Using mobile phones to collect survey data: three sketches of ongoing IAB projects

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An increasing number of studies collect survey data by means of mobile phones. Mobile phones, and in particular smartphones, offer access to information that is otherwise unobservable or difficult to obtain. In addition, messaging technologies and apps allow researchers to conduct surveys that are more flexible and less burdensome for participants compared to traditional questioning techniques. However, using mobile phones to collect data raises specific issues of sample selection, attrition and data protection. This DiskAB briefly presents three proposals of IAB projects that will entail fieldwork based on mobile phones. A first study aims at surveying job search behaviour using short message service (SMS); the second project combines the passive collection of information from smartphones with in-app surveys; and the third project relies on a smartphone app assessing the subjective well-being and health of job seekers.