

NEWSLETTER

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GUIDE PILOT STUDY OVERVIEW ON THE WELLBEING OF CROATIAN CHILDREN

As a part of the preparation for the [GUIDE - Growing Up in Digital Europe study](#), we conducted a pilot study in five countries: Croatia, Ireland, Finland, France, and Slovenia. The aim of the study was to test the validity and reliability of the questionnaires for children and parents, participants' response rates and suitability of the questions in each country. The pilot study in Croatia was supervised by the team from [Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar](#). The study was conducted between April 21st and June 26th, 2023.



SAMPLE

In Croatia, an online platform was used to identify “seed” participants, initiating the snowball sampling process. The recruitment was done regionally to ensure a diverse sample of participants. Interviewers contacted potential participants to schedule interviews. To encourage participation, gift vouchers of €10 for newborn caregivers and €15 for caregivers of 8-year-olds were offered. The final sample included 257 children, 259 parents and caregivers of 8-year-olds and 277 parents and caregivers of newborns.

FIELD STUDY

The field study was carried out by Ipsos Croatia. Detailed training for the interviewers was organised prior to the fieldwork. The interviews were conducted in the households of the participants using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI). Before the start of the interview participants received an introductory letter in which they were given all the information about the survey, the objective and the protocol.

EXPERIENCE

The parents and carers happily participated in the survey. Their willingness to participate influenced the children positively, who, after discussing the survey with the parents, also showed readiness to be interviewed. A significant motivator for participation was the provision of gift vouchers. This contributed to a generally positive atmosphere among the participants. On average, interviews with parents and caregivers lasted 32 minutes, while interviews with children lasted 25 minutes.



WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT

Overall, both the children and adult participants had no difficulty understanding and answering questions. Generally, the conclusion of the pilot study analysis was that the questionnaires demonstrate validity, reliability and are suitable for the participants. Moreover, the pilot study generated some recommendations for the main GUIDE longitudinal study which will start in 2027. Some of the most important lessons were:

- 1) Children have invaluable and unique outlook on their lives. While adults sometimes believe that children don't deeply think about some aspects of life, our study found that children are willing and interested in voicing their opinions on all aspect of their lives: how they feel about themselves, their family, friends, school and free time. Majority of children understood and were able to answer even very difficult questions about their well-being.**
- 2) Translation and cultural adaptation of questions greatly matter. The pilot study indicated that participants, especially children, from different countries sometimes find different questions difficult or unclear. While this was not true for most questions since the questionnaire underwent careful translation and adaptation, pilot study served as a great tool for final polishing of translations and cultural adaptation.**