



# NatCen

National Centre *for* Social Research

## Environmental attitudes, knowledge and behaviour

The International Social  
Survey Programme (ISSP) 2010

Britain's leading independent social research institute

# International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)

- First survey in 1985
- Annual
- Elected Secretariat plus subgroups
- Individual countries raise funds for surveys
- Now 44 members spanning Europe, America, Asia, Australia and Africa

# ISSP member countries

Australia	France	Portugal
Austria	Germany	Russia
Belgium	Great Britain	Slovakia
Brazil	Hungary	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Ireland	South Africa
Canada	Israel	South Korea
Chile	Italy	Spain
China	Japan	Sweden
Croatia	Latvia	Switzerland
Cyprus	Mexico	Taiwan
Czech Republic	Netherlands	Turkey
Denmark	New Zealand	United States
Dominican Republic	Norway	Uruguay
Estonia	Philippines	Venezuela
Finland	Poland	

# ISSP topics

## Topics

Role of Government

Social Networks

Social Inequality

Family and Changing Gender Roles

Work Orientations

Religion

## Environment

National Identity

Citizenship

Sport and leisure

Health

## Year

1985, 1990, 1996, 2006

1986, 2001

1987, 1992, 1999, 2009

1988, 1994, 2002

1989, 1997, 2005

1991, 1998, 2008

1993, 2000, 2010

1995, 2003

2004

2007

2011

# ISSP surveys

Expectation of repetition

Fieldwork

- Face to face or self-completion methods **only**

Sampling

- Minimum 1000 achieved sample
- Expectation of random sampling

Questionnaire

- 15 minute module (60 questions) asked in set order
- Agreed background questions

# Questionnaire design

## Design process

- Topics nominated and voted for at annual plenary meeting
- Election of drafting group, up to six member countries
- Circulation of design notes/questionnaires
- Consultation with local experts
- Pilot test in Britain, Spain, South Korea and Chile
- Final agreement at annual meeting
- Vote per question

# ISSP environment

## Module design

- 40 repeat questions from 1993 and/or 2000
- 20 new questions

## Questionnaire coverage

- Attitudes and beliefs
- Behaviour
- Knowledge
- Explanatory questions
- Demographics

# Attitudes and beliefs

- Salience of the environment
- Attitudes to the environment, science and nature
- Environmental efficacy
- Dangers of specific environmental problems
- Role of different nations in tackling environmental problems
- Environmental policy

Purpose: to map relevant attitudes and beliefs, and chart variation between countries and over time

# Behaviour

- Hypothetical behaviour
- Actual behaviour
- Membership of environmental groups
- Environmental actions

Purpose: to map environmentally relevant behaviour, and chart variation between countries and over time

# Knowledge

- Scientific knowledge important part of 1993 module
- Very contentious
- 2010 will use self-assessed knowledge items (causes and solutions to environmental problems)
- Two 'optional' knowledge items repeated from 1993 and 2000

Purpose: to improve our understanding of the relationship between knowledge, attitudes and behaviour

# Explanatory questions

- Measures of left-right orientation
- Materialism and post-materialism
- Social and political trust

Purpose: to help analysts understand how and why attitudes and behaviour vary, within countries and between countries

# Demographic/background

## Including:

- Education, occupation (ISCO)
- Sex, age
- Religion
- Area of residence

Purpose: to help us understand how and why attitudes and behaviour vary, within countries and between countries

## Analysis potential

- Improving our understanding of the relationship between attitudes, behaviour and knowledge
- Charting how countries differ in their attitudes and behaviour, and helping understand why
- Helping explain why individuals differ in their attitudes and values
- Examining change over time, and how this has varied between countries

## Further sources of information

[www.issp.org](http://www.issp.org)

Bibliography at ISSP website, lists 2880 publications (including 388 books, 428 book chapters and 915 journal papers)



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# Previous participation in ISSP environment

## 1993 and 2000

Bulgaria  
Canada  
Czech Republic  
Germany  
Great Britain  
Ireland  
Israel  
Japan  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Philippines  
Russia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Switzerland  
United States

## 2000 only

Austria  
Chile  
Denmark  
Finland  
Latvia  
Mexico  
Portugal  
Sweden