6. TECHNICAL REPORT

The Lithuanian FFS was conducted on two sub-samples: female and male, aged 18-49, permanently living in Lithuania. The sampling procedure used was multi-stage random, using random route methodology at the final stage and Kish (1965) tables for the selection of the respondents. The interviewers visited a total of 7,463 households in 131 settlements in Lithuania; 187 interviewers worked at 500 sampling points during the study.

The total number of completed interviews was 5,000, with 3,000 females and 2,000 males. *Baltic Surveys Ltd.* conducted fieldwork.

Pilot pre-tests. Two pilot pre-tests were conducted. The first was carried out in the autumn of 1993, aimed at checking the Lithuanian core and module questionnaires of the FFS. The second pilot pre-test was conducted in the spring of 1994 in order to check the wording of questions and the methodology employed. The pre-test was conducted in both rural and urban areas with women matching the characteristics of the target group.

Interviewers' training. All interviewers were bilingual Lithuanian/Russian and could work with the questionnaires in both languages. The training procedure included the explanation of the purpose of study, review of the questionnaire in both languages, and trial interviews.

Written instructions on how to conduct the interview were given to each interviewer. Interviewers made two call-backs in order to conduct the interview. If the third attempt was not effective, the respondent was replaced by another following random route procedure. Nine supervisors were responsible for the coordination of the fieldwork, checking the questionnaires and training of the interviewers.

Design of the sample.[1] The standard sampling procedure was used. The survey was carried out in all of the ethnic regions of Lithuania. The sampling points were selected on the basis of the size of the settlement in each region. The following categories for settlements were used: 100 thousand inhabitants and over; 50-100 thousand inhabitants; 2-50 thousand inhabitants; less than 2 thousand inhabitants. The actual settlements for the survey were chosen using random selection. The list of all settlements in each size category in each region was used as a base. From these lists, the settlements were selected at random, using a computerized random selection procedure. In each sampling point 12 interviews were to be conducted, although in rural areas this was reduced to 6 interviews per village. The proportion of respondents in different size settlements corresponded to the population living in that type of settlement, e.g. 16 per cent in Vilnius, 11 per cent in Kaunas, etc. Therefore, the structure of the sample corresponds to the

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE

SAMPLING METHODOLOGY AND ORGANIZATION

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[1] Design of the sample is written by Rasa Alisauskiene, Director of *Baltic Surveys Ltd.*

demographic structure of the population according to the type of settlement.

Table 6.1
The survey population and non-response

	Women	Men
a. Number of eligible persons according to statistics		
18-19	51 847	51 978
20-24	138 006	145 662
25-29	137 738	144 343
30-34	153 629	153 929
35-39	137 494	132 943
40-44	123 510	114 449
45-49	107 659	94 884
b. Number of persons in target sample		
18-19	183	124
20-24	487	348
25-29	486	344
30-34	542	367
35-39	486	317
40-44	436	273
45-49	380	227
c. Number of persons interviewed		
18-19	262	202
20-24	524	303
25-29	466	322
30-34	517	312
35-39	457	327
40-44	392	274
45-49	382	260
d. Per cent non-response (margin of error)		
18-19	2.63	3.9
20-24	1.23	2.23
25-29	0.68	1.12
30-34	0.85	2.76
35-39	0.95	0.49
40-44	1.46	0.05
45-49	0.06	1.68

Appendix, table 36.

In earlier surveys, a comparison of various sampling techniques was made. The results of the comparison allowed us to draw the conclusion that the address lists of Lithuanian residents were unsatisfactory. Among the reasons are the following: according to new legislation, a resident can own several apartments or residences and be registered in any one of them. Because of the system of compensations and social benefits for the elderly, many young people are registered in smaller apartments while their elderly parents are registered in larger ones, and are compensated for the rent. However, the actual place of residence does not correspond with the registration. Discrepancies of up to 20 per cent were found while checking the correspondence of the registered address of the individual and actual place of residence.

Therefore, the majority of the surveys were carried out using random route methodology. Using this type of sampling design, the residents actually living in the apartment/house/flat that was visited, were interviewed. Compared to using electoral lists or registers of addresses, this method is much more accurate for the conditions in Lithuania.

One important difference in using this random route method was that neither the interviewer nor the supervisor had the demographic data of the prospective respondent. To select respondents, a route map was prepared (as a rule, in urban areas every 10th house or block of flats was selected, and in rural areas every 5th was selected).

In each selected building, one apartment was selected at random (every 5th, for instance). In the apartment, the actual respondent was selected using the Kish tables. Up to two call-backs were used when seeking an interview with a selected respondent.

Using this method, the number of respondents to be interviewed was identified, and the survey was therefore carried out until the planned number was achieved. However, the demographic structure of non-responses could only be approximately identified. Interviewers registered all selected respondents who were not interviewed after the second call-back. The gender and age of such respondents were known. However, if there was no one in the selected flat or if the selected respondent refused to answer, his/her age was not known. For the non-responses neither age nor gender was known.

The representativeness of the sample was evaluated by comparing the sociodemographic structure of the respondents with the socio-demographic sample of the target group (the population in a surveyed age group). Each interviewer conducted no more than 24 interviews per survey wave, not knowing the structure of the sample (he/she was given only the settlement name, route map, and age limits of the people to be interviewed using the Kish tables). Therefore, the influence of the interviewer in selecting respondents was minimal and mis-selection would be immediately recognized. The procedures of all of the interviewers were checked by reviewing the route map and recontacting respondents (establishing the household composition and checking how the interviewed respondent had been selected).

According to the procedure of random route sampling, it was possible to compare the sociodemographic structure of the sample with statistics. However, the structure of non-responses was only estimated–this is the secondary estimation of the margin of error in each sub-group of the sample. This method of sampling always produces the required number of interviewees, although differently from electoral lists or registers of addresses, it does not permit the personal information of non-responses to be identified.

INFLUENCE OF THE SITUATION

No specific events that could influence the survey results took place in the social, political or economic life in Lithuania during that time. However, since the fieldwork lasted for a long time, some seasonal variations could take place, influencing the number of non-responses or refusals.

COLLECTION OF DATA

The fieldwork was conducted in four stages: it started in the early autumn of 1994 and was completed in the early winter of 1995.

There were refusals to take part in the survey. More often they were older, less educated people and living in the rural areas that refused to answer the questions. The reasons offered were related to the length of the questionnaire and issues covered by the project.

As the results of the survey show, some parts of the questionnaire were more difficult than others. Among the most difficult parts, the following were mentioned most often:

(1) Respondents were reserved when asked about the partners with whom they lived or had lived in partnership but not registered, especially if, after that or before they had married another partner.

(2) It was difficult for respondents to recall all the places at which they had worked, dates of changing jobs and positions and dates of changing residence. This is not information ordinary people think about and keep in mind.

(3) Many respondents did not consider withdrawal in intercourse or rhythm as protection against pregnancy, they thought that protection should be materials (pills, condoms, etc.).

(4) There was no possibility to record in the questionnaire the fact of working in several jobs at the same time.

It is quite usual in Lithuania for employees to go on vacation before changing workplace. However, there was no such answer category in the questionnaire; therefore it seems that a person changing jobs was out of work for a month. The same situation applies for the Army.