

Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Survey in Four European Countries

Germany

COVID-19 Supplementary Survey CILS4COVID

2020

Technical Report

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1 General Remarks

The Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Survey in Four European Countries (CILS4EU) started in 2010 as a survey of adolescents in Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and England (for more information refer to the documentation available on <https://www.cils4.eu>). Its primary objective is to provide insight into the different dimensions of integration of immigrants in those four countries. Therefore, respondents with a migration background were oversampled. CILS4EU was succeeded by the German follow-up study CILS4EU-DE in 2014. It continues the survey of young adults who have previously participated in the German part of the CILS4EU survey. A refreshment sample was drawn in 2016 to top up the original panel sample. For more information about the CILS4EU-DE data, see Kalter et al. (2019).

Data collection for CILS4COVID started in April 2020, shortly after data collection for wave 8 of CILS4EU-DE. Figure 1 illustrates where CILS4COVID fits with the regular CILS4EU-DE data collection in terms of timing. As can be seen, CILS4COVID data collection took place during the fieldwork period of wave 8 of CILS4EU-DE.

Figure 1: Timeline of CILS4COVID and CILS4EU-DE data collection



We started the fieldwork period of the CILS4COVID survey with a gross sample of 5,265 young adults. By the end of the fieldwork period, a total of 67% (N = 3,517) of this gross sample had participated in the survey (for further details see section 2). Fieldwork was conducted in two different interview modes: Web and postal questionnaires. The questions centered around the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on daily life. People were first contacted via e-mail and invited to participate. Those who did not participate online and those of whom we had no e-mail address were later sent a postal questionnaire. Regardless of the interview mode, respondents were offered 10 Euros in cash as an incentive for their participation. The incentive was sent to the participant via mail after successful completion of the interview.

This technical report entails information about the fieldwork process: First, we describe our general approach in the different stages of fieldwork (section 2). Second, response rates are presented separately for each interview mode (section 3). Third, we provide information on the time course of responses (section 4).

2 Fieldwork

2.1 Gross Sample of CILS4COVID

In wave 7 of CILS4EU-DE in 2018, we successfully conducted a total of 4,267 interviews across all modes. 1,138 people did not answer and 19 people could not be reached. 228 people refused to participate. Net of the number of people who refused further participation in the survey, 5,424 people were left for further investigation in CILS4COVID¹. Of these, 136 were not eligible to be contacted again because they did not participate in either wave 6 or wave 7, therefore dropping out of the panel. 23 of the 5,288 remaining eligible respondents revoked their panel consent between the end of wave 7 data collection and the beginning of the CILS4COVID data collection². Therefore, the gross sample size of the CILS4COVID survey was 5,265 (see Figure 2).

2.2 Randomization of Questions within the Survey

The CILS4COVID survey contains a group of questions about respondents' attitudes towards both the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. Except for the reference word, both sets of questions have the same wording. The purpose of this is to compare young adults' perceptions of how policymakers are dealing with both challenges. The questions cover the following areas:

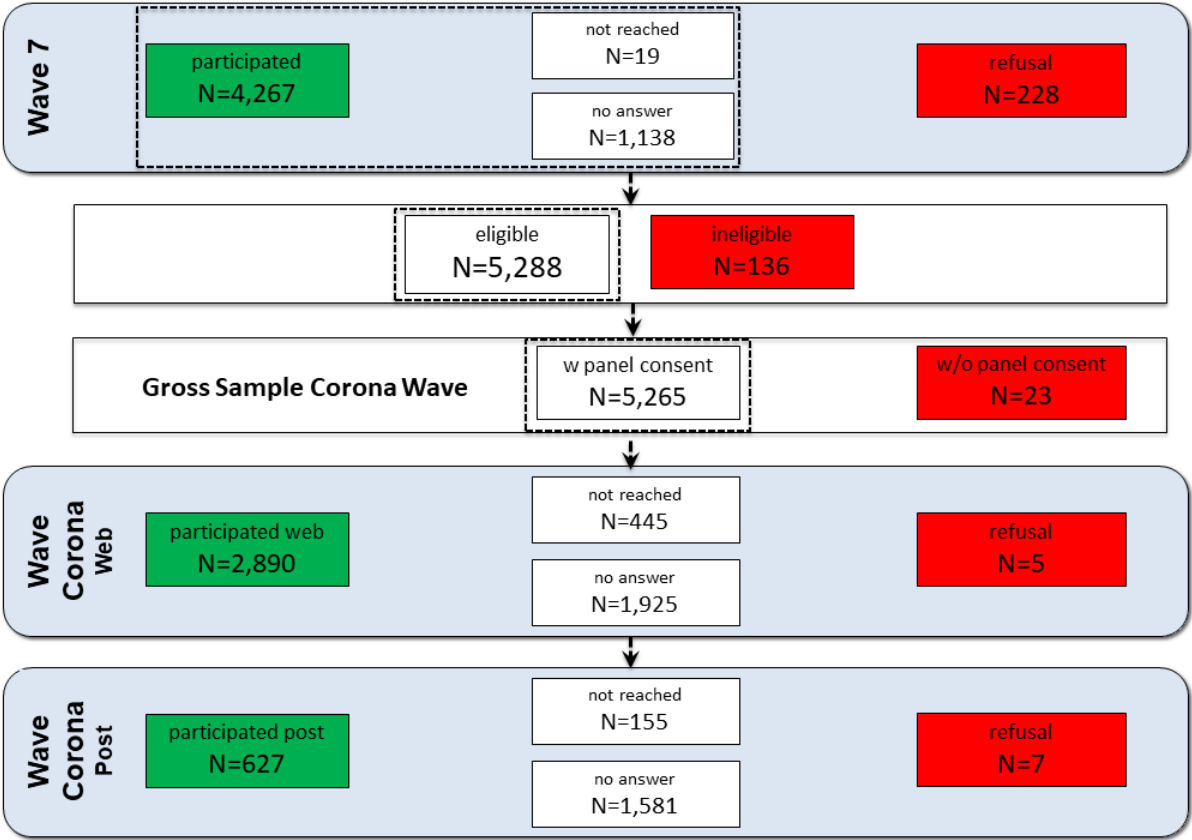
- Trust in political parties in dealing with the respective challenge
- Attitudes toward the German federal government in dealing with the respective challenge
- Attitudes toward how the German government is handling the respective challenge
- Perceptions of the responsibility of the state and the citizens in dealing with the respective challenge

¹ Note that participation in wave 7 of CILS4EU-DE was not a prerequisite to be contacted for CILS4COVID. Everyone who had participated in wave 6 and/or wave 7 and had not refused since then was contacted.

² One of these people could not be contacted because we had neither an e-mail address nor a postal address. They were therefore not part of the gross sample.

All questions were asked blocked per topic and always in the same order within these blocks. To minimize question order effects, the two blocks were always placed before and after the other questions in the questionnaire. However, it was randomized which of the blocks appeared at the start which at the end. Two versions of the questionnaire were created. One group first answered questions about the COVID-19 pandemic and afterwards questions about climate change. In the other group, the order was the other way around. Respondents were randomly assigned to one of the two groups.

Figure 2: Fieldwork overview



2.3 Implementation of the Web/Postal Survey

Our general approach in the CILS4COVID survey was to contact everyone in the gross sample via e-mail with a link to the online questionnaire. If a person did not complete the online questionnaire or we could not reach them via e-mail, we sent them a postal questionnaire to fill out and send back. As illustrated in Figure 2, a total of 5,265 young adults had provided us with their e-mail or postal address and panel consent and therefore entered the sample.

On 22 April 2020, 2020 we sent out 4,827 e-mails asking for participation in the web survey, which was programmed using the provider and software “Unipark”. If this e-mail was not

deliverable (e.g., because the e-mail address did no longer exist), further attempts were made to contact the person in question via a corrected or alternative e-mail address. Everyone who had not participated until then received an e-mail reminder to participate on 27 April 2020. Overall, this resulted in 2,890 web interviews³. 445 people could not be reached via e-mail. 1,925 could be reached, but did not fill out the online questionnaire. 5 people refused to participate and revoked their panel consent after the e-mail invitation. Consequently, they were not contacted again via postal mail.

Three weeks after the first e-mail invitation, on 13 May 2020, we sent out cover letters together with a self-completion questionnaire (11 pages), a contact sheet for the respondent's address, and two stamped return envelopes (one for the questionnaire and one for the contact sheet) to everyone who had not yet participated. In total we sent out 2,465 postal questionnaires for CILS4COVID. This resulted in 627 completed mail questionnaires. 156 people could not be reached via mail; their postal questionnaires could not be delivered. 1,581 people did not participate in the mail survey even though their questionnaires did not come back as undeliverable. 7 people actively refused to participate and revoked their panel consent during the postal phase.

Taken together, 2,890 respondents participated in the online CILS4COVID questionnaire and 627 respondents filled in the postal questionnaire. We did not reach 45 people, of whom we did not have a valid e-mail address and whose postal questionnaires were undeliverable. 1,691 people were reached, but did not participate. 12 people actively refused to participate and revoked their panel consent.

3 Participation Rates

Table 1 shows the overall participation results of CILS4COVID for the gross sample of 5,265 young adults by their immigrant status⁴. The overall participation rate was 67% (N = 3,517).

³ 10 of the people who completed the online questionnaire were not invited via e-mail because we had no valid e-mail address for them. We posted the link to the questionnaire on our website, so that everyone could participate online. Participants had to enter a 5-digit code they had received from us with their e-mail or mail invitations before they could fill out the online questionnaire. This way, we ensured that everyone filling out the online questionnaire was a member of the CILS4EU-DE panel.

⁴ Immigrants are defined as persons with a migration background up to the 2.75th generation (i.e., at least one parent is foreign-born). For comparability with previous reports that use a broader definition (up to the 3.5th generation, i.e., at least one grandparent on the maternal and paternal side each is foreign-born), see Table 3 in the appendix.

The participation rate is lower for immigrants than for natives (56% vs. 74%). Especially the online questionnaire was completed more often by natives. Participation rates online are 61% for natives and 46% for immigrants respectively.

Table 1: Participation by immigrant status (column % in brackets)

	Natives	Immigrants	Total
Participated total	2,295 (74.4)	1,222 (56.0)	3,517 (66.8)
Participated web	1,892 (61.4)	998 (45.7)	2,890 (54.9)
Participated post	404 (13.1)	224 (10.3)	627 (11.9)
Refusal total	10 (0.3)	2 (0.1)	12 (0.2)
Not reached/no answer	778 (25.2)	958 (43.9)	1,736 (33.0)
Total	3,083	2,182	5,265

Table 2: Participation by sample (column % in brackets)

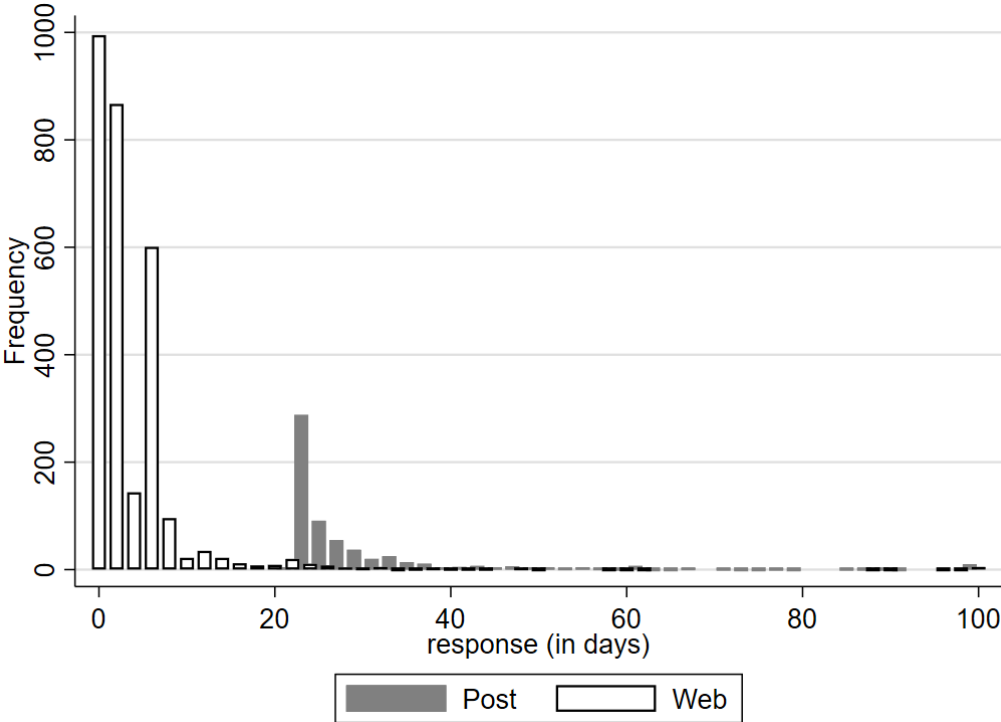
	Initial Panel	Refreshment	Total
Participated total	1,633 (71.6)	1,884 (63.1)	3,517 (66.8)
Participated web	1,334 (58.5)	1,556 (52.1)	2,890 (54.9)
Participated post	299 (13.1)	328 (11.0)	627 (11.9)
Refusal total	4 (0.2)	8 (0.27)	12 (0.2)
Not reached/no answer	644 (28.2)	1092 (36.6)	1,736 (33.0)
Total	3,083	2,182	5,265

Table 2 shows the overall participation in CILS4COVID separately for respondents of the initial 2010 panel sample and respondents of the 2016 refreshment sample. The response rate is higher in the initial panel sample (72%) than in the refreshment sample (63%). This is to be expected since respondents of the initial sample who are still participating are doing so since 2010 and are therefore more positively selected with respect to their motivation to participate in the survey.

4 Response Time

Figure 3 displays the response times⁵ for the web and postal questionnaires respectively. “Day 0” is defined as 22 April 2020, on which we sent out the first invitation for CILS4COVID via e-mail. Approximately 95% of those who participated did so within the first 31 days. The figure shows a first peak in the web survey on the day we sent out the link via e-mail. Around 28% of respondents (N = 995) filled in the web survey on that first day. A second peak can be seen approximately three weeks later, after the postal questionnaires arrived at their destinations.

Figure 3: Response times in web/postal survey (truncated at response = 100 days)



⁵ In the web survey, the interview date is defined as the date on which the respondent last accessed the online questionnaire. In the postal survey, respondents were asked to indicate the date on which they filled out the questionnaire. If this information was missing or implausible (i.e., lies before 13 May 2020 – the date we sent out the postal questionnaires), it was replaced by the date we received the filled out postal questionnaire.

5 Appendix

Table 3: Participation by immigrant status (broad definition, column % in brackets)

	Natives	Immigrants	Total
Participated total	2,179 (74.7)	1,338 (57.0)	3,517 (66.8)
Participated web	1,802 (61.7)	1,088 (46.4)	2,890 (54.9)
Participated post	377 (12.9)	250 (10.7)	627 (11.9)
Refusal total	10 (0.3)	2 (0.1)	12 (0.2)
Not reached/no answer	730 (25.0)	1,006 (42.9)	1,736 (33.0)
Total	3,083	2,182	5,265

6 References

Kalter, F., Kogan, I., & Dollmann, J. (2019). Studying Integration from Adolescence to Early Adulthood: Design, Content, and Research Potential of the CILS4EU-DE Data. *European Sociological Review*, 35(2), 280–297. <https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcy051>