

EPCReN Survey Guidelines.

Guidelines for the 1999-2000 EPCReN comparative survey to be conducted in Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, and Norway. The guidelines below is agreed upon between researchers from six of the above mentioned eight countries.

- 1) On the cover sheet/first sheet of the questionnaire it must be explained that there is no right or wrong answers. The respondents are asked to mark the response alternative closest to his or her opinion. And all respondents must be assured that they will remain anonymous.
- 2) The four scale response pattern has been agreed upon as the standard, with yes – no, and 0 – 10 scales as alternatives when appropriate. (A uniform scale throughout the questionnaire was discussed but rejected.)
- 3) In appropriate cases, especially when questions may be sensitive, the “third person style” will be used, asking: What do people you know well think about this issue/question?
- 4) All research groups must perform a number of qualitative interviews based on the questions in the questionnaire, to check the validity of the issues/questions.
- 5) Some few open ended questions must be added, for instance: “What do you think is the most important problem in the country today?”
- 6) The group of respondents must be a stratified, random sample of urban respondents, and a sample of at least 1000 respondents. The Tokyo workshop agreed to ask all the national EPCReN groups to add 1000 students to the sample, if at all possible.
- 7) The questionnaire must be delivered personally by a research assistant to the respondent together with an envelope. When filled out, usually the next day, it must be collected again in the closed envelope.
- 8) All survey instruments must follow the same coding and the same order of response alternatives. The original model is the English language questionnaire compiled by the EPCReN coordinator.
- 9) The EPCReN questionnaire must be distributed as an independent research instrument, not as a part of another study. Only if agreed upon in the EPCReN group is it possible to add or detract issues/questions from the questionnaire.
- 10) All translated questionnaires must be re-translated into English by qualified and independent people to secure that all national surveys as closely as possible follows what we have agreed upon in Copenhagen and Tokyo.
- 11) All data must if possible be entered a SPSS file and forwarded to the following addresses: SRT@ps.au.dk and Geir@nias.ku.dk The country studies are the property of the researchers conducting the studies in each country. The whole cross-national data-set belongs to the EPCReN group in common and will be published according to common agreement.