

# **Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Survey in Four European Countries**

**Germany  
(CILS4EU-DE)**

**Technical Report**

**Wave 5 – 2015**

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## 1 General Remarks

We started the fieldwork of wave 5 of the “Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Survey in Four European Countries” (CILS4EU) in Germany with a gross sample of 3,282 adolescents. By the end of the fieldwork period, an overall proportion of 85.83% (N=2,817) of the gross sample had participated (for further details, see section 3).

Fieldwork was conducted in three different consecutive interview modes: by web questionnaire, postal questionnaire and by telephone. The adolescents were first contacted via electronic mail, followed by postal mail. Persons who could not be reached via mail were subsequently approached by telephone. Regardless of the interview mode that adolescents were approached with, we offered identical incentives for participation in the form of ten euro gift cards valid for a retail store of their choice.<sup>1</sup>

This technical report entails information about the two phases of the fieldwork process: the pre-fieldwork phase and the actual fieldwork phase. During the first phase, we conducted an extensive pretesting procedure (section 2), before the new instruments were finally applied in the field. The description of the second phase is structured as follows: first, our general proceeding in the different stages of fieldwork will be described (section 3); second, response rates will be presented separately for each interview mode (section 4). In the last section, we provide information on the respondents’ response times in the postal/web survey mode (section 5).

## 2 Development and Pretesting of Instruments

This chapter describes the development and pretesting of the two core modules that have been additionally introduced in wave 5. In detail, one module was designed to assess the adolescents’ current citizenship and—for people with a foreign citizenship—asked them

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<sup>1</sup> Alternatives to choose from: Amazon, Douglas, H&M, iTunes (only available in the telephone survey), Saturn.

about possible future plans to become naturalized as a German citizen. The other module captured information on associational participation and political attitudes.

In order to evaluate the instrument's overall quality, comprehensibility and feasibility, we decided to conduct a cognitive pre-test. An extensive pre-testing procedure seemed to be necessary also because both modules contained only questions that have not been implemented in the survey yet.

In the following sections of this chapter, we first describe the instruments (2.1), followed by a description of the cognitive interviewing procedure (2.2) and finally conclude with a brief summary of the results and adaptations (2.3).

## **2.1 Instruments**

As mentioned above, wave 5 featured two additional modules: one focusing on citizenship and another focusing on associational participation and political attitudes. Both modules aimed at covering key dimensions of each topic.

In wave 1 and 3 of the survey, we had already asked about the respondent's current citizenship. In wave 5, we extended our information by asking non-naturalized adolescents if they would have any intentions regarding their naturalization in the near future. Prospective waves of the survey will then offer us the unique opportunity to verify if the respondent's plans will actually be put into practice. Additionally, we tried to identify the reasons that guide them in their intentions to become naturalized or that might prevent them from making this decision. For example, we asked if they expect to have any advantages on the labour market or if their family influences them in their behaviour.

The other module collected information on respondent's associational participation, i.e., if the respondent was at that time member in an association. We have already included this question in earlier waves, but in this wave we also assessed the type of association. In previous waves, we occasionally asked the respondents about their interest in receiving and host country politics. In wave 5, we intended to cover the following two aspects of political engagement: 1) behaviour (e.g., if the adolescent participated in a demonstration during the

last 12 months, or how often the adolescent discusses political issues with other people) and 2) attitudes (e.g., self-categorization on the classical left-right scale, general attitudes towards politics, satisfaction with the German democratic system). It was considered important to ask if the adolescents have already voted in the last European election in 2014, as they were on average 19 years old during wave 5 and therefore had only recently become eligible for voting.

The general aim of cognitive interviews was to gather information about possible problems with single questions and to explore how questions were interpreted and understood by potential respondents (Prüfer and Rexroth 2005). In the present case, we tried to gain insight in the respondents' answering behavior and the decision processes leading to certain answers. Specifically, one of our major concerns was of how the respondents would deal with the established left-right-wing scale; i.e., if adolescents with an immigrant background would understand the concept to the same extent as their native counterparts.

## 2.2 Cognitive Interviewing

Three student assistants were selected to conduct cognitive interviews. To guide them, a small manual with specific questions and potential problems was developed, which also included instructions on the interviewing technique to be chosen for the respective items. The interviews took place between November 3<sup>rd</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Respondents for the cognitive interviews were recruited in local youth clubs in Mannheim. They were selected on a voluntary basis, but still with a focus on certain characteristics; generally, we tried to obtain a sample that resembled the later survey sample regarding its main composition (i.e., age and educational status). In total, 19 adolescents participated. Table 1 provides an overview of the respondents' sex and ethnic origin.

**Table 1: Description of the cognitive interviewing sample (% in brackets)**

	Male	Female	Total
German background	2 (15.38)	2 (33.33)	4 (21.05)
Migration background	11 (84.62)	4 (66.67)	15 (78.95)
Total	13	6	19

The cognitive interview was designed as follows: first, interviewees had to fill out the questionnaire on their own. Interviewers were explicitly instructed to observe the participants' behaviour and immediate (non-)verbal reactions towards specific items. After filling out the questionnaire, the interviewer should instruct the participant to go through the whole instrument together. In doing so, interviewers should watch out for questions which were skipped and carefully check if the interviewee had chosen the intended answer category. Interviewers were held to apply the following cognitive interviewing techniques:

- requesting and/or probing,
- security assessment,
- paraphrasing,
- and think-aloud technique.

The second part of the cognitive interview was recorded and subsequently transcribed, which facilitated the locating of mistakes and understanding problems. The interview took on average 10 minutes. Participants received an incentive in the form of five euros after the interview was completed.

### **2.3 Results and Adaptions**

The majority of the tested items seemed to work very well, although some minor problems were detected. First, almost every respondent had problems in understanding the item “In politics, people often talk about ‘left’ and ‘right’. Where on the following scale from 0 to 10 would you classify yourself, if 0 stands for ‘left’ and 10 for ‘right’?” Respondents often struggled with the exact meaning of “left” and “right” and therefore were uncertain where to mark a cross. Generally, most of them either tended to choose the mid position or they skipped the whole question. When in the second part of the interview they were directly asked how they would describe a left or a right political attitude, it became clear that respondents simply did not know what these two attributes were supposed to mean. Second, many respondents did not appropriately understand terms such as “German federal government” and “European Union”. For example, when directly requested to report their first cognitive associations

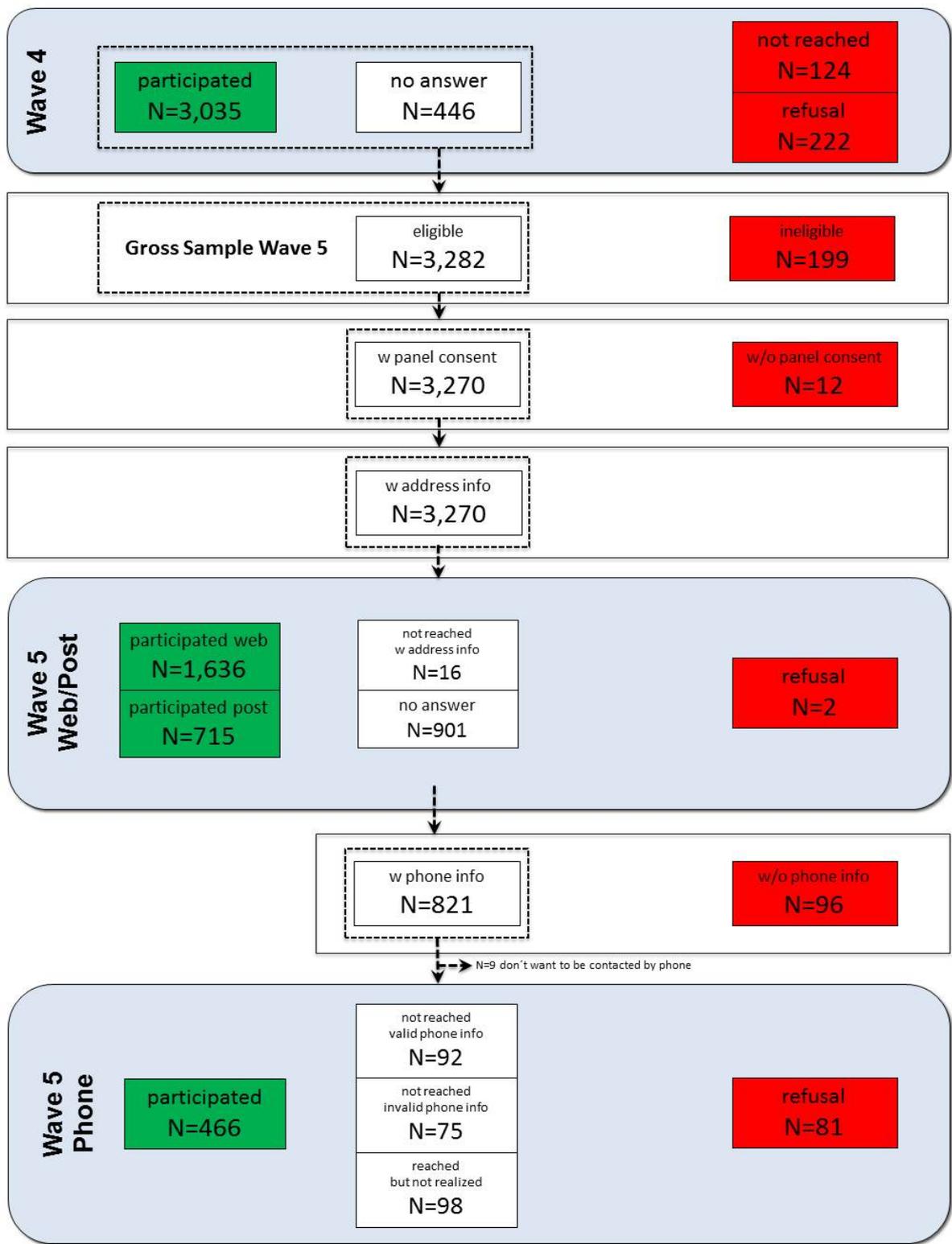
with these terms, many respondents answered that the “German federal government” was a synonym for the current German chancellor.

In response to the results of the cognitive pre-test, some adaptations of the questionnaire were implemented. First, due to suggestions of the respondents, we decided to rephrase the item for the left-right scale by more explicitly asking for political attitudes: “In politics, people often talk about ‘left’ and ‘right’ political attitudes. Where on the following scale from 0 to 10 would you classify yourself, if 0 stands for a ‘left political attitude’ and 10 for a ‘right political attitude’?” Additionally, the design of the scale was slightly improved by adding a description that also more directly framed the context on political attitudes (e.g., “0 - left political attitude” and “10 - right political attitude”). For respondents who still would be unable to work with the scale, we furthermore introduced a “don’t know” category. Second, items with terms that have not been appropriately understood in the cognitive pre-test, (e.g., “German federal government” or “European Union”) and that could not be replaced by an easier wording were excluded from the later instrument.

In summary, the cognitive pre-test was a successful intervention for two reasons: first, it proved that the majority of the newly developed items were understood as we originally intended them to be. Second, several problems were discovered and later resolved in the final version of our questionnaire through changes of single wordings and an improved layout.

### 3 Fieldwork

Figure 1: Fieldwork Overview



### **3.1 Gross Sample of Wave 5**

In wave 4, we successfully conducted 3,035 interviews. 446 persons did not answer, 124 persons could not be reached and 222 persons refused to participate (see Figure 1, first row). Net of the number of refusals and persons who could not be reached, in total 3,481 adolescents remained for further investigation.

Out of that number, 199 persons were not eligible to be contacted again in wave 5 because they did not participate in either one of the two previous waves (waves 3 and 4). We thus ended up with a gross sample of 3,282 adolescents for wave 5 of our panel survey. Among the remaining 3,282 adolescents, however, 12 withdrew from their panel consent during the fourth wave, i.e. they participated in the interview, but refused to be contacted again (see Figure 1, third row). Consequently, we had a total of 3,270 adolescents that could be contacted in our fifth wave.

### **3.2 General Proceeding**

Our general proceeding was to initially approach the adolescents with online questionnaires, followed by postal questionnaires and telephone interviews (provided that we knew their phone number) if the online/postal approaches were not successful. The telephone sample was regularly updated, as the paper and online questionnaires could still be completed.

### **3.3 Web/Postal Survey**

As can be seen in Figure 1, all adolescents had provided us with an e-mail and/or postal address. Consequently, everyone entered the first step of the interview modes.

In total, 2,898 adolescents were contacted via e-mail and asked for participation in the web survey<sup>2</sup> on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. The following day, the remaining 372 adolescents were invited by postal mail to participate in the web survey. Another day later, a second attempt

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<sup>2</sup> The web survey was programmed by Markus Weißmann and Leonard Ecker (student research assistant) by use of the provider “Unipark”.

was made to contact adolescents via a corrected or alternative e-mail address, if the first e-mail turned out to be undeliverable. In case there was no alternative e-mail information available or the second attempt also failed, invitations were sent out by postal mail the following day. Furthermore, on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the adolescents who hadn't participated yet received a reminder e-mail. Another two weeks later (February 23<sup>th</sup>, 2015), we sent out a cover letter together with a self-completion questionnaire (21 pages), a contact sheet, two stamped return envelopes, sweets and a pencil to 1,800 adolescents. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015, all adolescents received a thank-you/reminder note by post.

Altogether, the web/post survey resulted in 2,351 obtained interviews (1,636 respondents participated online and 715 completed a paper questionnaire). Up to this point, two persons had actively refused participation. We had no answers from 901 persons and did not reach another 16 persons, whose e-mail addresses turned out to be invalid and/or whose paper questionnaires could not be delivered. During the whole survey phase, additional efforts were made for adolescents whose questionnaires could not be delivered by postal mail: we contacted the respective register of residents in order to obtain new addresses, which proved to be quite successful.

### **3.4 Telephone Survey**

A total of 821 adolescents of those who could not be contacted or did not respond in the first two steps had provided us with their telephone number and were approached in the third step of the survey. However, we had no further contact information of 96 adolescents as can be seen in Figure 1, sixth row. Another nine adolescents were not approached, as they explicitly stated in previous waves that they did not want to be contacted by phone.

The CATI software “Voxco” was programmed by Markus Weißmann and Leonard Ecker, just like the web survey, and checked carefully by the German research team; only minor adaptations were necessary. The average duration of an interview amounted to approximately 23 minutes<sup>3</sup>. The telephone interviews were realized in the telephone laboratory of the

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<sup>3</sup> Please note that approximately three minutes at the end of the interview were needed to collect the respondent's contact information. Thus, the regular questionnaire was finished after an average of 20 minutes.

Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES) of the Mannheim University. The interviews were carried out between March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. We employed 30 interviewers who called respondents from Mondays through Thursdays from 3.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., on Fridays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.<sup>4</sup> The interviewers were Bachelor students who were hired as student research assistants and were paid an hourly wage.

By the end of the telephone fieldwork period, another 466 interviews had been conducted. In this wave the main reason for not realizing more telephone interviews were neither refusals nor non-contacts, but reaching adolescents without realizing the interview (N=98, see Figure 1 (last row) or Table 6 for more details).

## **4 Participation Rates**

### **4.1 Overall Participation Rates**

Table 2 represents the participation results of wave 5 for the entire eligible sample. We obtained an overall participation rate of 85.83% (N=2,817). The participation rate is lower for immigrants<sup>5</sup> (83.90% vs. 87.37%), which is mainly due to the fact that we were less able to contact them or that they did not answer (cf. row “not reached/no answer”: 13.01% vs. 9.90%).

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<sup>4</sup> Towards the end of the fieldwork, this time frame was slightly reduced.

<sup>5</sup> Immigrants are defined as persons with a migration background up to the 2.75<sup>th</sup> generation. For better comparability with previous reports, see Tables 8-10 in the appendix, in which we used a weaker definition of immigrants (up to the 3.5<sup>th</sup> generation).

**Table 2: Overall participation by immigrant status (% in brackets)**

	Natives	Immigrants	Total
<b>Participated total</b>	<b>1,598 (87.37)</b>	<b>1,219 (83.90)</b>	<b>2,817 (85.83)</b>
Participated web	951 (52.00)	685 (47.14)	1,636 (49.85)
Participated post	424 (23.18)	291 (20.03)	715 (21.79)
Participated telephone	223 (12.19)	243 (16.72)	466 (14.20)
<b>Refusal total</b>	<b>50 (2.73)</b>	<b>45 (3.10)</b>	<b>95 (2.90)</b>
Refusal web/post	0 (0.00)	2 (0.14)	2 (0.06)
Refusal telephone	43 (2.35)	38 (2.62)	81 (2.47)
No panel consent w4	7 (0.38)	5 (0.34)	12 (0.37)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	<b>181 (9.90)</b>	<b>189 (13.01)</b>	<b>370 (11.27)</b>
Total	1,829	1,453	3,282

Response rates also differed systematically with respect to school strata. Adolescents from lower strata schools had both higher participation rates and lower refusal rates than adolescents from higher strata schools (see Table 3).

**Table 3: Overall participation by stratum (% in brackets)**

	0-10%	10-30%	30-60%	60-100%	Total
<b>Participated total</b>	<b>503 (89.34)</b>	<b>1,036 (88.17)</b>	<b>623 (84.07)</b>	<b>655 (81.57)</b>	<b>2,817 (85.83)</b>
Participated web	116 (20.60)	239 (20.34)	179 (24.16)	181 (22.54)	1,636 (49.85)
Participated post	332 (58.97)	646 (54.98)	322 (43.45)	336 (41.84)	715 (21.79)
Participated telephone	55 (9.77)	151 (12.85)	122 (16.46)	138 (17.19)	466 (14.20)
<b>Refusal total</b>	<b>9 (1.60)</b>	<b>34 (2.89)</b>	<b>26 (3.50)</b>	<b>26 (3.24)</b>	<b>95 (2.90)</b>
Refusal web/post	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.13)	1 (0.12)	2 (0.06)
Refusal telephone	8 (1.42)	29 (2.47)	24 (3.24)	20 (2.49)	81 (2.47)
No panel consent w4	1 (0.18)	5 (0.43)	1 (0.13)	5 (0.62)	12 (0.37)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	<b>51 (9.06)</b>	<b>105 (8.94)</b>	<b>92 (12.42)</b>	<b>122 (15.19)</b>	<b>370 (11.27)</b>
Total	563	1,175	741	803	3,282

## 4.2 Web/Post Survey Participation Rates

Similarly to the overall figures, Table 4 shows that the response rate for immigrants in the web/post survey is lower than the response rate of the natives. Especially the figures for participation in the online survey differ between natives and immigrants (52.20% vs. 47.31%). As can be seen in Table 5, participation rates also differ according to school strata. Whereas almost 60 percent of respondents of the lowest strata schools participated online, only around 40 percent of the highest strata did. Accordingly, about 35 percent of

respondents of the highest strata were not reached or did not answer, compared to only around 20 percent in the lowest strata.

**Table 4: Participation in web/post survey by immigrant status (% in brackets)**

	Natives	Immigrants	Total
Participated web	951 (52.20)	685 (47.31)	1,636 (50.03)
Participated post	424 (23.27)	291 (20.10)	715 (21.87)
Refusal web/post	0 (0.00)	2 (0.14)	2 (0.06)
Not reached/no answer	447 (24.53)	470 (32.46)	917 (28.04)
Total	1,822	1,448	3,270

**Table 5: Participation in web/post survey by stratum (% in brackets)**

	0-10%	10-30%	30-60%	60-100%	Total
Participated web	332 (59.07)	646 (55.21)	322 (43.51)	336 (42.11)	1,636 (50.03)
Participated post	116 (20.64)	239 (20.43)	179 (24.19)	181 (22.68)	715 (21.87)
Refusal web/post	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.14)	1 (0.13)	2 (0.06)
Not reached/no answer	114 (20.28)	285 (24.36)	238 (32.16)	280 (35.09)	917 (28.04)
Total	562	1,170	740	798	3,270

### 4.3 Telephone Survey Participation Rates

Table 6 indicates that the participation rates in the telephone survey do not differ between natives and immigrants. However, the telephone sample consists of more immigrants than natives. Similarly, Table 7 displays that the adolescents from the highest strata schools have about the same participation rates as adolescents from the lower strata schools. Furthermore, there cannot be found any differences regarding the refusal rate.

**Table 6: Participation in telephone survey by immigrant status (% in brackets)**

	Natives	Immigrants	Total
Participated	223 (56.89)	243 (57.86)	466 (57.39)
Refusal	43 (10.97)	38 (9.05)	81 (9.98)
Not reached/no answer <sup>6</sup>	126 (32.14)	139 (33.10)	265 (32.64)
Total	392	420	812

**Table 7: Participation in telephone survey by stratum (% in brackets)**

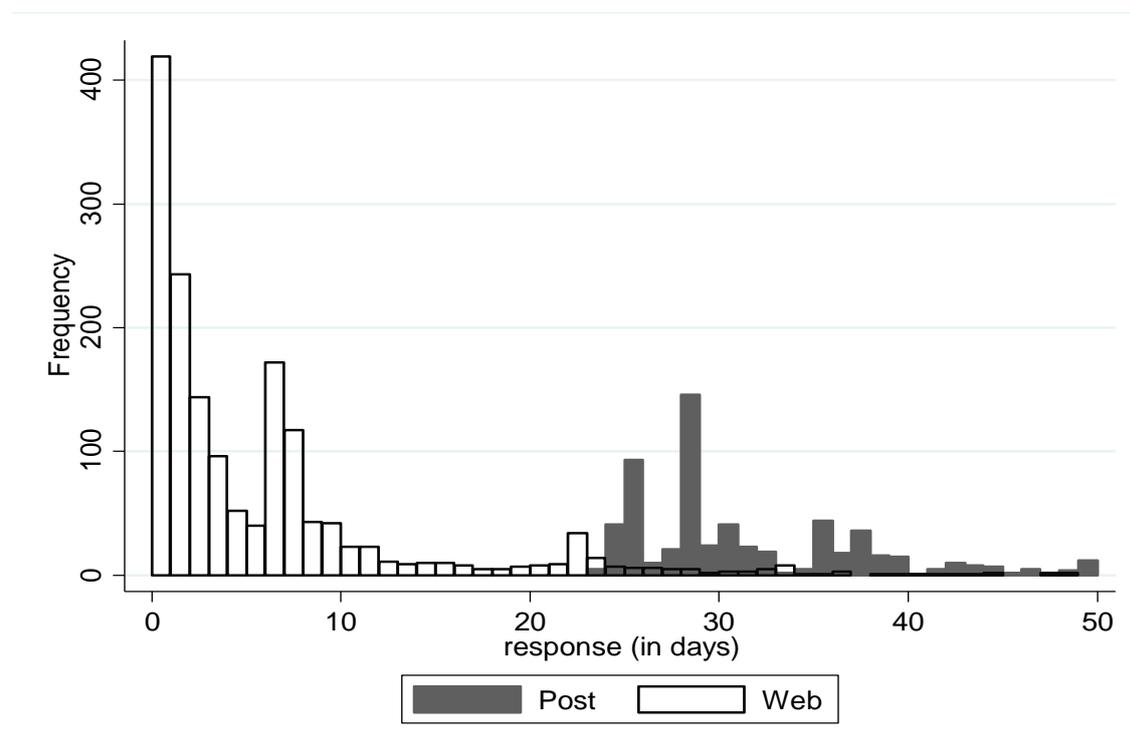
	0-10%	10-30%	30-60%	60-100%	Total
Participated	55 (57.29)	151 (57.20)	122 (56.48)	138 (58.47)	466 (57.39)
Refusal	8 (8.33)	29 (10.98)	24 (11.11)	20 (8.47)	81 (9.98)
Not reached/no answer <sup>6</sup>	33 (34.38)	84 (31.81)	70 (32.41)	78 (33.05)	265 (32.64)
Total	96	264	216	236	812

<sup>6</sup> "No answer" in this context means that the person was reached, but it was not possible to conduct an interview with him/her during the field period.

## 5 Response Times

Figure 2 represents the response times in the web/postal mode, which vary greatly. “Day 0” is defined as the day of the first successful contact. For most of the respondents, this corresponds to the day we sent out the first e-mails.<sup>7</sup> The majority of participants responded within the first week, with a maximum response on the same day we sent out the first e-mail. However, one can clearly see a second response peak 6 to 7 days after the first contact. This rise might be due to the reminder e-mails we sent out six days after the first e-mail. The paper questionnaires were sent out via postal mail 21 days after the first e-mail. Figure 2 shows that a maximum participation can be detected about one week after the paper questionnaires were sent out (for separate plots of the web and postal surveys, see Figures 3 and 4 in the appendix).

Figure 2: Response Times in Web/Postal Survey (truncated at response=50 days)



<sup>7</sup> An attempt is counted as successful if the e-mail (or the paper questionnaire) was not sent back as undeliverable. “Day 0” can therefore, for example, also refer to the date we sent out a second e-mail after the first attempt failed, or the date we sent out the invitations via postal mail to those persons without e-mail addresses. For more information, see section 3.

## 6 Appendix

**Table 8: Overall participation by immigrant status (weak definition) (% in brackets)**

	Natives	Immigrants	Total
<b>Participated total</b>	<b>1,495 (87.43)</b>	<b>1,322 (84.10)</b>	<b>2,817 (85.83)</b>
Participated web	893 (52.22)	743 (47.26)	1,636 (49.85)
Participated post	394 (23.04)	321 (20.42)	715 (21.79)
Participated telephone	208 (12.16)	258 (16.41)	466 (14.20)
<b>Refusal total</b>	<b>46 (2.69)</b>	<b>49 (3.12)</b>	<b>95 (2.90)</b>
Refusal web/post	0 (0.00)	2 (0.13)	2 (0.06)
Refusal telephone	40 (2.34)	41 (2.61)	81 (2.47)
No panel consent w4	6 (0.35)	6 (0.38)	12 (0.37)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	<b>169 (9.88)</b>	<b>201 (12.79)</b>	<b>370 (11.27)</b>
Total	1,710	1,572	3,282

**Table 9: Participation in post/web survey by immigrant status (weak definition) (% in brackets)**

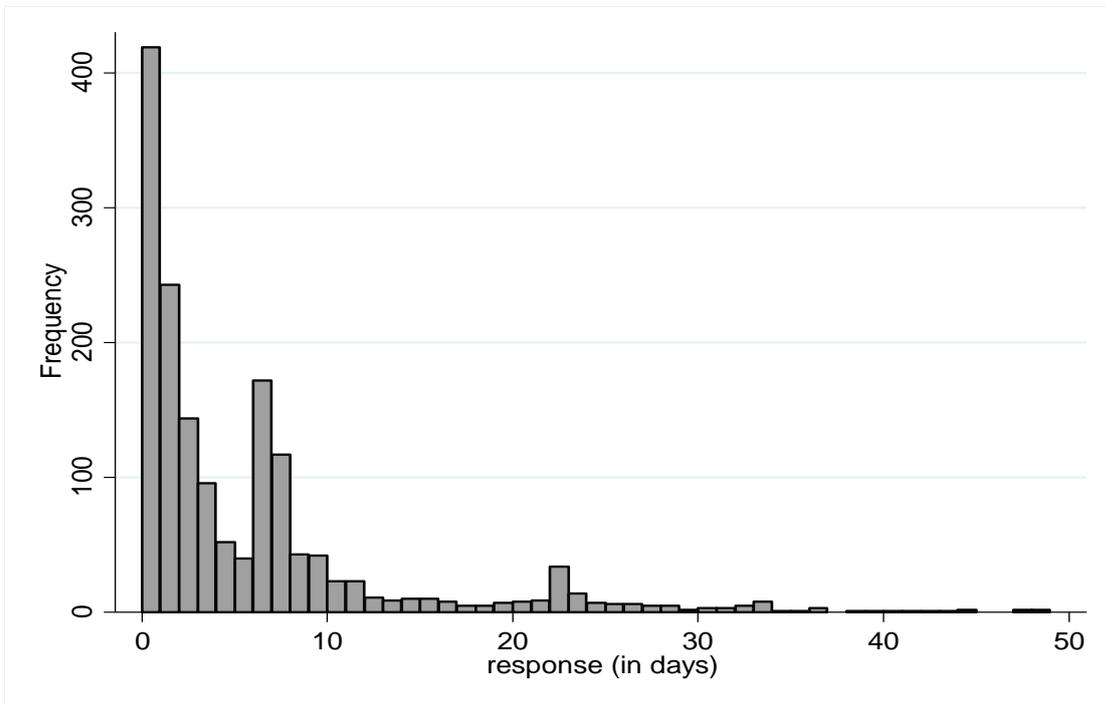
	Natives	Immigrants	Total
Participated web	893 (52.41)	743 (47.45)	1,636 (50.03)
Participated post	394 (23.12)	321 (20.50)	715 (21.87)
Refusal web/post	0 (0.00)	2 (0.13)	2 (0.06)
Not reached/no answer	417 (24.47)	500 (31.93)	917 (28.04)
Total	1,704	1,566	3,270

**Table 10: Participation in telephone survey by immigrant status (weak definition) (% in brackets)**

	Natives	Immigrants	Total
Participated	208 (57.14)	258 (57.59)	466 (57.39)
Refusal	40 (10.99)	41 (9.15)	81 (9.98)
Not reached/no answer <sup>8</sup>	116 (31.87)	149 (33.26)	265 (32.64)
Total	364	448	812

<sup>8</sup> “No answer” in this context means that the person could be reached, but it was not possible to conduct an interview with him/her during the field period.

**Figure 3: Response Times in Web Survey (truncated at response=50 days)**



**Figure 4: Response Times in Postal Survey (truncated at response=50 days)**

