

Survey description- methodology

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Sample size

- The target group (the economically active population) included both employed and unemployed blind and partially sighted;
- in total a group of 445 persons
- 303 employed
- 142 unemployed
- All regions of the Slovak republic were involved in the survey

Sample size

- The blind and partially sighted were divided

in 4 basic groups:

- blind
- practically blind
- partially sighted
- persons with a binocular perception failure

Methodology

The absence of data about sociodemographical and regional structure of the economically active blind and partially sighted didn't allow us to use the method of „quota sampling“

The method used was therefore the „random probability sample“

Methodology

- The decisive criterion for involving a person into the preferential group was the accessibility of the person with a visual handicap and their readiness to cooperate on the study
- The period of data collection was February 2006
- The collection of data was realised through „face to face“ individual interviews

Methodology

2 types of questionnaires were used and contained questions concerning attitude and identification

- a questionnaire for the working respondents with a visual handicap (this questionnaire contained 94 classifying signs)
- a questionnaire for the unemployed respondents with a visual handicap (this questionnaire contained 104 signs)

Methodology

- The question about life long learning were identical for both groups(employed and unemployed blind and partially sighted)
- both questionnaires were consulted with partners of this project at the Slovak Blind and Partially Sighted Union (UNSS) and sent to the Regional UNSS(KS UNSS).
- Comments of both UNSS and KS UNSS were considered.

How were the data collected?

Collection of the data was realised in 2 ways:

- The working respondents were contacted by interviewers who used the contacts given to them by the UNSS. The regional UNSS were of big help in mediating between the interviewers and the potential respondents.
- The collection of data from the unemployed group was provided by the Labour Office who contacted all unemployed blind and partially sighted they had in evidence

How were the data collected?

The interviewers who collected data from both the working and unemployed group were provided with detailed operating instructions

- they were in the possession of a glossary containing the key words used in an interview
- and also had a letter of recommendation