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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Population Activities Unit

GGP Panel Maintenance Guidelines

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5th GGP IWG meeting, Ljubljana, 18-20 January 2007



Aim

- Advise and suggest possible standardized solutions
- Guide of best practices and a reference point
- Two main issues:
 - Attrition prevention
 - Tracing



Attrition

- What is attrition?
 - Continuous erosion of the sample due to nonresponse.
- specific to panel surveys
 - time dependent event
- cumulative with time
- types
 - random (MCAR) – neglectable
 - non-random – potential Bias
- What are the considerations?
 - Possibility of not being able to establish a contact

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Attrition prevention

- Collecting contact information
- Keeping in touch with respondents



Collecting contact information

- up-to-date contact information
 - essential for re-establishment of contact
- at the end of successful interview
- collected information
 - home details
 - work details
 - potential proxies
 - next of keen (parents)
 - friends neighbors



Keeping in touch

- ... maintaining the panel
- 2 goals
 - securing that the contact attempt is successful – contact rate
 - providing updated contact details
 - securing that the interview solicitation is successful – cooperation rate
 - keeping the respondents highly motivated and informed in the inter-wave period



Updated contact information

- Mailed contact forms
 - postcards
 - wish cards
- Web pages with on-line forms
 - possibly also providing
 - additional information on survey
 - FAQ
 - discussion forums



Motivation

- “Thank You” letter
- Satisfaction survey
 - Keeps panel members in a role of respondents
 - Gives an opportunity to reflect on interviewer conduct
- First results brochure



Unsuccessful maintenance

- What can we do about it?
- Attempt to trace the most current contact details of “lost” panel member
 - using various approaches



Tracing

- Easy tracing
 - phone directories
 - other specialized directories
- Difficult tracing
 - more difficult to access directories
 - web directories (vas amount of information)
 - printed directories
 - operators
 - municipal offices
 - respondent's proxies
 - maps
 - field tracing
- Special tracing
 - CAI environments
 - use of registers

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Concluding remarks

- more on-hand experience available
 - large longitudinal surveys
- Acknowledgements
 - Statistics Canada
 - Hungarian GGP
 - Japanese GGP



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Thank you for your attention!

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