

METHODOLOGY REPORT FOR NORDIC SURVEY¹

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¹ This survey project has been registered in RETTE, the University of Bergen's system for processing sensitive data, with id number F3063.

Countries included

All five Nordic countries are included. In alphabetical order:

1. Denmark
2. Finland
3. Iceland
4. Norway
5. Sweden

Data provider

Centre for Research on Discretion and Paternalism (University of Bergen) hired YouGov to implement a web survey on people’s attitudes towards child protection and children’s rights, with representative samples of the adult population in the Nordic countries. With respect to gender, age group, and geography, representative samples of at least 1,000 respondents with an age of 18 and over were drawn per country. The study included survey experiments with randomization of respondents into treatments.

Online questionnaires were distributed by the survey firm YouGov. YouGov has an engaged panel of opt-in respondents. The panel size is 250,440 in Denmark, 103,652 in Finland, 175,774 in Norway, and 265,749 in Sweden. In all YouGov surveys, the firm defines the sample through its Panel Management. To ensure nationally representative samples, the samples are divided into cells based on gender, age, and geographical region. In addition, the figures are weighted against national official statistics.

Panelists receive an email invitation containing a survey link, are checked against quotas on live surveys, and are allocated to a survey for which they qualify. YouGov employs a point-based incentive program, with points (determined by survey length) being allocated to panelists upon survey completion.

Regarding informed consent, panel members have already given their consent to be panelists and answer surveys. They are not asked to give consent to each survey they get invited to answer. The topic of the survey has not been shown to the respondents in either of the five countries.

YouGov has its own panels in all the Nordic countries except Iceland. The survey in Iceland was conducted using a partner panel (Maskína). The panel size is approximately 30,000 in Iceland. YouGov selects external sample partners for their capacity to reach challenging demographics and produce high-quality work promptly. Maskína is one of few suppliers in Iceland that can deliver 1,000 respondents and YouGov has experienced that they deliver high-quality data. YouGov holds no responsibility over the panel members from Iceland.

Timing of the surveys

For all five countries, the data collection started with the surveys being soft launched on a limited number of respondents (ranging from 53 to 71). After the soft launch data was shared and checked by Frøydis Haarberg (survey coordinator) and Marit Skivenes (principal investigator), the full launch of the surveys was confirmed and executed.

Table 1 Overview of survey timing

Country	Survey soft-launched	Full data received
Denmark	June 6, 2023	July 3, 2023

Finland	June 6, 2023	July 3, 2023
Iceland	July 4, 2023	July 20, 2023
Norway	June 6, 2023	July 3, 2023
Sweden	June 6, 2023	July 3, 2023

Number of respondents

Table 2 Overview of respondent numbers

Country	Number of respondents
Denmark	1,017
Finland	1,015
Iceland	1,021
Norway	1,006
Sweden	1,014
<i>Total</i>	<i>5,073</i>

Question formulation

The survey questions were developed by a group of researchers affiliated with the [Children's Right to Participation](#) project (PARTICIPATION, project number 320149). The group consisted of Marit Skivenes (principal investigator), Frøydis Haarberg (survey coordinator), Audun Løvlie, Hege Helland, Katrin Križ, Viggo Krüger, and Gunn Astrid Baugerud. Each researcher developed one or more sets of questions on their sub-topic of interest.

Quality checks of questions

The development and modification of survey questions occurred from February 2023 to March 2023. In an iterative process, the researchers checked each other's and their own survey questions, with a focus on whether they were suitable for a population study and understandable to citizens. A draft of the questions was also tested by laypeople, including the survey coordinator's family members (March 26, 2023), and questions were revised based on feedback. The principal investigator had an overall quality check of the survey design.

Translation of surveys

The master file of the survey was in Norwegian and sent to YouGov. The final version was sent on April 27, 2023. Based on the Norwegian master file, YouGov translated the survey into Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, and Swedish. While waiting for the translations from YouGov, an English version of the

survey was developed by the survey coordinator and quality-checked by Marit Skivenes, Audun Løvlie, and Hege Helland. The English version was created for external quality checks and later analysis/research dissemination. We received the translation of the survey into Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, and Swedish from YouGov on May 9, 2023.

Quality checks of translations

After YouGov carried out initial translations of the survey, the translated questions and response options were thoroughly reviewed and tested by native-speaking external quality checkers from each country.

The quality checkers were recruited from the research community affiliated with the Centre for Research on Discretion and Paternalism. Except for Finland, a minimum of two native speakers per language reviewed the translated surveys. The external quality checkers were asked to be particularly aware of technical/academic/subject-specific terms in the questions and response alternatives. All, except two layperson reviewers from Iceland, had knowledge of child protection.

Some of the translations required several rounds, either by the same or another external quality checker. For some of the returned translations, follow-up questions were sent to make sure we were capturing what we wanted to capture.

Following the external quality checks, the translated surveys were returned to YouGov for launch. For the Icelandic translation, YouGov's partner organization did additional checks of the returned translation.

Table 3 Overview of quality checkers

Country	External quality checkers
Norway	[Master survey – the research team and colleagues at the centre]
Denmark	Anne Marie Villumsen (senior researcher, VIVE)
	Hanne Hartoft (associate professor, Aalborg University)
Finland	Laura Holmi (senior lecturer, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences)
Iceland	Halla Björk Marteinsdóttir (employee, the National Agency for Children and Families)
	Páll Ólafsson (executive director, the National Agency for Children and Families)
	Maya Staub (layperson)
	Hildur Skuladottir (layperson)
Sweden	Staffan Höjer (professor emeritus, University of Gothenburg)
	Ingrid Höjer (professor emerita, University of Gothenburg)
	Torbjörn Forkby (professor, Linnæus University)

Internal discussions/quality checks

There have been informal discussions and quality checks at the Centre for Research on Discretion and Paternalism. Experiences have been exchanged between the coordinators of ongoing survey work. In addition, the principal investigator on the PARTICIPATION project has quality-checked all survey parts.

Questions

Replicated questions

Some of the survey questions are replications of/inspired by previous surveys conducted by DIPA affiliates and other researchers, for comparative reasons. Table 4 gives an overview of these questions, their sources, and whether versions existed in the five Nordic languages or English. Where such versions existed, they were used in this survey.

Table 4 Overview of replicated questions

Questions	Sources	Language
Q28-Q30	Swedlow, B., & Wyckoff, M. L. (2009). Value preferences and ideological structuring of attitudes in American public opinion. <i>American Politics Research</i> , 37(6), 1048-1087. https://doi.org/10.1177/1532673X09333959	English
T1-T2	Berrick, J. D., Skivenes, M., & Roscoe, J. N. (2021). Children’s rights and parents’ rights: Popular attitudes about when we privilege one over the other. <i>International Journal of Social Welfare</i> , 31(4), 449-462. https://doi.org/10.1111/ijsw.12523 Berrick, J. D., Skivenes, M., & Roscoe, J. N. (2023). Parental freedom in the context of risk to the child: Citizens’ views of child protection and the state in the US and Norway. <i>Journal of Social Policy</i> , 52(4), 864–885. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047279421001021 Berrick, J. D., Skivenes, M., & Roscoe, J. N. (2023). Public perceptions of child protection, children’s rights, and personal values: An assessment of two states. <i>Children and Youth Services Review</i> , 150, Article No. 106960. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2023.106960	Norwegian

National variation/special circumstances to note

General/cross-country

Occupation

The *occupation* variable is a standard background variable from YouGov, with national questions and response options that cannot be changed. Note that the two employment response options are somewhat different between the countries:

Table 5 Occupation variable

Country	Employment option 1/2	Employment option 2/2
Denmark	Clerk/clerk-like jobs (office work, teaching, etc.) (‘Funktionær/funktionærlignende job (kontorarbejde, undervisning m.m.)’)	Skilled/unskilled (not clerk) (‘Faglært/ufaglært (ikke funktionær)’)
Finland	Clerk/expert (‘Toimihenkilö/asiantuntija’)	Worker (‘Työntekijä’)
Iceland	Working - a non-physical job that requires ingenuity/knowledge, e.g. office workers and teachers (‘Á vinnumarkaði - í starfi sem er ekki líkamlegt og byggir á hugviti/þekkingu, t.d. skrifstofufólk og kennarar’)	Working - a physical job that requires know-how, e.g. semi-skilled workers, service workers or healthcare professionals (‘Á vinnumarkaði - í starfi sem er líkamlegt og krefst ákveðinnar verkþekkingar, t.d. þeir sem starfa við iðngreinar eða þjónustustörf og heilbrigðisstarfsfólk’)
Norway	Professionally active - office job, teaching, etc. (‘Yrkesaktiv - kontorjobb, undervisning m.m’)	Professionally active - skilled worker, sales and service employee, health worker, etc. (‘Yrkesaktiv - fagarbeider, handels- og serviceansatt, helsearbeider m.m’)
Sweden	Clerk (‘Tjänsteman’)	Worker (‘Arbetare’)

FT_next

The *FT_next* variable is a standard background variable from YouGov, with national questions and response options that cannot be changed. Note that, in Norway and Iceland, respondents were asked which party they would vote for if there was a general election “tomorrow”; in Sweden, Denmark, and Finland, they were asked which party they would vote for if there was a general election “today”.

Q10-Q15

Q10-Q15 reads “As you see it, should the case worker talk with the child in question about the content of the reports of concern?”.

The second response option on *Q10-Q15* is somewhat unclear, as an external quality checker commented on: “Yes, the case worker should talk with an adult who can speak on behalf of the child”. The response option should have been “No, the case worker should talk with an adult who can speak on behalf of the child”. Unfortunately, this inaccuracy was detected too late in the survey process.

Denmark

Q9

In Denmark, one of the external quality checkers commented that the formulation about children “giving information” is not typical Danish, and it was suggested to replace the word “information” with “explanation”.

Therefore, we landed on the following translation of statement 2: “Children who give incoherent explanations when asked about something are more likely to lie than children who give coherent explanations” (‘Børn, der giver usammenhængende forklaring, når de bliver spurgt om noget, har større sandsynlighed for at lyve end børn, der giver sammenhængende forklaring’).

Q10-Q15 and Q21-Q23

In Denmark, one of the external quality checkers informed that it is the municipality (equivalent to the child protection services) that receives reports of concern and investigates a child protection case. This is reflected in *Q10-Q15* and *Q21-Q23*.

Q10-Q15

In Denmark, one of the external quality checkers had a remark to *Q10* and *Q13* on concerns of sexual violence and *Q11* and *Q14* on physical violence. They informed that, in Denmark, there is a very specific procedure for violence and assault, which was introduced with the law called the Assault Package (‘Overgrebspakken’). However, this specific procedure does not apply to emotional neglect (*Q12* and *Q15*). The principal investigator and survey coordinator decided to keep the questions as is, assuming that the general public does not have extensive knowledge about this package/procedure and stressing that the questions are about citizens’ attitudes.

Q16-Q17

In Denmark, one of the external quality checkers informed that it is the municipality (equivalent to the child protection services) that decides on contact between the child and parents when a child is in foster care. This is reflected in *Q16-Q17*.

Q18-Q20

In Denmark, *Q18-Q20* reads “Forestil dig nu, at domstolen behandler en sag – enten om anbringelse uden for hjemmet eller om forældremyndighed, bopæl eller samvær – vedrørende et barn på 5 år (*Q18*) // 11 år (*Q19*) // 14 år (*Q20*).”

This was in line with the suggestion from an external quality checker who commented that the courts deal with both social matters concerning placement and family law matters concerning custody, residence, and contact. A full treatment takes place in court, but not necessarily as the first instance. In hindsight, we could have used the formulation “enten om anbringelse uden for hjemmet eller om forældremyndighed”. However, custody, residence, and contact are all private family law decisions.

Q23 and Q26

In Denmark, the external quality checker commented that 16-year-old children would not be called “children” but “young people”. However, we kept “child” in *Q23* and *Q26* since they are vignettes about different ages, and they are technically still children at age 16.

Finland

In Finland, the response option of “Strongly agree” could have been changed from ‘Hyvin paljon samaa mieltä’ to ‘Täysin samaa mieltä’. According to the external quality checker, this would be the more common version. However, this was detected after the revised Finnish translation was sent to YouGov. Also, our used formulation works as well.

Q27

In Finland, to adjust statement 2 (“It is difficult for decision-makers in tribunals and courts to interpret and to understand nonverbal forms of expression”) to the Finnish context, only “courts” was used in the statement. The external quality checker confirmed this adjustment.

Iceland

In Iceland, a couple of the quality checkers had several suggestions for minor changes in grammar, that did not change the substantial meaning of the questions and response options. For some questions or response options, the quality checkers also had quite different suggestions. To avoid inconsistent verb forms due to following some suggestions and not others, we to a large extent followed the original translations from YouGov.

Gender

In Iceland, the *gender* variable has a third response option that is not included in the other languages: “Non-binary” (‘Kvár/kynsegin’).

YouGov’s partner organization, which fielded the Icelandic survey, insisted on adding an additional option as they are bound by law to include a non-binary option.

Q2-Q3

In Iceland, the external quality checkers provided different suggestions for changes to statement 1, none being direct translations of the statement in the master survey. The translation we landed on (“The Convention on the Rights of the Child is very important among the Icelandic people”) was slightly different from the original formulation (“The Convention on the Rights of the Child has a very strong standing in the [COUNTRY] population”). However, the substantial meaning is arguably still close.

Q2a-Q3a

In Iceland, Q2a-Q3a has an additional response option that is not included in the other languages: “Don’t know/will not answer” (‘Veit ekki/vil ekki svara’).

YouGov’s partner organization, which fielded the Icelandic survey, insisted on adding an additional option. The partner organization was concerned about respondents’ experience and stressed that it is important for respondents to get surveys where they can choose “Don’t know” on every question, in order to maintain high panel and data quality.

Q16-Q17 and Q27

In Iceland, the external quality checker informed that “barnavernd” is equivalent to the Norwegian Tribunal. This is reflected in Q16-Q17 and Q27.

Sweden

Education

In Sweden, one of our external quality checkers had the following critical comment about two of the response options (‘Folkskola/Grundskola’ and ‘Gymnasium/Realskola’):

“‘Realskolan’ was abolished in the 1970s. It corresponded to ‘högstadiet’, which is thus part of the current ‘grundskolan’ and should not stand as an alternative together with ‘gymnasium’.”

Unfortunately, the *education* variable is a standard background variable from YouGov, with national questions and response options that cannot be changed.

Q16-Q17

In Sweden, the original translation of Q16-Q17 read: 'Ett 5-årigt (Q16) // 10-årigt (Q17) barn bor i familjehem efter att föräldrarna har försummat barnet. Socialnämnden kommer nu att besluta om umgänget mellan barnet och föräldrarna.'

This was changed to 'Socialnämnden ska nu ta ställning till umgänget mellan barnet och föräldrarna', based on the following comment from an external quality checker:

"In contact/access matters, it may be a matter of a court decision, not of the 'socialnämnden'. [...] Possibly you can write "take a position on" instead of "decide" as this is something that the 'socialnämnden' does."

Screenshots

To control and document how the survey looked to our respondents, we have taken screenshots of all "live" surveys, including the questions/response options for all languages.

As the survey company was not able to take screenshots of the questions, we were provided with the links sent to the respondents. In the process of taking the screenshots, the completed surveys were not sent in, so they have not been counted as survey responses.