

South Africa became a member of the International Social Surveys Programme (ISSP) in 2003 and then met Lilia Dimova, the ISSP Bulgarian representative from the Agency for Social Analyses (ASA). South Africa immediately appreciated the interaction with Lilia and also valued her (and by extension Bulgaria's) participation in the plenary meetings. It was clear that arguments at the ISSP plenary often had a very Western-Eurocentric upper income bias and Lilia often argued that many people (especially ordinary citizens from middle income countries) had different views on constructs and assumptions around surveys should take this into consideration. South Africa could obviously relate to this. Throughout the years Lilia made extremely valuable contributions to theoretical arguments relating to content of modules. She also shared her knowledge in terms of practices around instrument design, phrasings of questions and cautioned against phrasing that would not be universally understood. Throughout the years Bulgaria played a vital role in the ISSP, both in terms of contributing to theoretical arguments and in terms of practical suggestions on survey content. It is a pleasure to serve on the ISSP with Bulgaria and we hope to continue serving on the ISSP together with Lilia for the next 25 years!

Kind regards



Jarè Struwig
Chief Research Manager
Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery (DGSD)
Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
Private Bag X41, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa