

## 5. TECHNICAL ANNEX

The Fertility and Family Survey (FFS) was carried out in 1997 on a representative sample of men and women living in Portugal. The women were aged between 15 and 49 and the men were aged between 15 and 54.

### THE SAMPLE

This sample was taken from the Master Sample, a sampling frame that consisted of a list of dwelling units, which are selected for the household surveys conducted by the National Statistics Institute (INE). A person meeting the requirements for the survey was chosen from each selected dwelling unit.

The Master Sample is a probabilistic multi-stage area sample based on the results of the 1991 Population and Housing Census, which was updated in the second quarter of 1996. The sample was stratified in seven geographical regions: Norte, Centro, Lisboa and Vale do Tejo, Alentejo, Algarve, the Açores and Madeira NUTS II (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics, classification established by EUROSTAT).

The size of the sample for the FFS was defined independently for each of the seven NUTS II regions. The maximum coefficient of variation for each region admitted concerning the average number of children was 15 per cent. This study yielded a sample that included 6,260 women, which resulted in a 5 per cent coefficient of variation for the whole country.

The same type of study could not be carried out for the men because of the lack of indicators regarding the variables relevant to the survey. Thus, the solution adopted was the same as that used in other countries, which was to include a sample half the size of the women's sample, in other words a sample consisting of 3,130 men.

The sample was distributed among three age groups, proportional to the population: 15–24, 25–34 and 35–49 years old for the women; and 15–29, 30–39, 40–54 years for the men.

Another member of the household of the same sex and age group could replace the individual selected in each household, if the individual was unable to be interviewed. This applied to the following cases:

- Mentally handicapped individuals were not considered eligible for the interview;
- Students and other individuals who were away on the date of the visit and only returned periodically or at the weekend were not included.

Substitution was also admitted when the selected individual could not be located/contacted, in the following situations:

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- If the family had changed residence and could not be located within the same sector;
  - When the dwelling was vacant or was the second home and the person to be interviewed could not be found;
  - When the person selected could not be contacted after two attempts.

A reserve sample made up of two individuals of each sex and age group was used in order to replace individuals from the sample who could not be interviewed, under the specified circumstances.

## **FIELDWORK**

The information was gathered by a direct interview lasting between 45 and 60 minutes, and was carried out between 7 April and 29 June 1997. The interviews were conducted throughout Portugal by a group of interviewers, 55 per cent of whom had 2 to 3 years' experience in carrying out other INE surveys. The other 45 per cent were recruited and trained specially for this survey. Male interviewers interviewed the men and female interviewers interviewed the women.

A pilot survey was carried out before the data were gathered, after which the interviewers were given practical training in the field. The interviewers were then evaluated in terms of their effectiveness in gathering the general data and the technical knowledge acquired during training.

The data were processed on a laptop computer as they were gathered, which provided better control of the consistency of the answers given. An evaluation was also carried out to determine and control the final quality of the collected information.

The number of interviews that were carried out was very close to the number planned for every region, both for men and women. The overall response rate was about 95 per cent, and was no lower than 90 per cent in any of the regions. In order to correct over/under-representation in some age groups, post-stratification was carried out on the age groups required, in which each individual was assigned a certain weight.