

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

**Germany  
(CILS4EU-DE)**

**Technical Report**

**Wave 7 – 2018**

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# 1 General Remarks

We started the fieldwork of wave 7 with a gross sample of 6,025 young adults. By the end of the fieldwork period, overall 70.80% (N= 4,266) of the gross sample had participated (for further details, see section 2). Fieldwork was conducted in three consecutive interview modes: via web survey, with mail questionnaires and by telephone. People were first contacted via e-mail, followed by postal mail. All persons who could not be reached via (e-)mail were subsequently approached by telephone. In the last step, all remaining persons were again contacted by postal mail and given the opportunity to participate in the interview either by mail or online. Regardless of the interview mode the persons were approached with, we offered them 10 Euro cash as an incentive for their participation. The incentive was sent to the participant via mail after having completed 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 will be presented separately for each interview mode (section 3). Third, we provide information on the respondents' response times in the web/postal survey mode (section 4).

## 2 Fieldwork

### 2.1 Gross Sample of Wave 7

Overall, in wave 6 we successfully conducted a total of 5,820 interviews: Among the initial panel, i.e. these are the young adults who started eighth years ago to participate in the survey during 9<sup>th</sup> class in school, 1,561 people participated in the face-to-face interview at home (long version, see Figure 1, first row). 610 people did not answer.<sup>1</sup> 539 people were soft refusals. 317 persons explicitly withdrew their panel consent and thus have never been contacted again. We decided to approach all 1,149 persons who did not answer or were soft

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<sup>1</sup> A small number of these persons could not participate for other reasons (N=32). During the time of the interview, most of them were living abroad.

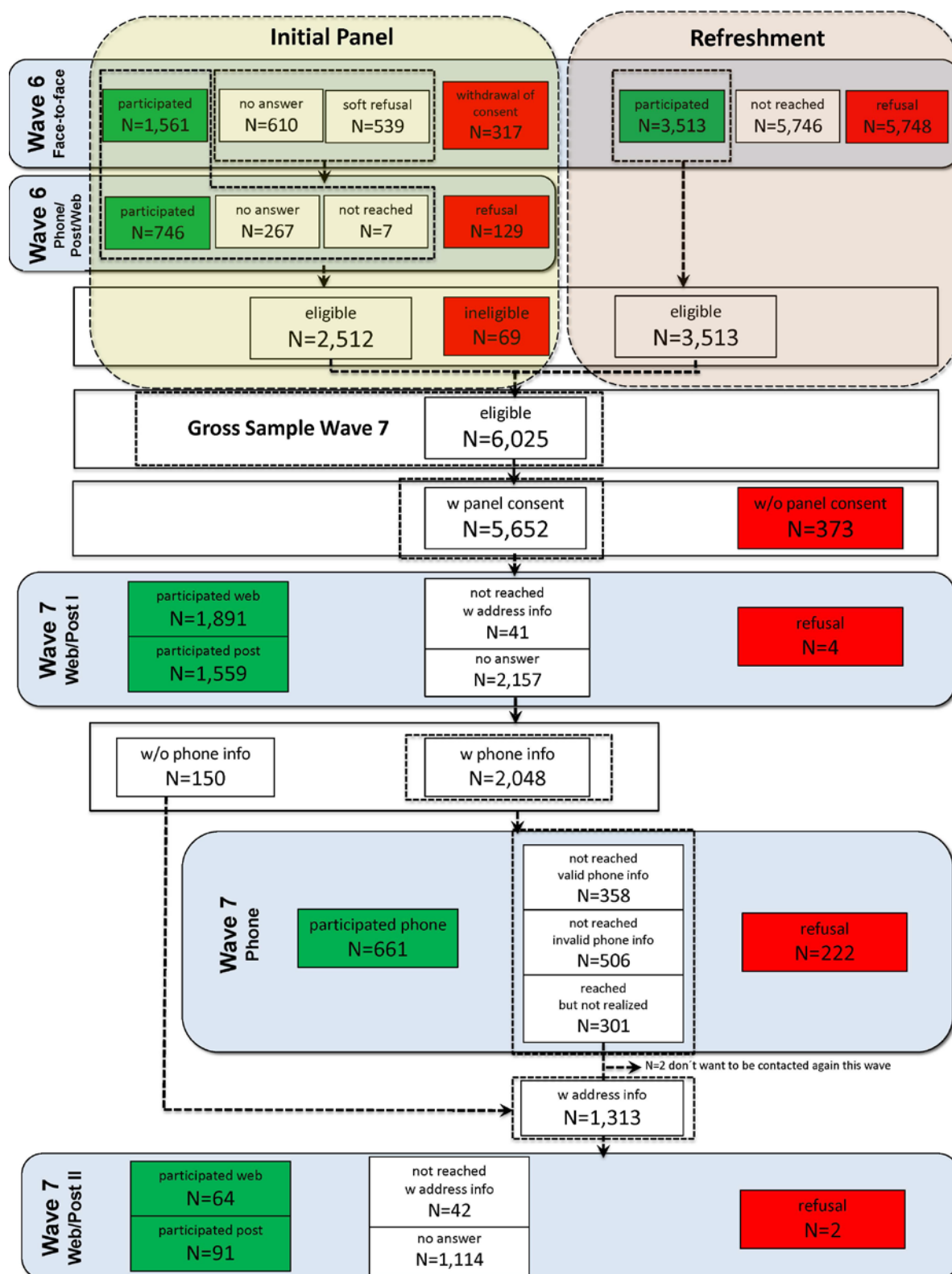
refusals several months later with a short version of the main questionnaire in one of the usual interview modes from earlier waves (phone, post or web). In this short interview (see Figure 1, second row), 746 people participated, 267 people did not answer and 7 people could not be reached. 129 people refused to participate. Net of the number of refusals and persons who withdrew their panel consent, in total 2,581 people in the initial panel sample remained for further investigation in wave 7. Out of that number, 69 persons were not eligible to be contacted again, because they did not participate in the two previous waves (wave 5 and 6). Thus, we ended up with 2,512 people among the initial panel who enter the gross sample of wave 7 (see Figure 1, third row).

The refreshment sample includes new respondents, which have been added to the survey during the previous wave 6 to account for panel attrition. Overall, 3,513 persons participated in the face-to-face interview (see Figure 1, first row). By definition there are no ineligible cases for the refreshment sample, which is why all 3,513 persons enter the gross sample of wave 7 (see Figure 1, third row). In total, the gross sample of wave 7 constitutes of 6,025 persons (see Figure 1, fourth row). However, 373 people withdrew their panel consent in the sixth wave, i.e. they participated in the interview, but refused to be contacted again (see Figure 1, fifth row). Consequently, we had a total of 5,652 young adults that could be contacted in our seventh wave.

## **2.2 General Approach**

Our general approach in wave 7 was to contact all people first with online questionnaires, followed by postal questionnaires (Web/Postal Survey I). If the online/postal approaches were not successful, we contacted the young adults by phone (Telephone Survey). During that time the telephone sample was regularly updated, as the online and postal questionnaires could still be completed. After finishing the telephone survey, we approached all persons who did not participate until then by a last postal questionnaire that included also a link to the web survey (Web/Postal Survey II).

Figure 1: Fieldwork overview



### **2.3 Web/Postal Survey I**

As can be seen in Figure 1, overall 5,652 young adults had provided us either with an e-mail and/or postal address. Consequently, all of them entered the first step (Web/Postal Survey I) of the sequential interview modes.

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 we sent out 5,060 e-mails asking for participation in the web survey, which was programmed using the provider and software “Unipark”. If the first e-mail turned out to be undeliverable, further attempts were made to contact persons via a corrected or alternative e-mail address. The following day, the remaining 592 persons from whom we did not have any e-mail address were invited by postal mail also to participate in the web survey. Furthermore, all persons who did not participate within the first week received a reminder e-mail on March, 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

One week later on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, we sent out a cover letter together with a self-completion questionnaire (27-28 pages), a contact sheet, two stamped return envelopes, and a pencil to 3,838 persons. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018, all persons being contacted by mail received a thank-you/reminder note by post.

Altogether, the Web/Post Survey I resulted in 3,450 interviews: 1,891 respondents participated online and 1,559 completed a mail questionnaire (see Figure 1, sixth row). Up to this point, four persons actively refused participation. We had no answers from 2,157 persons and did not reach 41 persons, whose e-mail addresses turned out to be invalid and/or to whom paper questionnaires could not be delivered. During the whole time, additional efforts were made if questionnaires could not be delivered by regular mail: we contacted the respective register of residents in order to obtain new addresses, which proved to be quite successful.

### **2.4 Telephone Survey**

A total of 2,048 persons of those who either did not respond or were not reached in the Web/Post Survey I had provided us with at least one phone number and were thus

approached in the next step of the survey. Only for a small number of 150 persons no phone number was available, as can be seen in Figure 1 (seventh row).

The telephone questionnaire was programmed using the CATI software “Voxco”. We carefully checked for mistakes, and only minor adaptations were necessary. The average duration of an interview was approximately 25 minutes<sup>2</sup>. The telephone interviews took place in the telephone laboratory of the University of Mannheim. The interviews were carried out between May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Overall, we employed 22 student research assistants as interviewers, calling respondents from Mondays to Thursdays between 5.15 p.m. and 8.30 p.m., on Fridays between 5.15 p.m. and 6.45 p.m., and on Saturdays between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. All interviewers were undergraduates and were paid an hourly wage.

By the end of the telephone fieldwork period, 661 interviews had been conducted. The main reason for not realizing more telephone interviews in this wave was the high number of people who could not be reached due to invalid phone numbers (N=506, see Figure 1 (eighth row) or Table 5 for more details).

## 2.5 Web/Postal Survey II

After the telephone survey, we sent out one last mail questionnaire to all persons who so far had not been reached or realized. Similar as in the Web/Postal Survey I, we sent out a cover letter together with a self-completion questionnaire (27-28 pages), a contact sheet, two stamped return envelopes, and a pencil to 1,285 persons on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This time the cover letter also included a link to the web survey. For various reasons (e.g., if the self-completion questionnaire could not be delivered via mail) a small number of people were only contacted by e-mail and invited to take part in the web survey (N=136).

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<sup>2</sup> Please note that approximately three minutes were needed at the end of the interview to collect the respondent's contact information. Thus, the regular questionnaire took 28 minutes on average.



Altogether, the Web/Postal Survey II resulted in 156 interviews: 64 respondents participated online and 91 completed a mail questionnaire (see Figure 1, ninth row). Up to this point, two persons actively refused participation. We had no answers from 1,114 persons and did not reach 42 persons, whose e-mail addresses turned out to be invalid and to whom paper questionnaires could not be delivered.

### 3 Participation Rates

#### 3.1 Overall Participation Rates

Table 1 represents the overall participation results of wave 7 for the gross sample of 6,025 people by immigrant status. We obtained an overall participation rate of 70.80 per cent (N=4,266). The participation rate is lower for immigrants<sup>3</sup> (61.06 per cent vs. 78.34 per cent). On the one side this is due to the fact that a large number of them did not give the panel consent for wave 7 during the previous wave (cf. row “no panel consent w7”: 9.48 per cent vs. 3.65 per cent). On the other hand many of them could not be reached or did not answer (25.54 per cent vs. 14.33 per cent).

**Table 1: Overall participation by immigrant status (% in brackets)**

	Natives	Immigrants	Total
<b>Participated total</b>	<b>2,662 (78.34)</b>	<b>1,604 (61.06)</b>	<b>4,266 (70.80)</b>
Participated web	1,362 (40.08)	593 (22.57)	1,955 (32.45)
Participated post	968 (28.49)	682 (25.96)	1,650 (27.39)
Participated telephone	332 (9.77)	329 (12.52)	661 (10.97)
<b>Refusal total</b>	<b>249 (7.33)</b>	<b>352 (13.40)</b>	<b>601 (9.98)</b>
Refusal web/post	3 (0.09)	3 (0.11)	6 (0.10)
Refusal telephone	122 (3.59)	100 (3.81)	222 (3.68)
No panel consent w7	124 (3.65)	249 (9.48)	373 (6.19)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	<b>487 (14.33)</b>	<b>671 (25.54)</b>	<b>1,158 (19.22)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,398</b>	<b>2,627</b>	<b>6,025</b>

<sup>3</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, in which we use a broader definition of immigrants (up to the 3.5th generation), see Tables 9-12 in the appendix.

Table 2 shows the overall participation in wave 7 divided by sample. The response rate is lower for respondents of the refreshment sample compared to respondents of the initial panel (65.41 per cent vs. 78.34 per cent). This is mainly due to the high number of people among them who took part in the wave 6 interview but did not subscribe to participating in the survey in future waves (cf. row “no panel consent w7”: 14.46 per cent vs. 3.70 per cent). Furthermore, a higher number of them could not be reached or did not answer (20.13 per cent vs. 17.95 per cent).

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

	Initial Panel	Refreshment	Total
<b>Participated total</b>	<b>1,968 (78.34)</b>	<b>2,298 (65.41)</b>	<b>4,266 (70.80)</b>
Participated web	975 (38.81)	980 (27.90)	1,955 (32.45)
Participated post	740 (29.46)	910 (25.90)	1,650 (27.39)
Participated telephone	253 (10.07)	408 (11.61)	661 (10.97)
<b>Refusal total</b>	<b>93 (3.70)</b>	<b>508 (14.46)</b>	<b>601 (9.98)</b>
Refusal web/post	3 (0.12)	3 (0.09)	6 (0.10)
Refusal telephone	84 (3.34)	138 (3.93)	222 (3.68)
No panel consent w7	6 (0.24)	367 (10.45)	373 (6.19)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	<b>451 (17.95)</b>	<b>707 (20.13)</b>	<b>1,158 (19.22)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,512</b>	<b>3,513</b>	<b>6,025</b>

### 3.2 Web/Postal Survey I Participation Rates

Similarly to the overall figures, Table 3 shows that the response rate in the web/postal survey I is higher for natives than for immigrants (web: 40.65 per cent vs. 23.55 per cent, post: 28.34 per cent vs. 26.53 per cent). The reason for that seems to be that natives have lower not reached/no answer rates (30.91 per cent vs. 49.87 per cent). Overall, natives participated much more often via web survey than via mail survey (40.65 per cent vs. 28.34 per cent). For the immigrants the pattern is the opposite: they participated more often in the postal survey than in the web survey (26.53 per cent vs. 23.55 per cent).

The web/postal survey I participation rates, which are provided in Table 4, are higher among respondents of the initial sample (web: 37.79 per cent vs. 30.01 per cent, post: 28.13 per cent vs. 27.15 percent). Also this difference is due to the lower not reached/no answer rates among this group (34.00 per cent vs. 42.78 per cent).

**Table 3: Participation in web/postal survey I by immigrant status (% in brackets)**

	Natives	Immigrants	Total
Participated web	1,331 (40.65)	560 (23.55)	1,891 (33.46)
Participated post	928 (28.34)	631 (26.53)	1,559 (27.58)
Refusal web/post	3 (0.09)	1 (0.04)	4 (0.07)
Not reached/no answer	1,012 (30.91)	1,186 (49.87)	2,198 (38.89)
Total	3,274	2,378	5,652

**Table 4: Participation in web/postal survey I by sample (% in brackets)**

	Initial Panel	Refreshment	Total
Participated web	947 (37.79)	944 (30.01)	1,891 (33.46)
Participated post	705 (28.13)	854 (27.15)	1,559 (27.58)
Refusal web/post	2 (0.08)	2 (0.06)	4 (0.07)
Not reached/no answer	852 (34.00)	1,346 (42.78)	2,198 (38.89)
Total	2,506	3,146	5,652

### 3.3 Telephone Survey Participation Rates

Table 5 shows the participation rates in the telephone survey. They differ between natives and immigrants: the telephone sample includes a higher percentage of natives (35.21 per cent vs. 29.77 per cent). However at the same time, natives were more likely to refuse participation in the telephone survey than immigrants (12.94 per cent vs. 9.05 per cent). As in the web/postal survey before, natives have on average a lower not reached/no answer rate than immigrants (51.86 per cent vs. 61.18 per cent).

**Table 5: Participation in telephone survey by immigrant status (% in brackets)**

	Natives	Immigrants	Total
Participated	332 (35.21)	329 (29.77)	661 (32.26)
Refusal	122 (12.94)	100 (9.05)	222 (10.83)
Not reached/no answer <sup>4</sup>	489 (51.86)	676 (61.18)	1,165 (56.91)
Total	943	1,105	2,048

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

	Initial Panel	Refreshment	Total
Participated	253 (31.23)	408 (32.96)	661 (32.26)
Refusal	84 (10.37)	138 (11.15)	222 (10.83)
Not reached/no answer <sup>3</sup>	473 (58.40)	692 (55.90)	1,165 (56.91)
Total	810	1,238	2,048

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<sup>4</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.

Table 6 demonstrates that there are only minor differences in the participation rates of the telephone survey if one compares initial panel and refreshment sample. The initial panel sample has a slightly lower participation rate than the refreshment sample (31.23 per cent vs. 32.96 per cent), which is mainly due to a higher not reached/no answer rate among the former (58.40 vs. 55.90).

### 3.4 Web/Postal Survey II Participation Rates

Table 7 shows the participation rates for the web/postal survey II. There are hardly any differences between natives and immigrants. Overall, the participation rates are somewhat higher for natives than for immigrants (web: 5.56 per cent vs. 4.37 per cent, post: 7.71 per cent vs. 6.75 per cent).

There is a very similar pattern in the participation of the two samples (see Table 8). The participation rates between initial panel and refreshment sample do hardly differ. In general, only a minor share of people participated in the web/postal survey II, the majority of people could not be reached or did not answer (88.04 per cent).

**Table 7: Participation in web/postal survey II by immigrant status (% in brackets)**

	Natives	Immigrants	Total
Participated web	31 (5.56)	33 (4.37)	64 (4.87)
Participated post	40 (7.17)	51 (6.75)	91 (6.93)
Refusal web/post	0 (0.00)	2 (0.26)	2 (0.15)
Not reached/no answer	487 (87.28)	669 (88.61)	1,156 (88.04)
Total	558	755	1,313

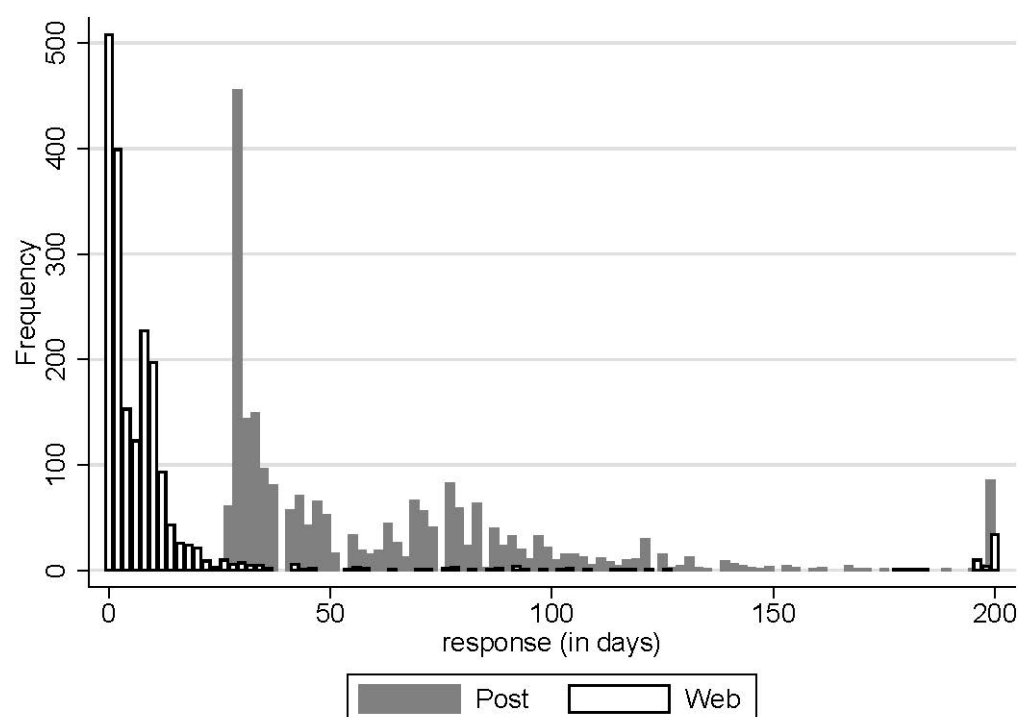
**Table 8: Participation in web/postal survey II by sample (% in brackets)**

	Initial Panel	Refreshment	Total
Participated web	28 (5.45)	36 (4.51)	64 (4.87)
Participated post	35 (6.81)	56 (7.01)	91 (6.93)
Refusal web/post	1 (0.19)	1 (0.13)	2 (0.15)
Not reached/no answer	450 (87.55)	706 (88.36)	1,156 (88.04)
Total	514	799	1,313

## 4 Response Times

Figure 2 shows the response times for the web/postal modes. “Day 0” is defined here as the day of the first successful contact. For all respondents this is the day we sent out the first e-mail or the letter with a link to the web survey.<sup>5</sup> The majority of participants responded within the first month. The figure shows a first peak in the web survey the very same day we sent out the e-mail or the letter with a link to the web survey. A second peak occurs roughly three weeks later in the postal survey after having sent out the paper questionnaires (for separate plots of the web and postal survey, see Figures 3 and 4 in the appendix).

**Figure 2: Response times in web/postal survey (truncated at response=200 days)**



<sup>5</sup> An attempt is counted as successful if the e-mail (or the letter) was not sent back as undeliverable. Therefore, “Day 0” can also refer to the date we sent out a second e-mail after a failed first attempt or the date we sent out the invitations via regular mail to those without e-mail addresses. For more information, see section 3.

## 5 Appendix

**Table 9: Overall participation by immigrant status (weak definition) (% in brackets)**

	Natives	Immigrants	Total
<b>Participated total</b>	<b>2,523 (78.60)</b>	<b>1,743 (61.92)</b>	<b>4,266 (70.80)</b>
Participated web	1,294 (40.31)	661 (23.48)	1,955 (32.45)
Participated post	910 (28.35)	740 (26.29)	1,650 (27.39)
Participated telephone	319 (9.94)	342 (12.15)	661 (10.97)
<b>Refusal total</b>	<b>229 (7.13)</b>	<b>372 (13.21)</b>	<b>601 (9.98)</b>
Refusal web/post	3 (0.09)	3 (0.11)	6 (0.10)
Refusal telephone	110 (3.43)	112 (3.98)	222 (3.68)
No panel consent w7	116 (3.61)	257 (9.13)	373 (6.19)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	<b>458 (14.27)</b>	<b>700 (24.87)</b>	<b>1,158 (19.22)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>2,815</b>	<b>6,025</b>

**Table 10: Participation in web/postal survey I by immigrant status (weak definition) (% in brackets)**

	Natives	Immigrants	Total
Participated post	872 (28.18)	687 (26.86)	1,559 (27.58)
Participated web	1,264 (40.85)	627 (24.51)	1,891 (33.46)
Refusal web/post	3 (0.10)	1 (0.04)	4 (0.07)
Not reached/no answer	955 (30.87)	1,243 (48.59)	2,198 (38.89)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,094</b>	<b>2,558</b>	<b>5,652</b>

**Table 11: Participation in telephone survey by immigrant status (weak definition) (% in brackets)**

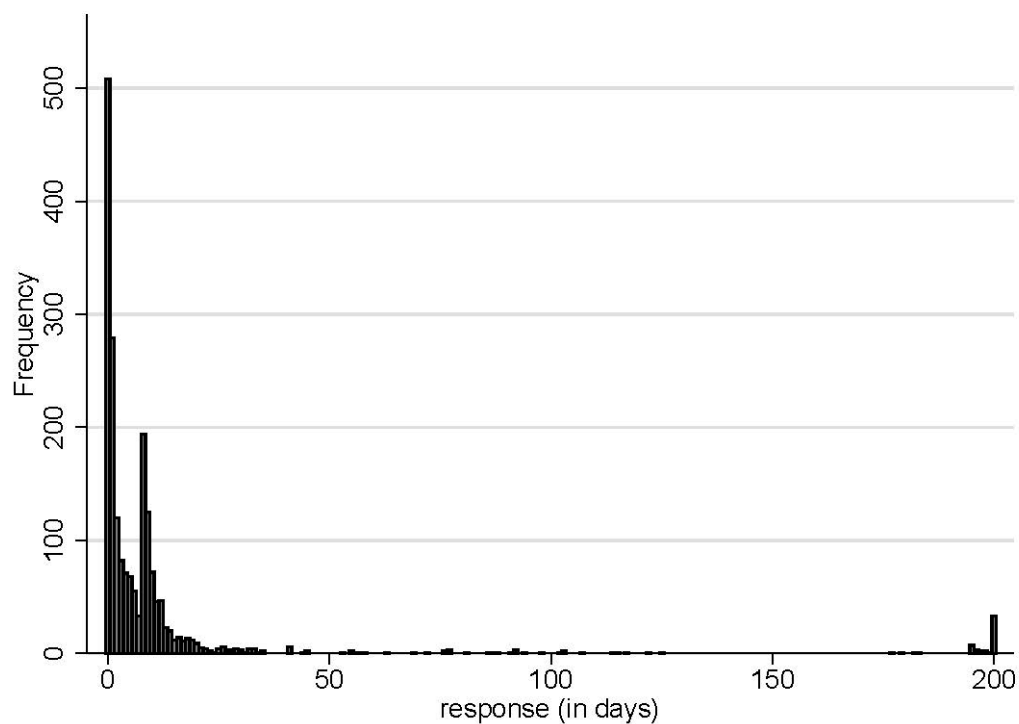
	Natives	Immigrants	Total
Participated	319 (35.80)	342 (29.56)	661 (32.26)
Refusal	110 (12.35)	112 (9.68)	222 (10.83)
Not reached/no answer <sup>6</sup>	462 (51.85)	703 (60.76)	1,165 (56.91)
<b>Total</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>2,048</b>

**Table 12: Participation in web/postal survey II by immigrant status (weak definition) (% in brackets)**

	Natives	Immigrants	Total
Participated post	38 (7.22)	53 (6.73)	91 (6.93)
Participated web	30 (5.70)	34 (4.32)	64 (4.87)
Refusal web/post	0 (0.00)	2 (0.25)	2 (0.15)
Not reached/no answer	458 (87.07)	698 (88.69)	1,156 (88.04)
<b>Total</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>1,313</b>

<sup>6</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=200 days)**



**Figure 4: Response times in postal survey (truncated at response=200 days)**

