

Questionnaire VA Barometer 2016/17

Sample: Representative sample of the Swedish population aged 16–74

Number of telephone interviews: 1,000

Telephone interviews carried out: 15 September–2 October 2016

Questions asked to everyone, unless otherwise indicated in the respective question. NB that the questions were originally asked in Swedish, and that this questionnaire is a translation of the original questions.

A. Questions

1. SPLIT BALLOT between questions 1 and 2

1) Do you think that **scientific** developments in the last ten to twenty years have made life better or worse for ordinary people? Do you think they have made life ...?

Options 1–5 to be read aloud

1. a lot better
2. slightly better
3. neither better or worse
4. slightly worse
5. a lot worse
6. don't know
7. no response

2) Do you think that **technical** developments in the last ten to twenty years have made life better or worse for ordinary people? Do you think they have made life ...?

Options 1–5 to be read aloud

1. a lot better
2. slightly better
3. neither better or worse
4. slightly worse
5. a lot worse
6. don't know
7. no response

3. How much confidence do you have in the following people? You should say if you have very high, fairly high, fairly low or very low confidence. Let's start with (rotate a–e. C always follows after a and b).

- a) Researchers at universities
- b) Researchers at companies
- c) Researchers at research institutes
- d) Science journalists i.e. journalists, who cover research and report research findings
- e) News journalists, i.e. journalists, who are general reporters and cover current affairs and news

Note to the interviewer: If the respondent asks what a research institute is, you can give the following explanation:

A research institute is an organisation, whose only or main activity is research. Unlike a university, it does not offer educational courses.

If the respondent asks: Karolinska Institute is NOT a research institute but a medical university.

Make a note

- if the respondent asks for an explanation about what a research institute is.
- if the respondent names the researcher Paolo Macchiarini or Karolinska Institute in any of the questions about confidence.

4. How interested are you in research? Answer on a five-grade scale where 1 = “not at all interested” and 5 = “very interested”.

5. How much knowledge do you feel that you have about research? Answer on a five-grade scale where 1 = “no knowledge at all” and 5 = “Very great knowledge”.

*The graph shows how respondents rate their **interest in**, and their **self-perceived knowledge about**, research, according to level of education. (Five-point scale from 1 = Not at all interested to 5 = Very interested, and 1 = No knowledge at all to 5 = Very great knowledge.)*

Note to the interviewer: If the respondent asks for clarification about the question, you can say “How much do you feel that you know about the scientific process and what researchers do?”

6. How much do you think research is taken into account when political decisions are made in Sweden? Is research taken into account too much, too little or to a reasonable extent?

- 1) Too much (ASK QUESTION 7, THEN GO TO QUESTION 9)
- 2) To a reasonable extent (GO TO QUESTION 9)
- 3) Too little (GO TO QUESTION 8)
- 4) Differs depending on the field
- 5) Don't know (DON'T READ ALOUD) (GO TO QUESTION 9)

7. If response is “too much” or “differs depending on the field” to question 6: Is it in a specific field or fields that you think too much account of research is taken when political decisions are made in Sweden?

DON'T READ THE OPTIONS ALOUD

- 1) Climate/environment
- 2) Healthcare
- 3) Education/school
- 4) Traffic/infrastructure
- 5) Defence
- 6) Financial politics/economic issues
- 7) Job market
- 8) Integration
- 9) Other (MAKE A NOTE OF IT)
- 10) Don't know
- 11) No, no specific issues

8. If response is “too little” or “differs depending on the field” to question 6: Is it in a specific field or fields that you think too little account of research is taken when political decisions are made in Sweden?

DON'T READ THE OPTIONS ALOUD

- 1) Climate/environment
- 2) Healthcare
- 3) Education/school
- 4) Traffic/infrastructure
- 5) Defence

- 6) Financial politics/economic issues
- 7) Job market
- 8) Integration
- 9) Other (MAKE A NOTE OF IT)
- 10) Don't know
- 11) No, no specific issues

9. What do you think of when I say (a–d), what is the first thing that comes to mind?

(rotate a–d)

- a) humanities
- b) natural sciences
- c) medicine
- d) social sciences

10. During the year, there has been a lot of media coverage about the doctor and researcher Paolo Macchiarini's trachea operations. Are you aware about this?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No

11. (to be asked to respondents who reply yes to question 10)

Has it affected your confidence in ...

a) medical research positively or negatively, or is it unchanged?

- 1) Positively
- 2) Negatively
- 3) Unchanged
- 4) Don't know

b) ... research in other fields positively or negatively, or is it unchanged?

- 1) Positively
- 2) Negatively
- 3) Unchanged
- 4) Don't know

B. Background questions

12. Do you work in research?

1. Yes
2. No
3. No, but have previously
4. Don't know DON'T READ ALOUD

13. Does any member of your family, relations or close friends work in research?

1. Yes
2. No
3. No, but have previously
4. Don't know DON'T READ ALOUD

14. What is your occupation?

- employed
- self-employed
- student
- retired
- jobseeker
- other
- don't want to say DON'T READ ALOUD

15. What type of education do you have?

Read aloud options 1-5

1. Compulsory
2. Upper secondary
3. Post upper secondary education, less than three years
4. Post upper secondary education, three years or more
5. Postgraduate education
6. Don't know DON'T READ ALOUD
7. Don't want to say DON'T READ ALOUD

16. Sex (information on record, not to be asked in the interview)

1. Female
2. Male

17. Age (information on record, not to be asked in the interview)

1. 16–20
2. 20–29
3. 30–44
4. 45–59
5. 60–74

18. SKL:s municipal classification (information on record, not to be asked in the interview)

Location types: city, other towns, rural area (SKL's municipal groups)