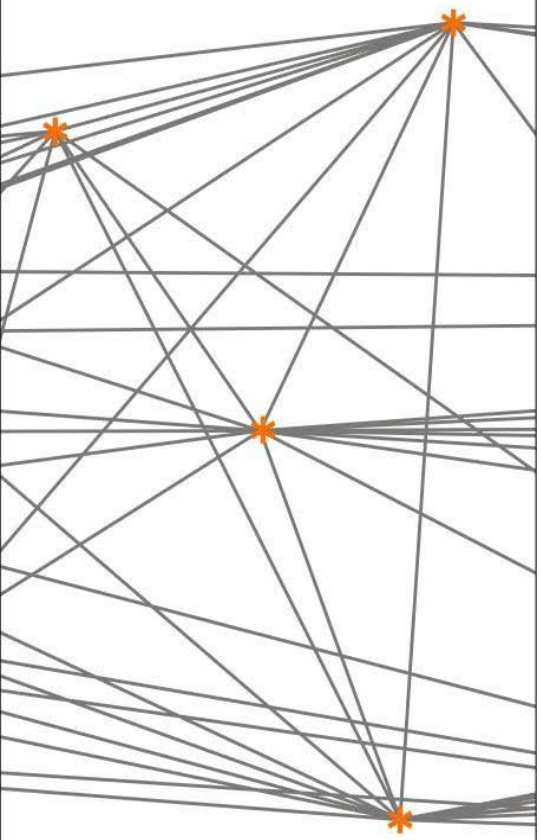
SHARE
Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe



Friends Forever?

Measuring Changes in Personal Social Networks

Stephanie Stuck (MPISOC), Markus Kotte (MPISOC),
Howie Litwin (HUJI), Maurice Martens (CentERdata),
Ella Schwarz (HUJI)

ESRA
Lisbon, 19.07.2017

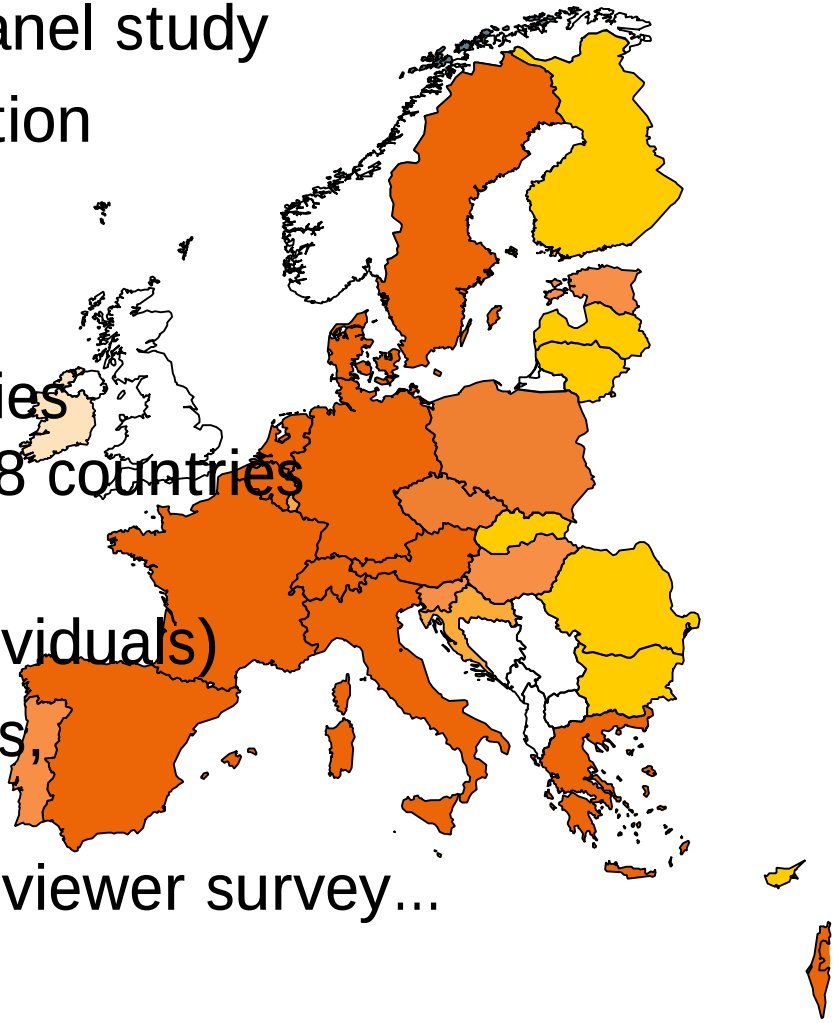
HORIZON 2020
Federal Ministry of Education and Research
seriss SYNERGIES FOR EUROPE'S RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES
mea MUNICH CENTER FOR THE ECONOMICS OF AGING AT THE MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY

Personal Social Networks

- Personal social networks are important in people's lives
  - modify the effects of stressors on health and wellbeing
  - are important factors for personal decisions
  - at different points in life and under differing circumstances social networks shape the paths to key outcomes in the lives of persons
- Not easy to measure
- Various ways to measure social networks in surveys, e.g.
  - Role approach (SHARE wave 1 & wave 2)
  - Name generator approach (SHARE wave 4 & wave 6)

Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe

- Multidisciplinary, cross-national panel study
- Social, economic and health situation
- Target group 50+ population
- Face to face CAPI
- First wave in 2004 with 11 countries
  7th wave is now in the field with 28 countries
- 6 waves released
  (297.000 Interviews, 120.000 individuals)
- Life histories, end of life interviews,
  objective health measures,
  interviews in nursing homes, interviewer survey...
- *easy*SHARE (training data set)

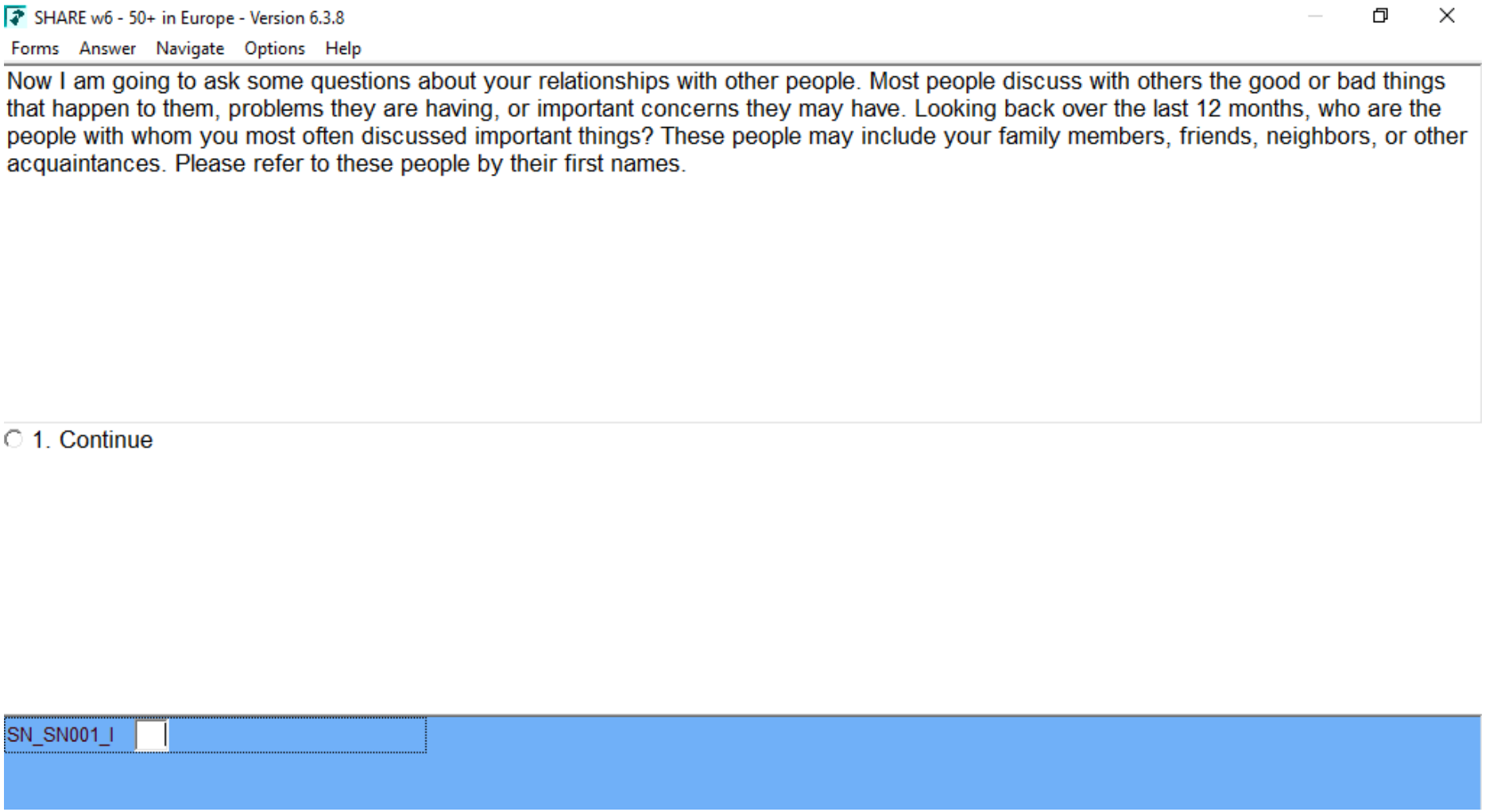


Name Generator Approach

- Ask respondents to **name** persons that are important for them directly
  - Up to seven network members
  - Follow up questions on SN members & relationsship characteristics
  - Overall satisfaction with network (or not having a network)

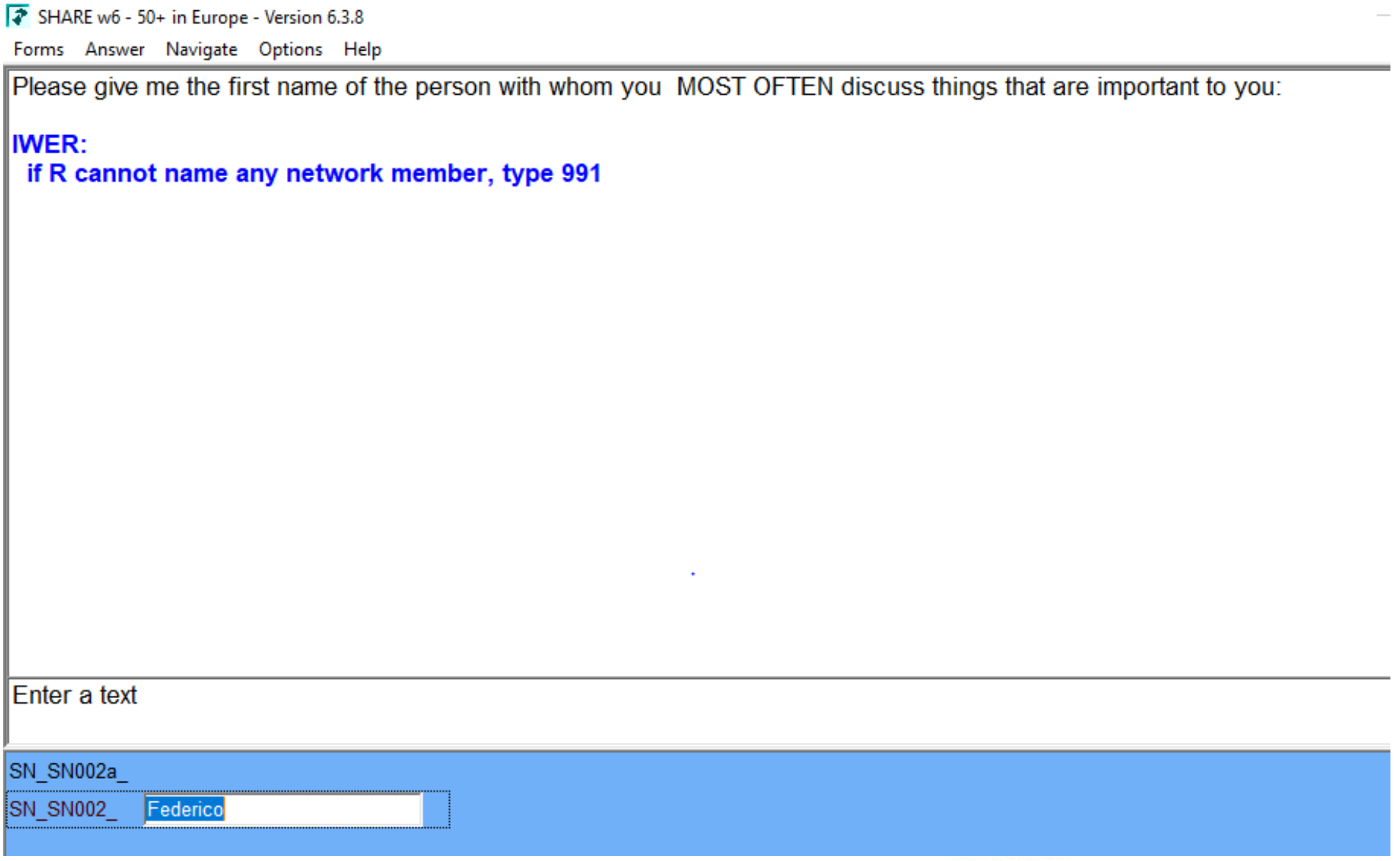
- Network persons are linked with other questionnaire modules, eg. children module, social support, financial transfers (=>very complex routing)

Intro



SHARE Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe
mea MUNICH CENTER FOR THE ECONOMICS OF AGING AT THE MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY
seriss SYNERGIES FOR EUROPE'S RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES
HORIZON 2020
Federal Ministry of Education and Research

First network member



Relation to network member

SHARE w6 - 50+ in Europe - Version 6.3.8

Forms Answer Navigate Options Help

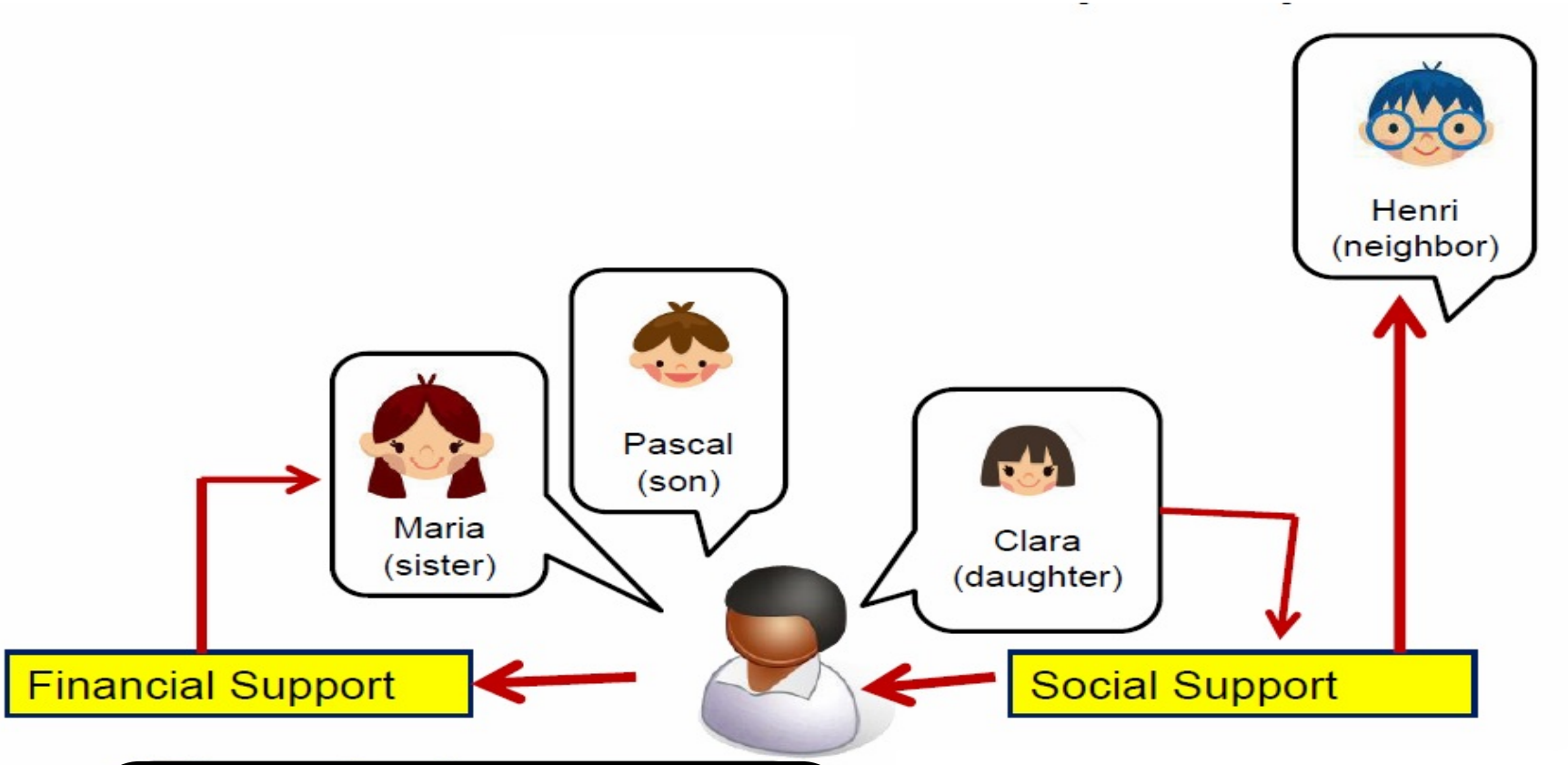
What is Federico's relationship to you?

IWER:
Prompt if needed: so this person is your...

- ○ 1. Spouse/Partner
- ○ 2. Mother
- ○ 3. Father
- ○ 4. Mother-in-law
- ○ 5. Father-in-law
- ○ 6. Stepmother
- ○ 7. Stepfather
- ○ 8. Brother
- ○ 9. Sister
- ○ 10. Child
- ○ 11. Step-child/your current partner's child
- ○ 12. Son-in-law
- ○ 13. Daughter-in-law
- ○ 14. Grandchild
- ○ 15. Grandparent
- ○ 16. Aunt
- ○ 17. Uncle
- ○ 18. Niece
- ○ 19. Nephew
- ○ 20. Other relative
- ◉ 21. Friend
- ○ 22. (Ex-)colleague/co-worker
- ○ 23. Neighbour
- ○ 24. Ex-spouse/partner
- ○ 25. Minister, priest, or other clergy
- ○ 26. Therapist or other professional helper
- ○ 27. Housekeeper/Home health care provider
- ○ 96. None of these

SN_SN005_ 21 a21

Baseline SN Module



Follow-up Questions
- Geographical Proximity
- Frequency of Contact
- Emotional Closeness
- Overall Satisfaction with Network

Forwarded SN Info

SHARE w6 - 50+ in Europe - Version 6.3.8

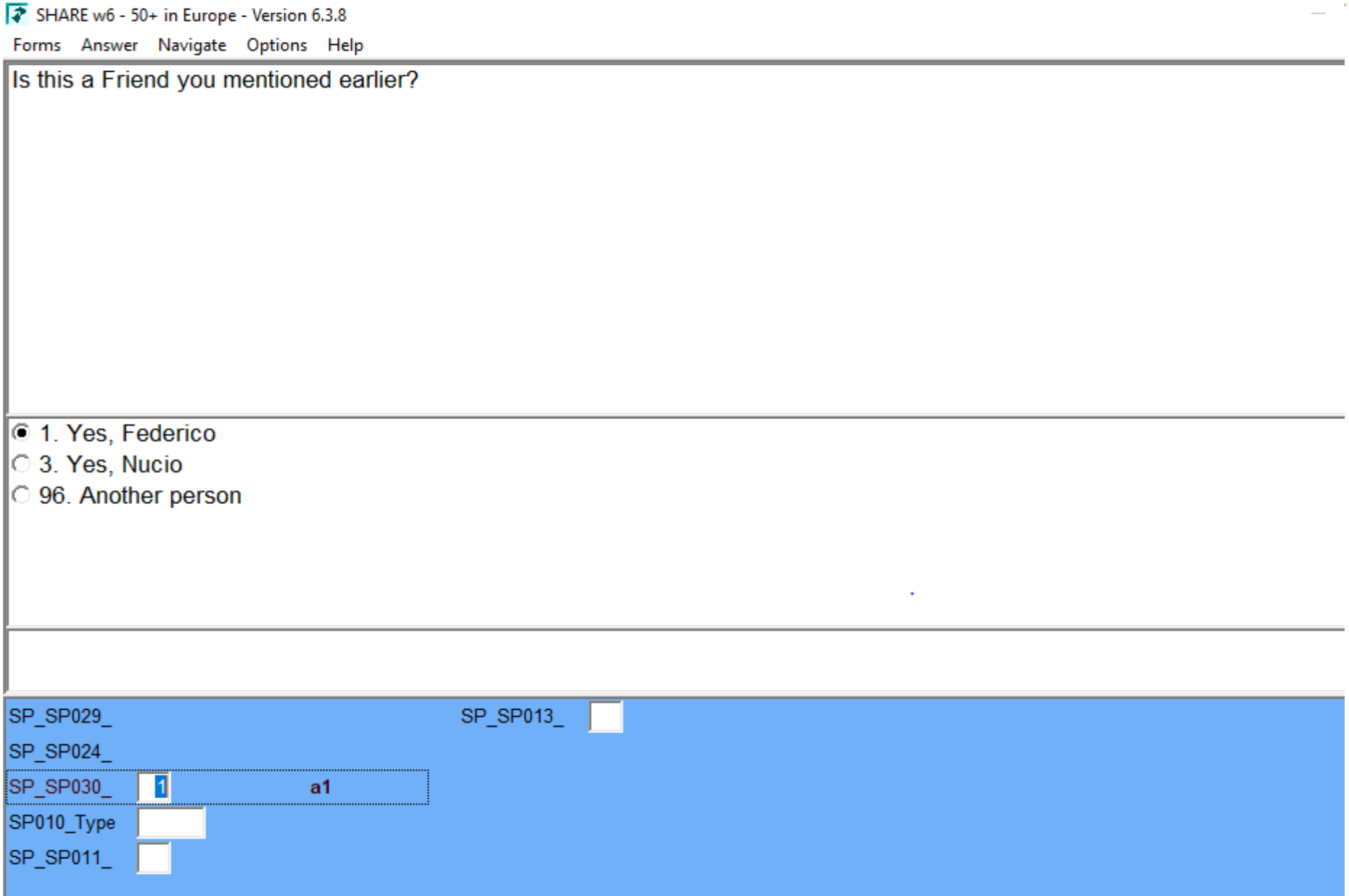
Forms Answer Navigate Options Help

Which family member from outside the household, friend or neighbour have you helped most often in the last twelve months?

- ○ 1. Spouse/Partner
- ○ 2. Mother
- ○ 3. Father
- ○ 4. Mother-in-law
- ○ 5. Father-in-law
- ○ 6. Stepmother
- ○ 7. Stepfather
- ○ 8. Brother
- ○ 9. Sister
- ○ 10. Child
- ○ 11. Step-child/your current partner's child
- ○ 12. Son-in-law
- ○ 13. Daughter-in-law
- ○ 14. Grandchild
- ○ 15. Grandparent
- ○ 16. Aunt
- ○ 17. Uncle
- ○ 18. Niece
- ○ 19. Nephew
- ○ 20. Other relative
- ◉ 21. Friend
- ○ 22. (Ex-)colleague/co-worker
- ○ 23. Neighbour
- ○ 24. Ex-spouse/partner
- ○ 25. Minister, priest, or other clergy
- ○ 26. Therapist or other professional helper
- ○ 27. Housekeeper/Home health care provider
- ○ 96. None of these

SP_SP009_T 21 a21

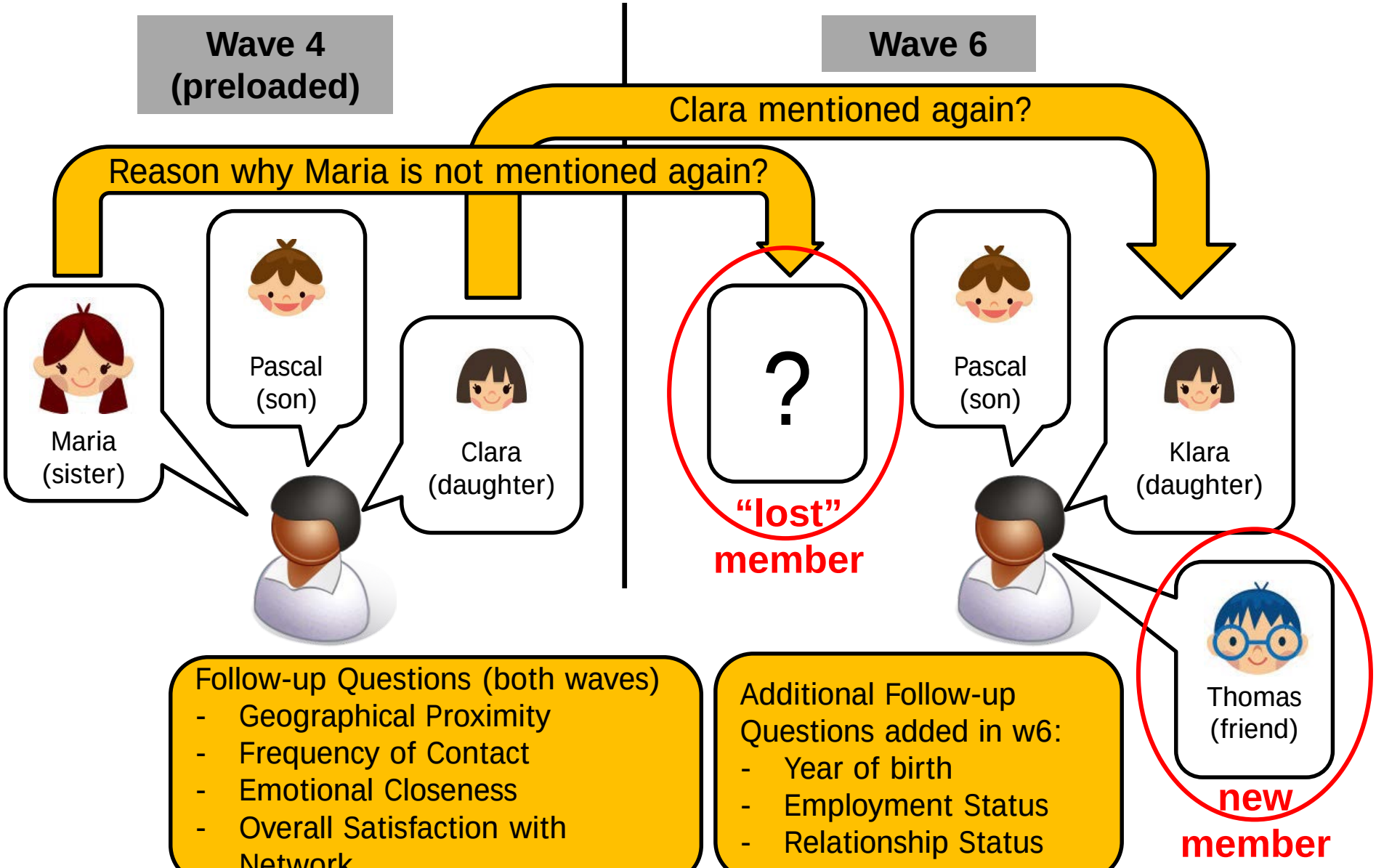
Forwarded SN Info follow up question



Going Longitudinal

- Preload information from previous social network (if respondent allows us to do so):
  - first names of SN members
  - relation to respondent
  - month and year of last SN interview
- Baseline assessment of actual social network
  - including follow up questions
- Compare both networks
  - link SN members between waves
  - ask for reason if SN member “got lost”

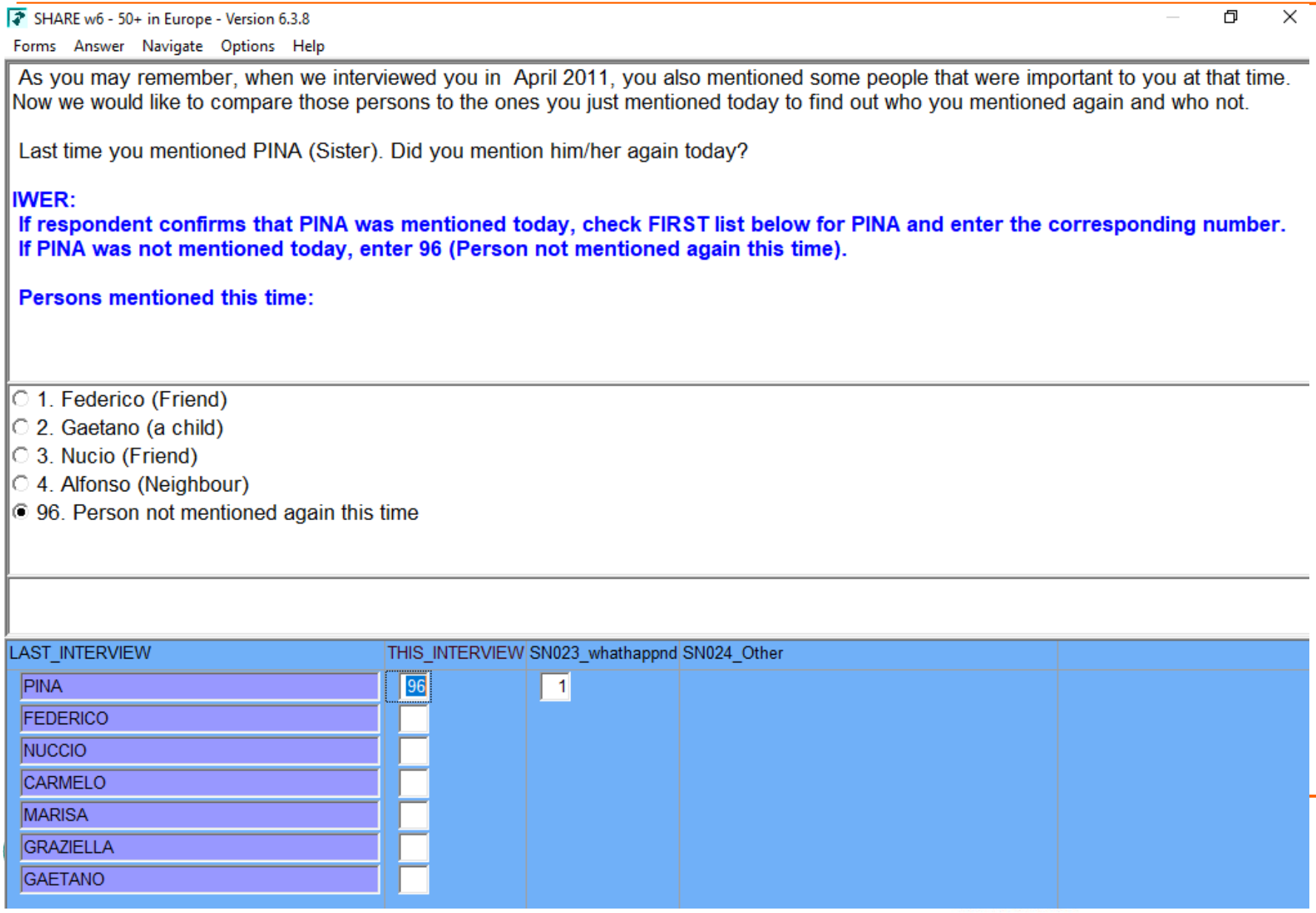
The Longitudinal Dimension



Linkage of SN members

- CAPI instrument displays both lists of networks members
- Interviewer goes through the list of preloaded ‘old’ SN members asking if they have been mentioned again this time
- Name of w6 network member disappears from the screen if chosen

Linkage of SN members



“Lost” SN Members

- If a network person was not mentioned again we ask:

  What is the main reason you didn't mention *Maria* this time?

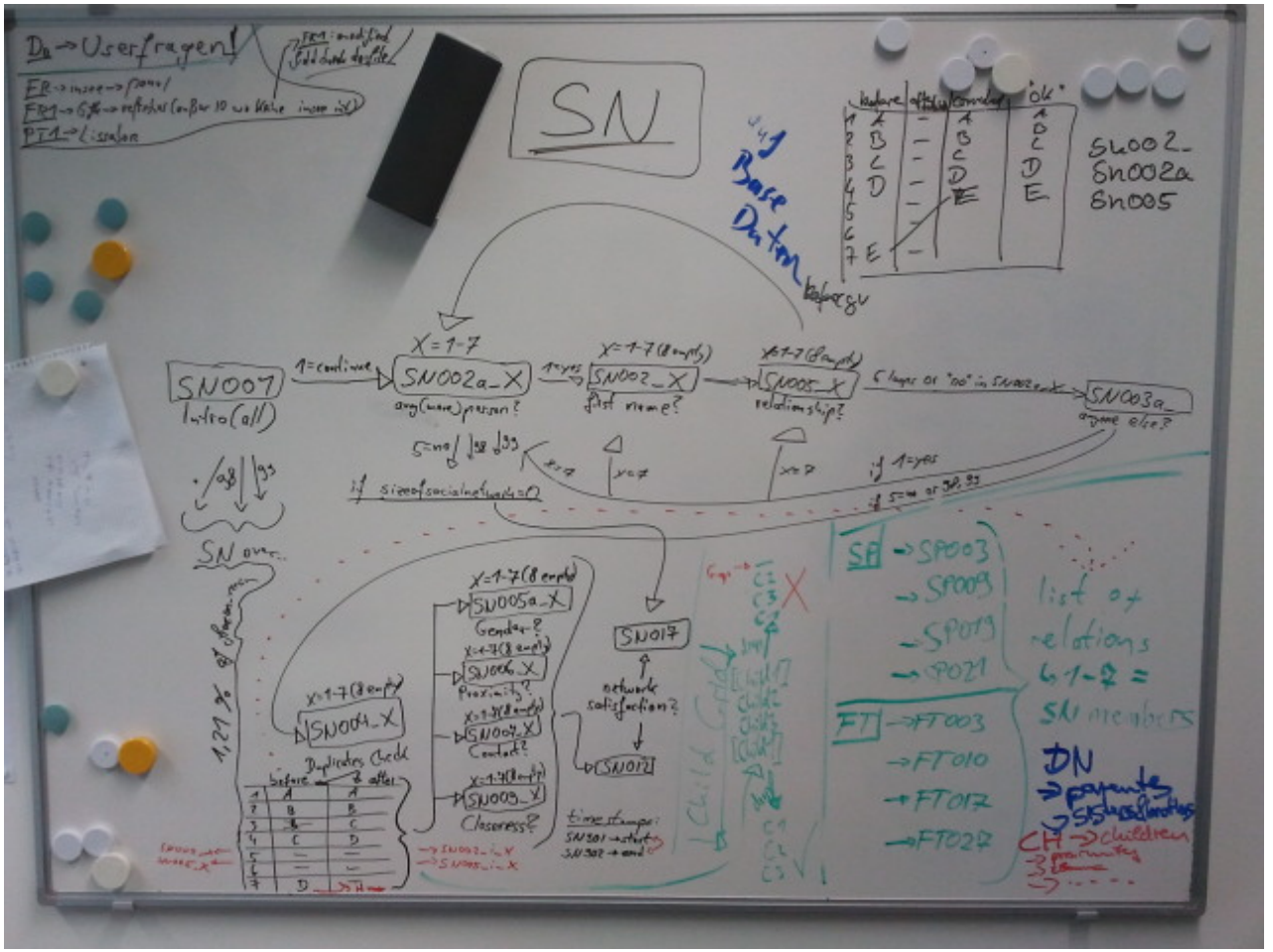
  1. I forgot, *Maria* should have been included
  2. I moved
  3. *Maria* moved
  4. *Maria* died
  5. I became ill or had a health problem
  6. *Maria* became ill or had a health problem
  7. Respondent does not recognize the named person
  8. We are no longer close
  9. Wrong, *Maria* WAS mentioned this time
  97. Other reason (specify)

What do we get?

- We do not only see overall network changes like:
  - Size of social network
  - Network composition
  - Quality of relations
  - Support given to or provided by network members
  - etc
- But also individual changes within the network composition as well as reasons for changes

Thank You!

Questions?



Pass by at our booth

