

Question in Project:

FGZ Cohesion Panel: Wave 2 – Questions on climate change, antisemitism, and gender equality (English Version)

Question Topic:

Society & social affairs/ Residing & living

Construct:

Change in undesirable infrastructures

General Information:

***Note: The item was tested in German. This is an English translation of the original German wording.**

Question Text:

Has the impairment increased, decreased, or stayed the same over the past 5 years?
[Hat die Beeinträchtigung in den letzten 5 Jahren zugenommen, abgenommen oder ist sie gleich geblieben?]

Answer Categories:

Strongly decreased *[Stark abgenommen]*
Rather decreased *[Eher abgenommen]*
Remained the same *[Gleich geblieben]*
Rather increased *[Eher zugenommen]*
Strongly increased *[Stark zugenommen]*

Cognitive Techniques:

Difficulty Probing

Findings for Question:

Question 7 was asked only of those respondents who had selected a scale value of 0 to 10 in question 6. The majority of subjects (75 %) indicated that the impairment caused

by the infrastructures mentioned in question 6 had remained the same over the past 5 years. Just over one-fifth of respondents (22 %) registered an increase in impairment and just under 3 % a decrease.

The aim of the pretest was to investigate whether the subjects had difficulties answering this question and, if so, what the difficulties were. The corresponding cognitive probes (N1-F7 and N2_F7, see Appendix) were asked of the 124 subjects who were (randomly) assigned to Group 1.

About 18 % ($n = 22$) of the respondents stated that they found it "rather difficult" or "very difficult" to answer question 7. In most cases, this was because this (and the previous question) was a difficult topic that they had not yet dealt with sufficiently.

■ *"It is difficult to name what specifically bothers me and how strongly I rate this. Basically, I am satisfied, but the disturbing factor of cars is unfortunately everywhere."* (TP360).

■ *"Because I didn't think about these questions very strongly before."* (TP537)

Some respondents ($n = 5$) cited as a reason that it was unclear which "impairments" they were referring to:

■ *"Because it is not clear what impairments were meant."*(TP311)

■ *"I don't understand what is meant by impairment, it is worded too broadly."* (TP361)

Recommendations:

To clarify the context of the question, we recommend repeating the reason for the impairment again in the question text:

Has the interference at your place of residence by infrastructures (e.g. highways, railroad tracks, power lines) increased, decreased or remained the same in the last 5 years?)