Letter of intent

File number: 175.2021.032
Grant: 2021/2022

Applicant

Title: The Social Science Observatory of the Netherlands

Abstract

The Social Science Observatory of the Netherlands brings together the largest surveys in the social sciences to develop innovations in data collection and deploy them at scale. These innovations will provide unique and novel insights into a broad spectrum of social phenomena and advance future data collection. There are five main pillars of work:

Sampling – Scientific social surveys are defined by the rigour of their sampling methods and the degree to which they reflect the population's attributes, attitudes, and behaviours. How samples are designed and obtained is the essential value they provide for the social science community and society generally. This pillar will examine new innovative approaches to sampling, to deliver precision sampling that targets highly specific populations, minimize costs, and provide researchers with the greatest analytical leverage for their research.

Participant Management – Participants are the core asset of a survey and high response, completion and retention rates are vital for maximizing the return on investment and the scientific value of the study. This pillar integrates new technologies of participant management, produce experiments on the optimal use of incentives and other fieldwork measures, and invest in panel management for the longitudinal studies in the consortium.

Mode Transition – The greatest challenge for social surveys in the last decade has been the shift of data collection online and this has been accelerated by COVID. Online data collection is less expensive, but it creates measurement and selection issues in the data collected. This process is still ongoing and accelerating as the range of devices people use to complete surveys continues to expand. This pillar will run experiments, establish best practices, and coordinate the field to address this challenge.

Linked Open Data – Personal data is highly sensitive and must be handled securely, ethically and in compliance with the GDPR/UGAV. To achieve this there are several technologies such as personal data vaults which could allow researchers to utilize individual's personal data without accessing it directly. A few small scale experiments with such technologies exist, but this project would extend these and deploy them at scale within national surveys for the first time.

Health Data – This pillar will deploy several innovations in biomarker and biometric health measures at scale and strengthen social science genetics by collecting genetic data through some of the participating surveys.

The consortium includes the Dutch elements of several large-scale data collections including the European Social Survey (ESS), the European Value Survey (EVS), the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP), the Netherlands Twin Register (NTR), and the Dutch Parliamentary Election Study (NKO). These studies are represented by Erasmus University Rotterdam, the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, Tilburg University, Utrecht University, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Radboud University and Centerdata. The work program complements the work program in ODISSEI.

Domain: Social Science and Humanities

48.90.00 Demography
38.10.00 Microeconomics
45.90.00 Sociology
44.20.00 Political science
40.50.00 Social and Organizational Psychology

Organisation responsible for the application
Confirm letter of intent
With submitting this form via ISAAC I declare to have filled in this form completely and truthfully.

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