

METHODS NOTE · IRISP/2026/002

8 August 2026

Survey Ethics and Anonymisation: The IRISP Protocol

Abstract

This methods note publishes, in full, the ethics protocol that binds every IRISP® field study. It covers informed consent and how it is documented, anonymisation at the moment of collection, the separation of contact data from response data, retention and deletion schedules, and the participant's unconditional right to withdraw.

The protocol is written to satisfy the strictest applicable regime among those the institute works under, including Türkiye's Law No. 6698 (KVKK) and the GDPR. Where regimes differ, the stricter rule governs.

Publishing the protocol is itself a methodological commitment: participants, partners and readers can hold the institute to a written standard rather than a stated intention.

1 · Scope and binding force

This protocol binds every field study the institute conducts or commissions. It is not guidance: a study that cannot comply is not fielded, and a partner that cannot comply does not collect data for IRISP. Where the laws applicable to a study differ, the strictest rule governs.

2 · The protocol

Protection of personal data

KVKK and GDPR compliant; anonymised at collection.

Informed consent

Voluntary, informed, revocable at any time.

Methodological transparency

Method, sample and limitations — always stated.

3 · Consent and withdrawal in practice

Consent is specific, informed and recorded: the participant learns what is asked, why, by whom, and what will happen to the answers, in plain language, before the first question. Withdrawal requires no reason and carries no consequence; on withdrawal, the participant's data are deleted from the working set.

4 · Separation, retention and deletion

Contact information and response data are held separately from the moment of collection, joined only by a code, and the key to that code is destroyed when fieldwork closes. Response data are retained only as long as the published study requires reproducibility, and the retention clock of every study is stated in its methods note.

Suggested citation

IRISP (2026). Survey Ethics and Anonymisation: The IRISP Protocol. IRISP Methods note.

<https://irisp.org/publications/survey-ethics-anonymisation/>

This publication is open access. It may be shared and reproduced freely with attribution to IRISP®.