"50+ in Europe"

*The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe*

Self-Administered Questionnaire for Respondents Younger than 65
How to FILL IN this questionnaire

Most of the questions on the following pages can be answered by simply checking the box below or alongside the answer that applies to you.

Please check ONE (1) box:
Correct  ☒  or  ☐
Incorrect  ☐

Please proceed question by question.

How to RETURN this Questionnaire
If the interviewer is still in your home when you have completed the questionnaire, please hand it back to him or her. If not, please return the completed questionnaire in the pre-paid envelope as soon as you possibly can. If you need a replacement envelope, please call [national survey agency] at [toll-free telephone number].

PLEASE START THE QUESTIONNAIRE AT QUESTION 1 ON THE NEXT PAGE

ALL YOUR ANSWERS WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR HELP
We would now like to ask you questions about your own health.
(Please choose one of the five answers for every question.)

1. Overall in the last 30 days, how much of bodily aches or pains did you have?
   - None
   - Mild
   - Moderate
   - Severe
   - Extreme

2. In the last 30 days, how much difficulty did you have with sleeping?
   - None
   - Mild
   - Moderate
   - Severe
   - Extreme

3. Overall in the last 30 days, how much of a problem did you have with moving around?
   - None
   - Mild
   - Moderate
   - Severe
   - Extreme

4. Overall in the last 30 days how much difficulty did you have with concentrating or remembering things?
   - None
   - Mild
   - Moderate
   - Severe
   - Extreme

5. In the last 30 days, how much of a problem did you have because of shortness of breath?
   - None
   - Mild
   - Moderate
   - Severe
   - Extreme
6. Overall in the last 30 days, how much of a problem did you have with feeling sad, low, or depressed?

None    Mild    Moderate    Severe    Extreme
☐₁    ☐₂    ☐₃    ☐₄    ☐₅

7. Do you have any impairment or health problem that limits the kind or amount of work you can do?

None    Mild    Moderate    Severe    Extreme
☐₁    ☐₂    ☐₃    ☐₄    ☐₅

We will now give you some examples of persons with serious and less serious health problems. We would like to know how you evaluate the health of these persons. Please assume that the persons have the same age and background that you have.

(Please choose one of the five answers for every question.)

8. Paul has a headache once a month that is relieved after taking a pill. During the headache he can carry on with his day-to-day affairs.

In your opinion, how much of bodily aches or pains does Paul have?

None    Mild    Moderate    Severe    Extreme
☐₁    ☐₂    ☐₃    ☐₄    ☐₅
9. Alice falls asleep easily at night, but two nights a week she wakes up in the middle of the night and cannot go back to sleep for the rest of the night.

In your opinion, how much difficulty does Alice have with sleeping?

None  Mild  Moderate  Severe  Extreme

10. Rob is able to walk distances of up to 200 metres without any problems but feels tired after walking one kilometre or climbing more than one flight of stairs. He has no problems with day-to-day activities, such as carrying food from the market.

In your opinion, how much of a problem does Rob have with moving around?

None  Mild  Moderate  Severe  Extreme

11. Lisa can concentrate while watching TV, reading a magazine or playing a game of cards or chess. Once a week she forgets where her keys or glasses are, but finds them within five minutes.

In your opinion, how much difficulty does Lisa have with concentrating or remembering things?

None  Mild  Moderate  Severe  Extreme
12. Mark has no problems with walking slowly. He gets out of breath easily when climbing 20 meters uphill or a flight of stairs.

How much of a problem does Mark have because of shortness of breath?

None      Mild      Moderate     Severe     Extreme
☐1        ☐2        ☐3           ☐4          ☐5

13. Karen enjoys her work and social activities and is generally satisfied with her life. She gets depressed every 3 weeks for a day or two and loses interest in what she usually enjoys but is able to carry on with her day-to-day activities.

How much of a problem does Karen have with feeling sad, low, or depressed?

None      Mild      Moderate     Severe     Extreme
☐1        ☐2        ☐3           ☐4          ☐5

14. Kevin suffers from back pain that causes stiffness in his back especially at work but is relieved with low doses of medication. He does not have any pains other than this generalized discomfort.

Does Kevin have any impairment or health problem that limits the kind or amount of work he can do?

None      Mild      Moderate     Severe     Extreme
☐1        ☐2        ☐3           ☐4          ☐5
15. Anthony generally enjoys his work. He gets depressed every 3 weeks for a day or two and loses interest in what he usually enjoys but is able to carry on with his day-to-day activities on the job.

Does Anthony have any impairment or health problem that limits the kind or amount of work he can do?

None  Mild  Moderate  Severe  Extreme

☐ 1  □ 2  □ 3  □ 4  □ 5

16. Eve has had heart problems in the past and she has been told to watch her cholesterol level. Sometimes if she feels stressed at work she feels pain in her chest and occasionally in her arms.

Does Eve have any impairment or health problem that limits the kind or amount of work she can do?

None  Mild  Moderate  Severe  Extreme

☐ 1  □ 2  □ 3  □ 4  □ 5

We would now like to ask some questions about how satisfied you are with several aspects of your life.

17. How satisfied are you with the total income of your household?

Very Satisfied  Satisfied  Neither satisfied  Dissatisfied  Very Dissatisfied

☐ 1  □ 2  □ 3  □ 4  □ 5
18. How satisfied are you with your social contacts (with family, friends, etc.)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Neither satisfied Nor dissatisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very Dissatisfied</th>
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19. How satisfied are you with your daily activities (for example, your job, if you work)?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Neither satisfied Nor dissatisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very Dissatisfied</th>
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20. How satisfied are you with your life in general?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Neither satisfied Nor dissatisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
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We will now describe some features of the lives of other persons. We would like to know how you, with your own preferences, would evaluate the given aspects of their lives. Please assume that the persons have the same age and background that you have (unless indicated otherwise). If you are not sure, please give us your best guess.

(Please choose one of the five answers for every question.)

21. Jim is married and has two children; the total after tax household income of his family is €1,700 per month.

   How satisfied do you think Jim is with the total income of his household?

   Very Satisfied Neither satisfied Dissatisfied Very Satisfied
   Satisfied Nor dissatisfied Dissatisfied
   □1 □2 □3 □4 □5

22. Anne is married and has two children; the total after tax household income of her family is €3,400 per month.

   How satisfied do you think Anne is with the total income of her household?

   Very Satisfied Neither satisfied Dissatisfied Very Satisfied
   Satisfied Nor dissatisfied Dissatisfied
   □1 □2 □3 □4 □5

23. John is single, but gets on well with his relatives and has a large circle of friends. They often go out together to attend sporting events or to have a meal.

   How satisfied do you think John is with his social contacts (family, friends, etc.)?

   Very Satisfied Neither satisfied Dissatisfied Very Satisfied
   Satisfied Nor dissatisfied Dissatisfied
   □1 □2 □3 □4 □5
24. Mary has been married for many years. Lately she has spent little time with her husband and they have been quarrelling more. They seem to prefer spending time with others rather than with each other. Both of them have many friends.

How satisfied do you think Mary is with her social contacts (family, friends, etc.)?

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<tr>
<th>Very satisfied</th>
<th>Neither satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very dissatisfied</th>
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25. Mike works full-time, five days per week; in principle, he can organize his work in his own way but is still often under a lot of pressure to meet deadlines. He works for a big company and feels that his job is quite secure.

How satisfied do you think Mike is with his job?

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<th>Very satisfied</th>
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<th>Very dissatisfied</th>
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26. Sally works four days per week and does not experience her job as stressful; she has little say over what she is doing, this is decided by her boss. She feels it is a very secure job.

How satisfied do you think Sally is with her job?

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<th>Very satisfied</th>
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<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very dissatisfied</th>
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27. John is 63 years old. His wife died 2 years ago and he still spends a lot of time thinking about her. He has 4 children and 10 grandchildren who visit him regularly. John can make ends meet but has no money for extras such as expensive gifts to his grandchildren. He has had to stop working recently due to heart problems. He gets tired easily. Otherwise, he has no serious health conditions.

How satisfied with his life do you think John is?

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<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Neither satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very Dissatisfied</th>
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28. Carry is 72 years old and a widow. Her total after tax income is about € 1,100 per month. She owns the house she lives in and has a large circle of friends. She plays bridge twice a week and goes on vacation regularly with some friends. Lately she has been suffering from arthritis, which makes working in the house and garden painful.

How satisfied with his life do you think Carry is?

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<th>Very Satisfied</th>
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<th>Neither satisfied</th>
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We now want to ask you something about the influence you think you can have on decisions at the level of the municipality.

29. How much say do you have in getting the municipality to address issues that interest you?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unlimited Say of Say</th>
<th>A Lot of Say</th>
<th>Some Say</th>
<th>Little Say</th>
<th>No Say at All</th>
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30. Alison is bothered by the air pollution caused by a local firm. It is not dangerous but sometimes leads to a bad smell. She and her neighbors are supporting an opposition candidate in the forthcoming local elections that has promised to address the issue. So many people in her area feel the same way that the opposition candidate will probably defeat the incumbent representative.

How much say does Alison have in getting the municipality to address issues that interest her?

Unlimited  A Lot of Say  Some Say  Little Say  No Say at All
☐ 1  ☐ 2  ☐ 3  ☐ 4  ☐ 5

31. Toby is bothered by the air pollution caused by a local firm. It is not dangerous but sometimes leads to a bad smell. The mayor has looked into the problem, but concluded that industrial development is the most important policy right now instead of clean air.

How much say does Toby have in getting the municipality to address issues that interest him?

Unlimited  A Lot of Say  Some Say  Little Say  No Say at All
☐ 1  ☐ 2  ☐ 3  ☐ 4  ☐ 5

The final topic is health care responsiveness

32. In many countries, it takes time before people can see a specialist and there are waiting lists for certain procedures. Overall, in your situation, how would you rate the amount of time you have to wait for medical treatment?

Very short  Short  Reasonable  Long  Very long
☐ 1  ☐ 2  ☐ 3  ☐ 4  ☐ 5
33. Overall, how would you rate the conditions of the health facilities you have visited?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very good</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Bad</th>
<th>Very bad</th>
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☐ 1  ☐ 2  ☐ 3  ☐ 4  ☐ 5

34. Overall, how would you rate how clearly doctors and nurses communicate with you and involve you in decisions about the treatment?

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<tr>
<th>Very good</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Bad</th>
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35. Jim has a stomach problem, which causes a lot of pain and requires surgery. He is immediately admitted to hospital and constantly monitored and his pain is relieved with strong pain-killers, but because the problem is not life threatening, he has to wait four days before surgery takes place.

Overall, how would you rate the amount of time Jim has to wait for medical treatment?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Very short</th>
<th>Short</th>
<th>Reasonable</th>
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☐ 1  ☐ 2  ☐ 3  ☐ 4  ☐ 5
36. Ellen broke her arm a few months ago and had to have a series of X-rays. Initially, the doctor and nurse told her about her fracture and explained what treatment she was going to receive. On her last visit to the hospital, they measured her height, weight, and blood pressure and took a blood sample without explaining why. After the tests, Ellen asked and the doctor explained.

How would you rate how clearly doctors and nurses communicate with Ellen and involve her in decisions about the treatment?

Very good/ Good/ Very good Good Moderate Bad Very bad

☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5

37. José was admitted to a local hospital for a week as he had developed high fever. He got his own room, which was clean but small, and the toilet was a few meters away down the corridor. It was summer and hot, and the room was without any air conditioning or fan but he could bring his own table fan from home.

Overall how would José’s experience with the conditions of the health facility?

Very good Good Moderate Bad Very bad

☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5
38. Finally, please state your gender and birth year:

a) I am...

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>☐2</td>
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b) I was born in [_ _ _ _] (year)

Thank you very much for taking the time to answer our questions. Please give the questionnaire to the interviewer or post it back in the envelope provided.