

# Mobile Questionnaire Design

Learnings from Redesigning the Online Data Collection at Destatis

ESRA Conference 2023, 17.-21. July, Milano

**Daniel Knapp** 

Karen Blanke



- (1) Data collection strategy at Destatis
- (2) Mobile apps for data collection
- (3) Lessons Learned: Mobile diary apps
- (4) Redesigning our online surveys
- (5) Lessons Learned: CAWI Redesign

#### Data collection strategy at Destatis

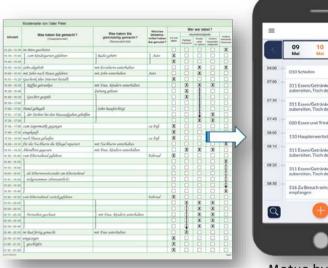
- >> CAWI becoming the main mode of data collection
  - ➤ Establishment surveys → (mostly) Online only
  - → Household surveys → (mostly) Online first
- Online survey design recent initiatives at Destatis:
  - >> 1. Mobile apps for household surveys
  - >> 2. Redesigning our online surveys: fully responsive design approach for all our CAWI surveys



- (1) Data collection strategy at Destatis
- (2) Mobile apps for data collection
- (3) Lessons Learned: Mobile diary apps
- (4) Redesigning our online surveys
- (5) Lessons Learned: CAWI Redesign

#### Mobile apps for data collection

- >>> First time implementation: Time-Use-Survey (TUS) 2022
  - >> 3 parts, incl. **3-days** diary to track all activities (10min-interval)
- >>> Followed up with the Household-budget-Survey (HBS) 2023
- >> Thought process behind the implementation
  - >> Offline usage, easily accessible in the moment, repeated usage over a period of time
  - >>> Future plans to include smart features (e.g. receipt scanning)



Motus by hbits



- (1) Data collection strategy at Destatis
- (2) Mobile apps for data collection
- (3) Lessons Learned: Mobile diary apps
- (4) Redesigning our online surveys
- (5) Lessons Learned: CAWI Redesign

## Lessons learned – Mobile Diary Apps

- >>> **Guidance**: Guide users through the whole survey, from beginning to end
  - >>> Easy-to-follow structure, navigation, & diary display
  - >>> Highlight the next steps and prominently display main interaction points
  - >>> Explain the survey process & the diary concepts with an interactive tutorial



★ ₩ ₹ ... 63% = 22.2

#### Lessons learned – Mobile Diary Apps

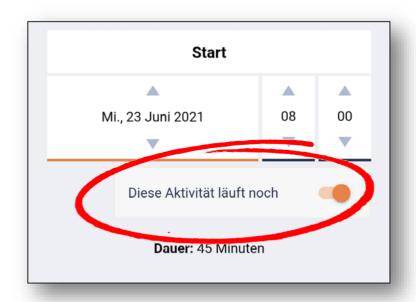
>>> Search function is key: Implement both (1) a text entry & (2) a categorical search, to meet different user types and provide a "backup" option



#### Lessons learned – Mobile Diary Apps

>> Less is more: Keep the design simple (additional features can do more harm than good)

- >> e.g. "Ongoing" activity:
  - >> Option for in the moment entry, rather than adding start & end times afterwards
  - >>> Caused several problems, for example: Rs forgot about it, diary got locked after 2 days of "successfully" tracking activities





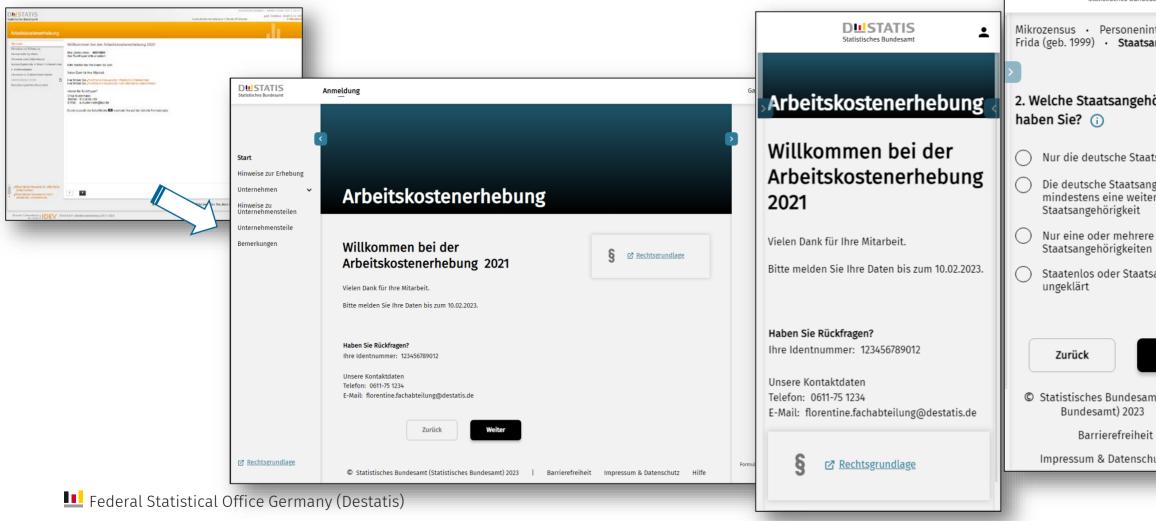
- (1) Data collection strategy at Destatis
- (2) Mobile apps for data collection
- (3) Lessons Learned: Mobile diary apps
- (4) Redesigning our online surveys
- (5) Lessons Learned: CAWI Redesign

### Redesigning online surveys at Destatis

Project to completely overhaul our CAWI questionnaire design

- >>> Goals
  - >>> Fully responsive design
  - >>> Strengthen the usability/user experience & accessibility
  - Modernize the appearance
- >> Approach
  - >>> Development of a new "Styleguide" for the questionnaire design
  - >>> Followed by iterative qualitative testing & revising (3 qualitative pretests á ~20 Rs ea.)

# Redesigning online surveys at Destatis



DISTATIS Statistisches Bundesamt Mikrozensus · Personeninterviews · Frida (geb. 1999) · Staatsangehörigkeit 2. Welche Staatsangehörigkeit Nur die deutsche Staatsangehörigkeit Die deutsche Staatsangehörigkeit und mindestens eine weitere (ausländische) Nur eine oder mehrere ausländische Staatenlos oder Staatsangehörigkeit Weiter © Statistisches Bundesamt (Statistisches Impressum & Datenschutz Hilfe

12



- (1) Data collection strategy at Destatis
- (2) Mobile apps for data collection
- (3) Lessons Learned: Mobile diary apps
- (4) Redesigning our online surveys
- (5) Lessons Learned: CAWI Redesign

#### Lessons learned - CAWI design

#### I. Error messages

- >>> Challenge:
  - >> 180+ online surveys
  - establishment as well as household surveys
    - ... featuring very different question formats,
    - ... using different questionnaire base layouts,
    - ... with several types of errors
  - has to work responsively for PC, tablets, & smartphones
- >> Requires sophisticated error message design; focus in our tests

destatis.de FSRA Conference 2023

## Lessons learned - CAWI design

3.

- I. Error messages: 1st design
- >>> General error consisted of 3 components:
  - 1. General hint at the top with links to the errors
  - 2. Marker around the error
  - 3. Box with in-depth explanation below the Q



Korrigieren Sie bitte 3. Welche Schule/Hochschule haben Sie zuletzt besucht?

3. Welche Schule/Hochschule haben Sie zuletzt besucht?

Allgemeinbildende Schule



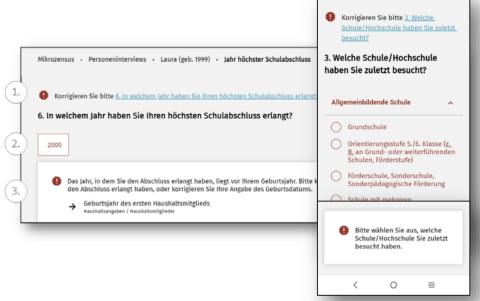
- Orientierungsstufe 5./6. Klasse (z. B. an Grund- oder weiterführenden Schulen, Förderstufe)
- Förderschule, Sonderschule, Sonderpädagogische Förderung
- Schule mit mehreren Bildungsgängen (z.B. Mittel-, Ober-, Regel-, Sekundar-, Regionale

Bitte wählen Sie aus, welche Schule/Hochschule Sie zuletzt besucht haben.



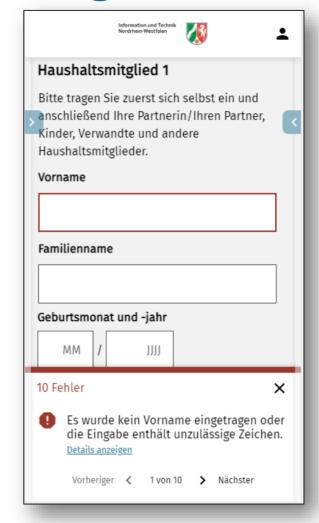
### Lessons learned - CAWI design

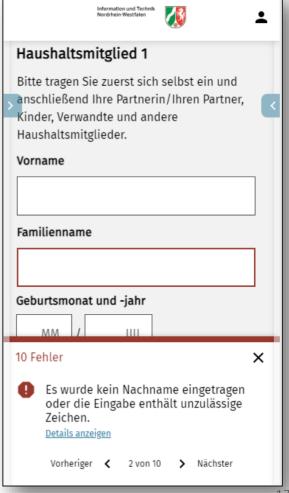
- I. Error messages: 1st design
- >> Overall: design did NOT work
- >> 1. General hint at the top...
  - Overlooked by some
  - >> Availability of a link not clear and/or not noticed
  - >>> Mobile-Rs wanted to directly get to the actual error, not the start of the page with the general hint
- >> 2. Error marker around the field not visible enough, some Rs failed to see it
- >> 3. Error box below the field often not seen by Mobile-Rs



## Lessons learned - CAWI design

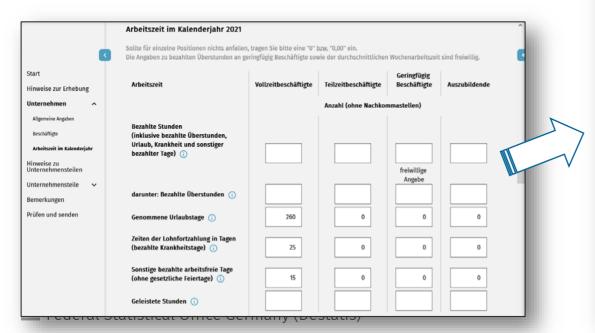
- I. Error messages: New 2<sup>nd</sup> design
- >> New: Error assistant
  - >> Overlay at the bottom & marker at the error
  - >>> Shows errors 1-by-1, jumps to the field, highlights it
  - >>> Overlay bar at the bottom allows for navigation between errors





### Lessons learned - CAWI design

- II. Tables: Mobile design
- Senerally: For household & individual surveys, we recommend avoiding tables







## Lessons learned - CAWI design

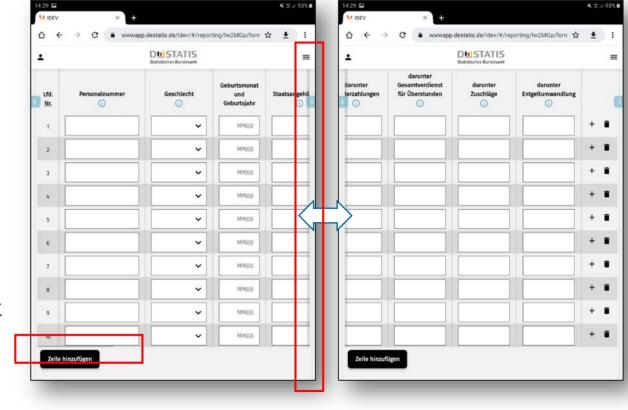
II. Tables: Tablet design (large tables for establishment surveys)

>>> For larger mobile screens (tablets) in establishment surveys,

"within-scrolling" tables:

>>> Horizontal scrolling, scrollbar at the bottom

- >>> Grey fade-out on the right
- >> ! Needs to be revised:
  - Scrollbar more visibly (& at the top)
  - More visible fade-out on the right
  - Info for Rs



### Lessons learned - CAWI design

#### III. Some general learnings

- >>> Large enough font & radiobutton size
- >> Label icon buttons (or simply use text buttons)
- >> Pulldown menus work well
  - >> To provide additional information ("show more/less")
  - >>> To structure questions with many answer categories
    - E.g. household income
    - Careful: test possible interaction effects with question topic (single vs. multiple choice)
- >>> Dropdown menus sparsely, only where reasonable



1.1 Wie viele Personen haben am Donnerstag, dem 6. Oktober 2022, insgesamt in Ihrem Haushalt gelebt? Bitte beziehen Sie sich selbst mit ein.

Zum Haushalt gehören auch zeitweise abwesende Personen, wenn sie zum Beispiel aus beruflichen oder gesundheitlichen

Mehr anzeigen ~

1.1 Wie viele Personen haben am Donnerstag, dem 6. Oktober 2022, insgesamt in Ihrem Haushalt gelebt? Bitte beziehen Sie sich selbst mit ein.

Zum Haushalt gehören auch zeitweise abwesende Personen, wenn sie zum Beispiel aus beruflichen oder gesundheitlichen Gründen abwesend sind, aber normalerweise im Haushalt wohnen. Nicht zum Haushalt gehören Untermieterinnen und Untermieter, Personen, die zu Besuch anwesend sind, sowie Hausangestellte. WG-Mitbewohner/-innen sind in der Regel als eigener Haushalt zu betrachten.

Weniger anzeigen \land



# Thank you!

Statistisches Bundesamt 65180 Wiesbaden Germany Daniel Knapp daniel.knapp@destatis.de

www.destatis.de/kontakt

