

6. TECHNICAL ANNEX

The survey was designed so as to include in the target population the subgroups directly involved in founding and building families, i.e. the groups in which change in demographic attitudes can best be observed. In view of this underlying goal, it was decided to sample the female population aged 18-41 years and the male population aged 20-44 years irrespective of marital status.

The continuous population register by place of residence, age and sex as of 1 January 1992 was used to identify the pool of persons eligible for the survey. It was assumed that a sample that was representative of the national population by age, sex and place of residence would reflect the distribution by marital status as well. In Budapest and the towns around the country, the sample was selected proportionately in one stage. In other settlements, a two-stage stratified process was used; these settlements were stratified by size category and, within each category, individual settlements were randomly selected for inclusion in the sample. The State Office of Population Registration randomly selected individual men and women living in each place of residence who met the age criterion.

The aim was to obtain completed questionnaires for 4,000 females and 2,000 males. In all, 4,839 females and 3,041 males were selected (Appendix, table 36, b), providing reserves of 839 females and 1,041 males. Lists of the reserves by age, sex and place of residence were kept separate, to be drawn upon only when a person originally selected did not live at the address given, was absent for a long period or could not be contacted even after several attempts. In case of refusal to answer the questionnaire, no replacement was made. If there were no more reserves of the appropriate age and place of residence, no replacement was made. Proceeding in this way, some information was obtained from a total of 4,046 females and 2,497 males. Among the females, 290 refused to answer the questionnaire, and 202 interviews failed for other reasons, the majority because of absence. Among the males, there were 243 refusals, and 335 were not interviewed for some other reason. The refusals amounted to 7.2 per cent of the female sample and 9.7 per cent of the male sample, a low level compared to other countries. Total non-response came to 12.2 per cent for females and 23.2 per cent for males. Completed questionnaires were obtained for 3,554 females and 1,919 males; these compose the data that were processed and analysed. The samples represent 2.05 per 1,000 females and 1.05 per 1,000 males of the designated ages in the population at large.

The selection of interviewers was determined by the existing situation, including financial constraints. Since the HCSO had taken upon itself to prepare and carry out the Hungarian survey, it was necessary to rely on the interviewers permanently employed by the office. The interviewers working within the framework of the Standard Population Survey System (ELAR) participate mainly in the statistical surveys of labour, households and income that are repeated regularly. Thus they were adequately trained in interviewing, but the topics covered by the FFS were somewhat unfavourable.

miliar to them. They had had no real practice with questions on such intimate topics as birth control, fertility history or partnership formation. The respondents were interviewed personally in their own homes, and it was important that females be interviewed mainly by female enumerators. The same could not be done for males because the overwhelming majority of the interviewers employed by ELAR are female. The ELAR interviewers participated in the survey on a voluntary basis, and their remuneration was supported by an external sponsor.

In Budapest, the survey of females was carried out with the help of the network of district nurses because an insufficient number of female ELAR interviewers volunteered for the job. The district nurses had previously participated successfully in surveys of similar character and subject matter. Due to the nature of their work they are skilled in personal relations and are experienced in asking questions on intimate topics. Since they are engaged in the protection of mothers and children, they have frequent contacts with women and mothers, and they easily acquire respondents' confidence so the answers tend to be honest. Finally, this solved the problem of providing exclusively female interviewers for female respondents; according to the interviewers' reports on male respondents, there was no problem with a woman calling on them and interviewing them on these topics.

The interviewers had a one-day training session. Three weeks in advance of the course, all the interviewers received the questionnaire and the interviewer's manual necessary to carry out the survey. Thus they could prepare themselves ahead of time for the central training session. The ECE PAU made available the FFS manual, which covers all the important information necessary to administer the interview successfully. It includes instructions on the interviewers' behaviour, how to establish contact and how to ask intimate questions. In addition, it highlights the main parts of the questionnaire, critical points and skip instructions. It contains comments on all the questions in each chapter, drawing attention to points where misunderstanding is possible. It clarifies the meaning of the questions and the proper replies. The interviewer's manual was very useful and facilitated preparations for the survey. Since the Hungarian questionnaire was practically identical with the questionnaire drawn up and recommended by the ECE PAU, the enumerators were able to use a direct Hungarian translation of the manual.

Concerning the female sample, the fieldwork was carried out in two stages; in the provinces from the beginning of November 1992 to the end of January 1993, in Budapest however from the middle of May to the middle of June 1993. The fieldwork with respect to the male sample was carried out in November and December 1993. While the survey was in the field, supervisors trained separately by the HCSO provided on-the-spot quality control of the completed questionnaires; they pointed out possible errors and how to correct them. When the questionnaires arrived at the Central Statistical Office, they were first reviewed, and then replies to open questions (level of education, type of educational institution, occupation) were coded.

Data entry was performed with the help of the ISSA program package. The English version of the Hungarian questionnaire was sent to the PAU so that the ISSA data input program could be adapted to the Hungarian questionnaire. This involved some modification for items where the Hungarian questionnaire differed from the standard format. The data entry work was done by two or three assistants in the Fertility Statistics Section of the HCSO, which meant that it was done relatively slowly. The final version of the standard tabulation program was received from the PAU in 1995. After this, the standard tables required for the Hungarian national report as well as for the Standard Country Report could be produced in a relatively simple form. The Hungarian national report was published in 1996.