

# **LISS panel Following rules**

## **Inclusion and Following rules for households**

### **Inclusion:**

The panel includes all households residing at addresses that occur in the random address sample supplied by Statistics Netherlands (CBS), of which at least one member is willing to complete the household box and individual questionnaires. All persons making up these households at the time of the first completion of the household box are defined as “original sample members” (OSM).

### **Follow-up:**

- Every household which consists of at least one OSM and in which one household member has completed the household box is selected for the panel questionnaires (repetitions of the household box and individual questionnaires).
- Households that do meet the OSM definition but have not registered or completed the household box cannot start on follow-up measurements (panel questionnaires).

## **Inclusion and Following rules for individuals**

### **Inclusion:**

- People considered to be part of a household are:
  1. The family head.
  2. The family head’s partner, married or not.
  3. All children living at home, which means the children that normally eat, sleep, etc. at home at least four days a week. Children that definitively do not live at home (any more) do not count.
  4. All other persons that normally ‘board’ at the home at least four days a week, meaning that they eat and sleep there. This could be, for example, in-living parents (in law).
- Persons that do not meet the definition above because they were temporarily absent at the time the household box was completed, but that do consider the household their primary place of residence and that have the intention of returning there within one year, can also be considered a member of the household and an OSM. Examples of temporary absence (temporary = less than one year) are internships, travel, holiday, short hospital stay. These persons are not approached/followed at their temporary address, but are considered as non-active OSM and reincluded in the selection as soon as they return to the household address.

### **Follow-up:**

In order to follow and select persons for the duration of the panel, we distinguish two categories of persons: the “original sample members” (OSM) and the “non-sample persons” (NSP):

- All persons that are part of the household at the time the household completes the first household box are defined as “original sample members” (OSM), plus the children born to these persons after the first completion of the household box.
- OSM also applies to members of the household that are unable or unwilling to participate and children younger than 16. These are non-active OSM, who do not complete individual questionnaires but that are known on the basis of the first completed household box. Non-active OSM can become active OSM at a later stage (e.g. children that reach the age of 16, sick people that recover, unwilling people that change their mind).
- Persons that become part of an OSM’s household after the household completes the first household box are NSP. NSP participate in the questionnaires and are followed for as long as they cohabit with at least one OSM.
- Exceptions to the rule above are
  - (i) children of an OSM that are born after the completion of the first household box: these children also become OSM (initially non-active OSM) and are followed;
  - (ii) household members that were staying elsewhere temporarily (e.g. for an internship) and returned to the household within a year are considered as OSM (see the definition under “which persons make up a household”);
  - (iii) household members that actually were living in the household but were not reported as such by the contact person, but were added later. These persons are considered OSM, but a non-respondent during the initial period. Their status may be changed into that of OSM after checking, if possible, whether they indeed lived there at the time (rather than moved in at a later date).
- Non-OSM living in a household that consists entirely of non-OSM (or that live alone) are dropped from the panel, with a thank-you letter. Keeping these individuals in the panel would increase the drawing chances of these households may increase, and any weighting model will no longer be accurate.
- Children that are non-active OSM and have reached the age of 16 at the moment when persons are selected for the questionnaire of the respective month and that have indicated their willingness to start participating change to the “active OSM” status.
- Children that are non-active NSP and have reached the age of 16 at the moment when people are selected for the questionnaire of the respective month and that have indicated their willingness to start participating, change to the “active NSP” status.
- Children living elsewhere for more than a year at the time the household box was completed, and that moved in later, are not considered OSM (even if they are biological children of the OSM in the household). For example: the child is living with divorced father, and after two years moves in with mother who is OSM: this child is then not considered OSM.

Every OSM and his or her fellow household members (including NSP household members) can potentially be selected for an individual questionnaire if they are aged 16 and over.

The general rule applies that OSM are followed for the entire duration of the panel, or until they pass away or are definitively institutionalized. If they refuse to participate they are no longer actively contacted, but they can always indicate their willingness to participate again via the household's contact person or in the household box follow-up measurement.

**Basis of the LISS panel following rules:**

The definition of a household, the distinction between OSM and NSP, and the associated following rules can largely be found in the same form in the so-called PACO panel studies (BHPS, ESEML, HHP, PHP, PSELL, PSID, SOEP) and in the European community household panel (ECHP).

In virtually all these studies, the first criterion for a household is the sharing of a home ('dwelling unit'). A second criterion is the presence of certain 'common living arrangements', though this criterion can vary considerably per study and per country (blood relation, marriage, adoption, etc.). The criterion proposed here, of sleeping and eating at home at least four days a week, is the definition used in the current CentERpanel and is somewhat comparable to the criteria in ECHP and PSID.

The ECHP and the PSID distinguish longitudinal respondents from co-habitants and only follow the longitudinal respondents in the event of household split-offs and such. The PSID always interviews just one person who reports on the whole household.

The BHPS (British Household Panel Survey) applies the same distinction, but it adds co-habitants that are not longitudinal respondents/OSM strictly speaking, but that do have a very strong bond with an OSM or his/her household, for instance (grand-) parents, or children that have returned to living at home. The GSOEP (German Socio-Economic Panel) is the only exception: in this panel, from wave 7 on all panel members are followed, even if they no longer cohabit with an OSM.

In practice, we encountered some special cases that were not covered by the follow rules we defined before the start of the panel. Consequently, we have added a few rules later, based on consultation of an ISER expert in the design of longitudinal survey research. For example: the inclusion rule (iii) for household members that lived in the household but were not reported by the contact person, and the rule for (biological) children living outside the household for more than a year.