The Questionnaire Design and Documentation Tool (QDDT):
a tool for developing questions and documenting the design process

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CLOSER webinar: Metadata management in the real world: Questionnaire Development and Data Collection

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What is it?

- A web based open source tool,
- aimed at capturing the questionnaire design process of complex surveys (development of source or master questionnaires),
- funded by the DASISH and SERISS EU projects and NSD.
- Multiple actors at different locations can work in the tool at the same time.
- Concepts, questions, sequences and instrument modules can be developed.
- Comments can be added to entered content.
- The tool is designed to keep track of changes throughout the question development process.
- The versioning system lets the user document why changes were made and helps keeping track of the change history at the level of individual items.

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What is it? Ctd.

- Components like response options (domains), question items etc. can be developed and managed separately from each other.
- This allows reuse of components within the same instrument, as well as over time. (Example: The same education code list used to measure respondent, partner, mother and father's highest level of education).
- Metadata from the QDDT can be published at different steps in the questionnaire design workflow.
- The QDDT is based on the DDI-Lifecycle metadata standard, making metadata from the QDDT **F**indable, **A**ccessible, **I**nteroperable and **R**eusable (**FAIR**).
- Interoperability with the DASISH Translation Management Tool (TMT) and the QVDB (Question Variable Database) is progressing.

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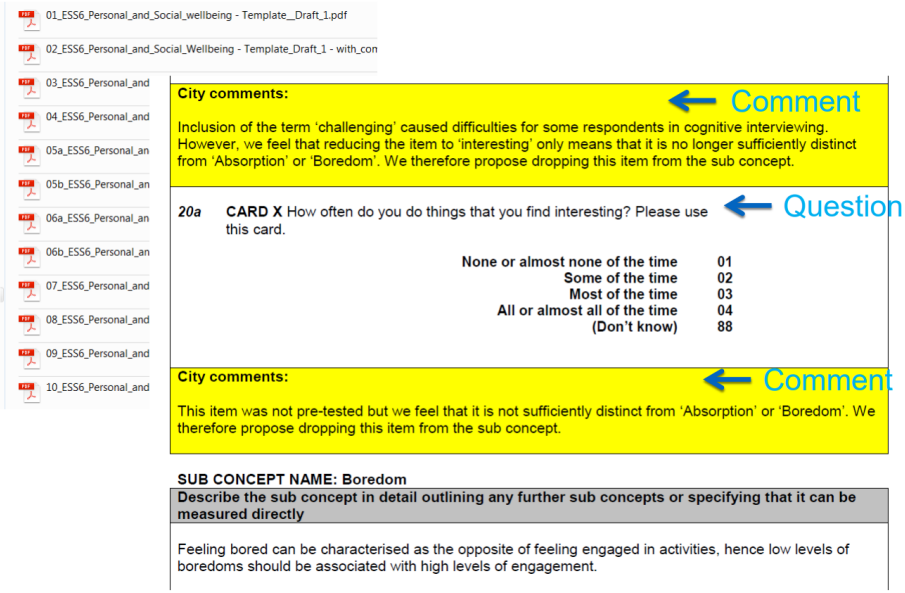
Background

- The **European Social Survey (ESS) questionnaire design process** is the core use case
- Biannual attitude survey covering more than 30 countries.
- Strong focus on methodology
- Two topical questionnaire modules and related design teams elected for each ESS round
- Iterative process over two years including discussions at different steps in the workflow, testing and piloting
- Multiple actors involved: Questionnaire designers, National Coordinators, Translation team, methodology experts etc.
- ESS Head Quater at City, University of London is responsible

Documenting the ESS questionnaire design process



- A word template created for each step in the questionnaire design workflow
- Contains concepts, questions, comments, translation remarks, results from testing etc.

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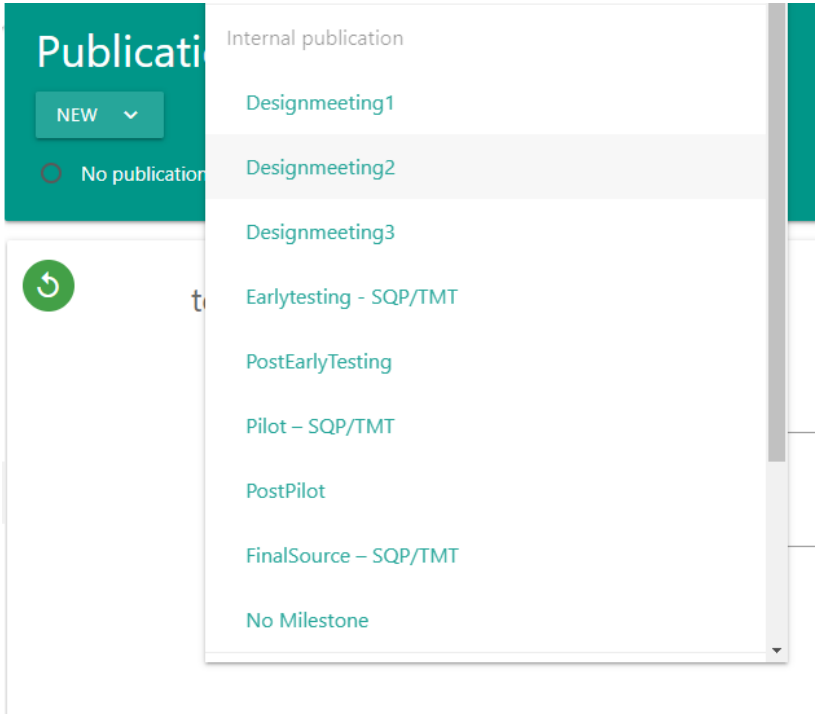
Templates to be replaced by a working tool



- Where content can be developed, the history kept track of, comments and other material can be added etc.
- Content of choice can be published for each workflow step

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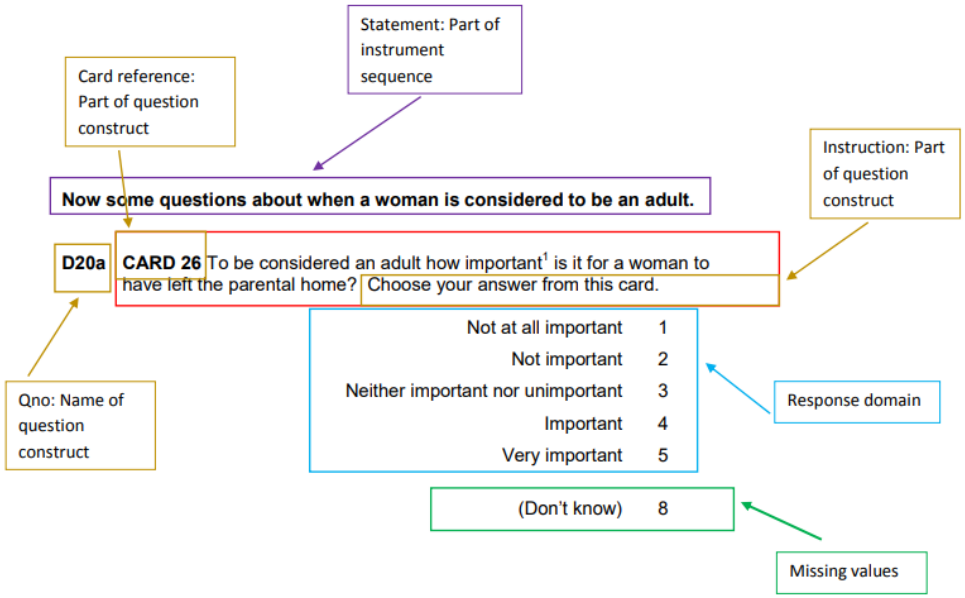
Components of a question in DDI, and reuse



- Reusable question item consisting of a question item and a response domain
- Response options can be maintained separately from the question and referenced by it
- The different components can be versioned differently from each other
- More instrument specific content is added on the level of the question construct (question as in the instrument), or by adding instrument components like statements and sequences

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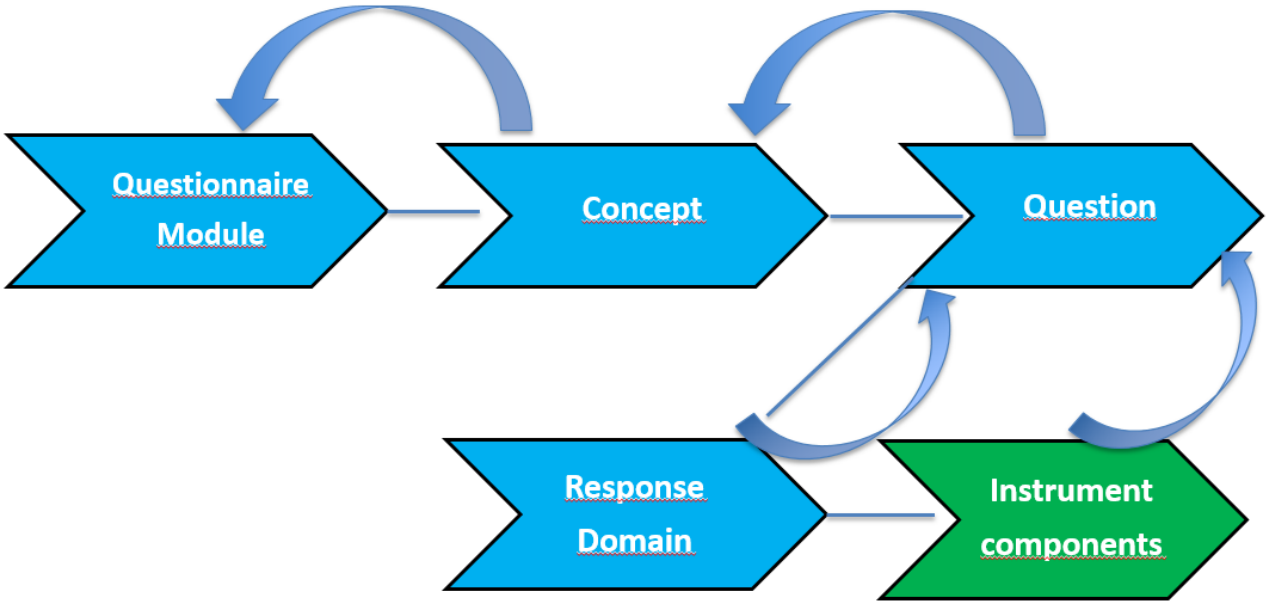
ESS questionnaire design flow



Reuse of QDDT content at different steps in the research data lifecycle

Questionnaire design

QDDT

development

DDI 3.2 xml

Translation/CAPI development

CentERdata TMT

reuse

Variable documentation

QVDB

reuse

Under testing

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Interested to learn more about the QDDT?

QDDT project site

https://github.com/DASISH/qddt-client/wiki

Please contact us at

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Online presentation of the QDDT test server at https://qddt-test.nsd.no/login

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