

**Example of a socio-demographic background questionnaire
for children based on the PANCAKE project¹**

¹ The content of this Appendix is used with permission of the PANCAKE consortium (Ocke et al., 2012).

Instructions

This document provides the concepts for the general questionnaire covering socio-demographic information in the EU Menu survey. Brief but important notes on the questions are given after the English version of the question. These notes should be read and translated to ensure the nuances of the questions are fully understood. This general questionnaire will be administered during the first study visit in the survey. The general questionnaire can be administered by computer assisted personal interview (CAPI) or on paper (PAPI). If the questionnaire is sent to the participant before the first visit to be answered before the visit, it needs to be carefully checked during the study visit. In the data entry tool which may be used for the CAPI, each country can make use of response categories in its own national language for the question based on who is answering the general questions.

Introduction to the respondent

We will start with a short section on some general information of your household characteristics. This information is very valuable to us. The information you provide is completely voluntary and anonymous. We value any information you will be able to provide for us.

1. Interviewer code: _____
2. Subject code: _____ of the child
 _____ of the breast feeding mother (*if applicable*)

3. Date of interview (dd/mm/yyyy) /__/__/____/

4. Who is answering the general questions of this questionnaire?

A caretaker is a person (usually a relative or friend) who provides unpaid daily care by looking after the child.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Father/male carer of the participating child | 1 |
| Other carer of the child, not specified | 2 |

5. Is your child a boy or a girl?

- Boy 1
Girl 2

6. What is the date of birth of the participating child?

/__/__/____/ (dd/mm/yyyy)

7. What is the date of birth of the participating breast feeding mother? (if applicable)

/_/_/_/_/_/_/_/_/_/ (dd/mm/yyyy)

8. How many people belong in the household of the child included in the survey? Please write the ages of all the members of the household (in years), separated by commas.

A **household**, in the context of surveys on social conditions or income is defined as a housekeeping unit or, operationally, as a social unit:

- having common arrangements;
- sharing household expenses or daily needs;
- in a shared common residence.

A household includes either one person living alone or a group of people, not necessarily related, living at the same address with common housekeeping, i.e. sharing at least one meal per day or sharing a living or sitting room.

9. What is the highest education leaving certificate, diploma or education degree you and your partner (if applicable) have obtained? Please include any vocational training for you and for your (eventual) partner?

General concept: the highest level of an educational programme the person has successfully completed

Highest level of education completed means level successfully completed and must be associated with obtaining a certificate or a diploma. When determining the highest level, both general and vocational education should be taken into consideration. Persons who have not completed their studies should be coded according to the highest level they have completed (not be coded with a blank). Persons still in education have to indicate their last level of education successfully finished.

Please include any work-based training: any qualification which has been achieved in connection with work should be taken into account regardless of the type of qualification, regardless who paid for the education or whether the education took place in the premises of the company or not.

➤ **The response categories should be named:** each country should prepare its own response categories according to the educational system of the country. The response categories have to be compatible with the ISCED classification.

Response categories should be named according to the educational system of the country. See guidelines.

	Respondent	Partner
No formal education or below ISCED	1	1
Primary education (ISCED 1)	2	2
Lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	3	3
Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	4	4
Post-secondary but non-tertiary education (ISCED 4)	5	5

First stage of tertiary education (ISCED 5)	6	6
Second stage of tertiary education (ISCED 6)	7	7

10. How would you define your current labour status? And of your partner (if applicable)?

General concept: person's own perception of his/her main activity at present (current 'main' labour status as perceived by the respondent).

Current: any definitive changes in the activity situation are taken into account. For instance, if a person has lost a job or has retired recently, or the activity status has changed otherwise in a definitive manner, then the situation as of the time of the interview should be reported. In this sense, 'current' overrides any concept of averaging over any specific reference period.

Currently not at work due to maternity, parental, sick leave or holidays:

absence from workplace (e.g. sick leave, holiday) where the respondent already worked before.

➤ **'in compulsory military or community service'**: this code might not be relevant any longer in certain countries. The self-declared labour status is, in principle, determined on the basis of the most time spent but no criteria are specified explicitly.

	Respondent	Partner
Working for pay or profit ¹	1	1
Unemployed ²	2	2
Pupil, student, further training, unpaid work experience	3	3
In retirement or early retirement or has given up business ³	4	4
Permanently disabled ⁴	5	5
In compulsory military or community service	6	6
Fulfilling domestic tasks	7	7
Other. Please specify	8	8

¹ **Employed persons** are persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week performed work, even for just one hour a week, for pay, profit or family gain or who were not at work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of something like, illness, holiday, industrial dispute or education and training. Including an apprenticeship or paid traineeship, including currently not at work due to maternity, parental, sick leave or holidays.

² **Unemployed persons** are persons aged 15-74 who were without work during the reference week, but who are currently available for work and were either actively seeking work in the past four weeks or had already found a job to start within the next three months.

³ Except for disability or health reasons.

⁴ Including longstanding illness or health problem.

11. How would you define your current professional category? And of your partner (if applicable)?

	Respondent	Partner
Managers	1	1
Professionals	2	2
Technicians and associate professionals	3	3
Clerical support workers	4	4
Service and sales workers	5	5

Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	6	6
Craft and related trades workers	7	7
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8	8
Elementary occupations	9	9
Armed forces occupations	10	10

The current professional category has been based on the international standard classification of occupations (ISCO) used also by EuroStat. The current list includes the major categories of the ISCO classification. For a more detailed vocabulary, it is possible to use also the sub-categories of the ISCO: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/docs/resol08.pdf>

12. How would you define the ethnicity of your child, you and of your partner (if applicable)?

Child

Caretaker

Partner (if applicable)

13. Does your child, you or your partner (if applicable) have any special health conditions that might influence the diet?

	Child	Respondent	Partner
Normal condition	1	1	1
Lactating (<i>only for women with small children</i>)	2	2	2
Pregnant (<i>only for women aged 13–50 years</i>)	3	3	3
Chronic/long term disease	4	4	4
Unclassified	5	5	5
Unknown	6	6	6

14. Does your child, you or your partner (if applicable) have any special diet pattern?

	Child	Respondent	Partner
No, normal diet	1	1	1
Vegetarian diet	2	2	2
Slimming diet	3	3	3
Diet related to health conditions (e.g. celiac disease, diabetes)	4	4	4
Other, specify	5	5	5
Unknown	6	6	6

Important: it is possible to use multiple codes if more than one type is applicable