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Lilia Dimova in the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)

International social research is a very demanding issue and in order to persist a project needs perseverance and confidence. International projects cannot grow and persist if not strong institutions, but also ambitious individual researchers are supporting and developing them further. The *International Social Survey Programme* can certainly be considered as one of the most successful undertakings of such a regular international cooperation; it exists since over thirty years and includes up to fifty countries who regularly carry out a survey every year. In this way, the countries and researchers participating produce a highly valuable data set for international comparisons which has already resulted in thousands of publications. As a founding member of ISSP – in 1984 I was responsible for the German *Allbus* which together with the *British Social Attitudes Surveys* and the US *General Social Survey* constituted the baseline for the first ISSP-survey carried out in 1985 – I know how important it is to find engaged researchers in many countries who are ready to carry out the ISSP surveys. Professor Lilia Dimova has represented Bulgaria since the early 1990s and has carried out the ISSP surveys in her country regularly since then. She was also one of the most reliable participants in the annual ISSP Working Conferences. Through her many valuable comments and proposals during those meetings she also made valuable contributions to the topics and questionnaires developed by ISSP. Through her polite, subtle and often implicitly humorous statements, she has also contributed significantly to the particular style of “democratic” and collegial discussion and work which makes ISSP a very pleasant research project.