

Data Initiative Program: 2009

Background

The Data Initiative (DI) or Caucasus Barometer is a cross-border effort initiated by the program of Eurasia Partnership Foundation - Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) to annually collect data on a wide variety of social, political and economic indicators in the South Caucasus (SC) region. The CRRC teams in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia have been collecting reliable data in households of the region since 2004. While the survey in 2004 was carried out only in the capitals of the SC countries, in 2005 it encompassed also a region in each country, and, since 2006 the survey had been carried out in all¹ regions of the mentioned countries, in both urban and rural areas.

Survey Instrument

The survey instrument – questionnaire was developed by the teams of researchers from three SC countries, and it has been revised each year by introducing new questions and eliminating some ineffective ones, as well as introducing new groups of questions. The core questionnaire includes about 100 basic questions covering the broad range of social, political, economic outlook of population in SC countries. In 2008 the core questionnaire was enriched by questions about international relations and media. The average time for completing a face to face interview was about 45 minutes.

Survey Methodology

The surveys in all countries have been implemented using a unified sampling methodology – multistage cluster sampling with preliminary stratification. All original electoral precincts of voting districts were used as sampling frames in all three countries. In Armenia small (less than 100 voters) precincts were merged with others based on geographical convenience principle, and all 1775 formed precincts (vs. 1918 original ones) were classified by strata, marz and settlement type (urban/rural). The desired number of respondents was defined proportionally to population size. The households (32 per precinct in Yerevan, 45 in other urban areas and 33 in rural areas) within randomly sampled precincts (clusters) were also randomly selected. The respondent selection within households was made according to the Kish table. Data collection method was face-to-face interviews.

Data

The survey instruments (questionnaires), show cards, the detailed sampling methodology document, the survey databases (in SPSS format) and some preliminary findings are posted on the CRRC regional website at www.crrccenters.org. For more information please contact CRRC-Armenia.

The Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) is a network of resource and training centers established in the capital cities of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia with the goal of strengthening social science research and public policy analysis in the South Caucasus. A partnership between the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Eurasia Partnership Foundation, and local universities, the CRRC network offers scholars and practitioners stable opportunities for integrated research, training and collaboration in the region. Offering advanced training in research methodology, CRRC also funds research fellowships and conducts a comprehensive annual Household Survey.

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¹ The survey was not carried out in Nagorno Karabakh, Nakhijevan, Abkhazia and South Ossetia.