. We also ask you to indicate when we can best reach you. It will take about 5 minutes to answer.

An infas employee will then contact you to arrange an appointment for the second part of the survey. In the personal interview, we would like to find out more about you and your household. To do this, we would like to interview you and other people in your household. This gives you the opportunity to tell us your personal story and tell us what you think about various topics.

Participation is of course voluntary and can be cancelled at any time. Each household member can decide for themselves whether they wish to take part in the personal survey. All information will be treated in strict confidence. You will find more detailed information in the data protection declaration enclosed with the cover letter.

By answering the written questionnaire and sending it to infas, you agree to participate in the study.

The easiest way to complete the questionnaire is online. You can access this at: <> Please enter your personal access code there: <> or start the online survey via the QR code. If you have completed the questionnaire online, you do not need to return this written questionnaire to us.

Help1 How should the questionnaire be filled out?

Help2 Make an X in the box next to the answer option that you think comes the closest. If you make a mistake, clearly cross out the wrong answer and make an X in the correct box.

Example:

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Help3 If you change your mind and decide that you want to select the answer that you just crossed out, you will need to clearly cross out the second mistake and then make a circle around the box you had crossed out first.

Yes 1
No 2

Help4 When filling out the questionnaire, please pay attention to the instructions for each question:

Example: Please select one answer only.

Help5 If there is a blank for you to write your answer in, please print your answer in the blank.

Example:

Country

Help6 Sometimes you are asked to give numerical answers. Please enter your answer by aligning numbers to the right in the spaces provided:

Example:

Number

Help7 If you should skip certain questions, there will be specific instructions:

Example:

Yes 1

Help8 Please pay attention:

- *use only a black pen to fill out the questionnaire.*
- *that the information is clearly legible.*
- *and that the information is inside the boxes.*

This makes our work much easier. Thank you very much!

Help9 Further information:

If you have any questions about filling out the questionnaire or about your participation in the study, you are welcome to contact us at infas.

You can call us during normal business hours at our toll-free number, 0800-6677876, or send us an e-mail at LiD@infas.de. We will respond to e-mails as quickly as possible.

1 Which of the following areas are for your well-being and satisfaction very important, important, not very important, totally unimportant? How important is for your well-being and satisfaction ...

	Very important	Important	Not that important	Not important at all
... Work?	1	2	3	4
... Family?	1	2	3	4
... Friends?	1	2	3	4
... Income?	1	2	3	4
... Home?	1	2	3	4
... The influence on political decisions?	1	2	3	4
... Career success?	1	2	3	4
... Free-time?	1	2	3	4
... Health?	1	2	3	4
... Protection of the natural environment?	1	2	3	4
... Faith, religion?	1	2	3	4
... Residential area?	1	2	3	4
... Mobility to get everywhere quickly?	1	2	3	4
1:plh0091_v2	borecruit	bor_01_01	[de] Arbeit für Zufriedenheit	
1:plh0092_v2	borecruit	bor_01_02	[de] Familie für Zufriedenheit	
1:plh0093_v2	borecruit	bor_01_03	[de] Freundeskreis für Zufriedenheit	
1:plh0094_v2	borecruit	bor_01_04	[de] Einkommen für Zufriedenheit	
1:plh0095_v2	borecruit	bor_01_05	[de] Wohnung für Zufriedenheit	
1:plh0096_v2	borecruit	bor_01_06	[de] Politischer Einfluss für Zufriedenheit	
1:plh0097_v2	borecruit	bor_01_07	[de] Erfolg im Beruf für Zufriedenheit	
1:plh0098_v2	borecruit	bor_01_08	[de] Freizeit für Zufriedenheit	
1:plh0099_v2	borecruit	bor_01_09	[de] Gesundheit für Zufriedenheit	
1:plh0100_v2	borecruit	bor_01_10	[de] Umweltschutz für Zufriedenheit	
1:plh0101	borecruit	bor_01_11	[de] Religion für Zufriedenheit	
1:plh0102	borecruit	bor_01_12	[de] Wohngegend für Zufriedenheit	
1:plh0103	borecruit	bor_01_13	[de] Mobilität für Zufriedenheit	

2 Would you describe yourself as an impatient or a patient person in general?

Please answer on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means “not at all impulsive” and 10 means “very impulsive”.

0 Not at all impulsive	0
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10 Very impulsive	10

2:plh0254 borecruit bor_02 [de] Persönliche Impulsivität

3 People have different ideas about what makes a society just.

Please answer on a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 means “Do not agree at all” and 7 means “Completely agree”.

	Do not agree at all 1	2	3	4	5	6	Completely agree 7
A society is just when people who work hard earn more than others	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A society is just when people from respected families have advantages in life	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A society is just when it takes care of the weak and needy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A society is just when the income and wealth in society are equally distributed among all people	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3:plh0396i01 borecruit bor_03_01	[de] Gerecht: Einkommen / Vermögen gleich verteilt						
3:plh0396i02 borecruit bor_03_02	[de] Gerecht: Vorteile wohlhabender Familien						
3:plh0396i03 borecruit bor_03_03	[de] Eine Gesellschaft ist gerecht, wenn sie sich um die Schwachen und Hilfsbedürftigen kümmert.						
3:plh0396i04 borecruit bor_03_04	[de] Gerecht: Gleichverteilung von Einkommen und Vermögen						

4 Imagine that you are unexpectedly given 10,000 euros. How would you use this money? How much would you save how much to give and how much to spend? You can split the amount or use it for one purpose only

Save: [...]euros

Donate: [...] euros

Expend: [...] euros

- 4:plh0134 borecruit bor_04 [de] 10.000EUR geschenkt, Anteil sparen
- 4:plh0135 borecruit bor_04_02 [de] 10.000EUR geschenkt, Anteil verschenken
- 4:plh0136 borecruit bor_04_03 [de] 10.000EUR geschenkt, Anteil ausgeben

5 What school-leaving certificate did you obtain?

Left school without a school-leaving certificate	1
Lower secondary school-leaving certificate (Hauptschulabschluss)	2
Intermediate secondary school-leaving certificate (Realschulabschluss / Mittlere Reife)	3
Specialized upper secondary school-leaving certificate (Fachhochschulreife)	4
Upper secondary school-leaving certificate (Abitur)	5
Other school-leaving certificate	6

[5:lb0191](#) [borecruit](#) [bor_05](#) [\[de\]](#) [Schulabschluss](#)

Mantel_1 Please fill in the following fields as completely as possible so that we can reach you for the second part of the survey.

In order to reach you as easily and uncomplicated as possible, we would like to contact you by e-mail in the future. Please enter an e-mail address through which we can best reach you. Of course, all information is voluntary.

Please fill in the address fields legibly, preferably in CAPITAL LETTERS and Latin letters.

First name

Last name

E-mail address

Street and number

Postcode

City

Telephone number

[Mantel_1:name](#) [borecruit](#) [name](#) [name](#)

Mantel_2 How many adults (people born before 2006) currently live with you in the same household?

[...] Number of persons

[Mantel_2:hhgroe](#) [borecruit](#) [bor_Mantel](#) [\[de\]](#) [Haushaltsgröße](#)

Mantel_3 On which days are you best available?

Monday to friday	1
Weekend only	2
All days	3
I can not say now	9

Mantel_4 And what is the best time to reach you?

Best in the morning	1
Best in the afternoon	2
Best in the evening	3
All day	4
I can not say now	9

Mantel_6 Thank you very much for your assistance.

Please return the completed questionnaire in a postage-paid envelope to infas.
An interviewer will contact you soon. We look forward to your participation!