

THE METHODOLOGY UNDERLYING DELPHISTAR'S DEVELOPMENT

DELPHISTAR

Delphi studies in health and social sciences – recommendations for a standardized reporting

Scientific steering by DeWiss¹, a network of Delphi experts

Sub-study 1

Compilation of 16 systematic reviews of Delphi studies

- Identification of very different approaches and, in some cases, unconsidered modifications to Delphi techniques (Niederberger & Spranger 2020)

Sub-study 2

Systematic review of ten recommendations for reporting guidelines (RG) for Delphi studies

- RGs are not cross-disciplinary or designed for different Delphi variants (Spranger et al. 2022)

Hence: Discussion of the results within the DeWiss network and creation of a proposal for a reporting guideline that is interdisciplinary and applicable to different Delphi variants.

Sub-study 3

2022 - 2023

Aim: Conduction of an online Delphi study consisting of three rounds to reach consensus on the reporting guideline among international Delphi experts (n=91 first round, n=69 second round, and n= 56 third round) (Niederberger et al. 2024)

Result

- = **Reporting guideline: Delphi** studies in health and social sciences – recommendations for an interdisciplinary **standardized reporting (DELPHISTAR)**
- valid for Delphi studies in the health and social sciences, regardless of Delphi variant and aim,
- contains requirements for the following aspects: title and abstract, context, method, results, and discussion

Aims of DELPHISTAR

- Improve, harmonize and make comparable the reporting in publications on Delphi studies
- Facilitate the evaluation of Delphi studies including during peer review processes
- Reduce inconsistencies and unclear descriptions in publications on Delphi studies
- Raise awareness of the diversity among the Delphi variants and of their potentials and challenges

More information about DELPHISTAR

- Website: <https://delphi.ph-gmuend.de/activities/delphistar>
- OSF registration: <https://osf.io/gc4jk>
- EQUATOR Network: <https://tinyurl.com/DSequator>
- Article: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0304651>
- ¹DeWiss – Delphi techniques in the health and social sciences: <https://delphi.ph-gmuend.de/>

References and additional literature:

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The DELPHISTAR research group is a working group of the German-based, academic network DeWiss, focused on Delphi techniques in the health and social sciences. Other members of the DeWiss network can be found here: <https://delphi.ph-gmuend.de/netzwerkmitglieder>



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