

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

**Germany  
(CILS4EU-DE)**

**Technical Report**

**Wave 8 – 2020**

Version: 6.0.0

Year: 2021

Citation: Soiné, Hannah, Lena Arnold, Jörg Dollmann, Victoria Kerzner, Leonie Kriegel and Markus Weißmann. 2021. Children of Immigrants Longitudinal Survey in Four European Countries – Germany. Technical Report. Wave 8 – 2020, v6.0.0. Mannheim: Mannheim University.

# Content

<b>1</b>	<b>General Remarks .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Fieldwork .....</b>	<b>1</b>
2.1	Gross Sample of Wave 8.....	1
2.2	General Approach .....	2
2.3	Web/Postal Survey I .....	2
2.4	Telephone Survey .....	4
2.5	Web/Postal Survey II .....	5
<b>3</b>	<b>Participation Rates.....</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1	Overall Participation Rates .....	5
3.2	Web/Postal Survey I Participation Rates .....	7
3.3	Telephone Survey Participation Rates .....	8
3.4	Web/Postal Survey II Participation Rates.....	9
<b>4</b>	<b>Timing of Responses .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Appendix.....</b>	<b>12</b>

## List of Figures and Tables

Figure 1: Fieldwork overview .....	3
Figure 2: Response times by mode (truncated at response time = 250 days) .....	11
Table 1: Overall participation by migration background (column % in brackets).....	6
Table 2: Overall participation by sample (column % in brackets).....	7
Table 3: Participation in web/postal survey phase I by migration background (column % in brackets) .....	8
Table 4: Participation in web/postal survey phase I by sample (column % in brackets) .....	8
Table 5: Participation in telephone survey by migration background (column % in brackets) .	9
Table 6: Participation in telephone survey by sample (column % in brackets) .....	9
Table 7: Participation in web/postal survey phase II by migration background (column % in brackets) .....	10
Table 8: Participation in web/postal survey phase II by sample (column % in brackets).....	10
Table 9: Overall participation by migration background (broad definition, column % in brackets) .....	12
Table 10: Participation in web/postal survey phase I by migration background (broad definition, column % in brackets).....	12
Table 11: Participation in telephone survey by migration background (broad definition, column % in brackets).....	13
Table 12: Participation in web/postal survey phase II by migration background (broad definition, column % in brackets) .....	13

## **1 General Remarks**

We started the fieldwork of wave 8 with a gross sample of 5,273 young adults. By the end of the fieldwork period, a total of 79.6% (N = 4,196) of this gross sample had participated in the survey (for further details see section 2). The fieldwork was conducted in three interview modes: In a web survey, postal questionnaires, and by telephone. People were first contacted via e-mail and invited to participate. We then sent a postal questionnaire to everyone who did not participate online or for whom we did not have an e-mail address. People who could neither be reached via e-mail nor postal mail were subsequently approached by telephone. The last phase of data collection was a repetition of the first web/postal phase: Everyone who had not yet participated or not explicitly refused participation was contacted once more, first via e-mail, then by postal mail. Regardless of the interview mode, respondents were offered 20 Euro in cash as an incentive for their participation. The incentive was sent to the participant via postal mail after successful completion of the interview.

This technical report entails information about the fieldwork process: In section 2, we describe our general approach in the different stages of fieldwork. In section 3, response rates are presented separately for each fieldwork phase. In section 4, we provide information on the timing of responses.

## **2 Fieldwork**

### **2.1 Gross Sample of Wave 8**

In wave 7 of the CILS4EU-DE data collection we successfully conducted a total of 4,267 interviews across the three modes (web, postal, telephone). Of these respondents, 1,968 were part of the initial panel first surveyed in the year 2010. The other 2,299 respondents were part of the refreshment sample drawn in 2016. A total of 1,138 people from both groups did not answer and 19 people could not be reached during wave 7 data collection. 228 people refused to participate in wave 7. Net of the number of people who refused further participation, a total of 5,424 people remained for further investigation in wave 8. Of these, 136 were not eligible to be contacted because they did not participate in wave 6 and wave 7, therefore dropping out of the panel. 15 eligible respondents revoked their panel consent between the end of wave 7

data collection and the beginning of wave 8 data collection<sup>1</sup>. Overall, the gross sample size for wave 8 of CILS4EU-DE was 5,273 (see Figure 1).

## **2.2 General Approach**

We first contacted all eligible respondents via e-mail and sent them a link to the online questionnaire. If we did not have a valid e-mail address of respondents on record, we instead sent the link out via postal mail. People who did not participate online within three weeks after sending out the link were sent a postal questionnaire (web/postal survey phase I). If the online/postal approach was not successful, we contacted the young adults by phone (telephone survey). After finishing the telephone survey, we approached everyone who did not yet participate again via e-mail with the link to the online questionnaire and ten days later with a second postal questionnaire (web/postal survey phase II). Figure 1 illustrates the different stages of fieldwork for wave 8 data collection and gives an overview of case numbers.

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

As can be seen in Figure 1, after wave 7 data collection 5,273 eligible young adults had given their consent to be contacted for subsequent surveys, constituting the gross sample for wave 8 data collection. All of them entered the first step (web/postal phase I) of the sequential interview modes.

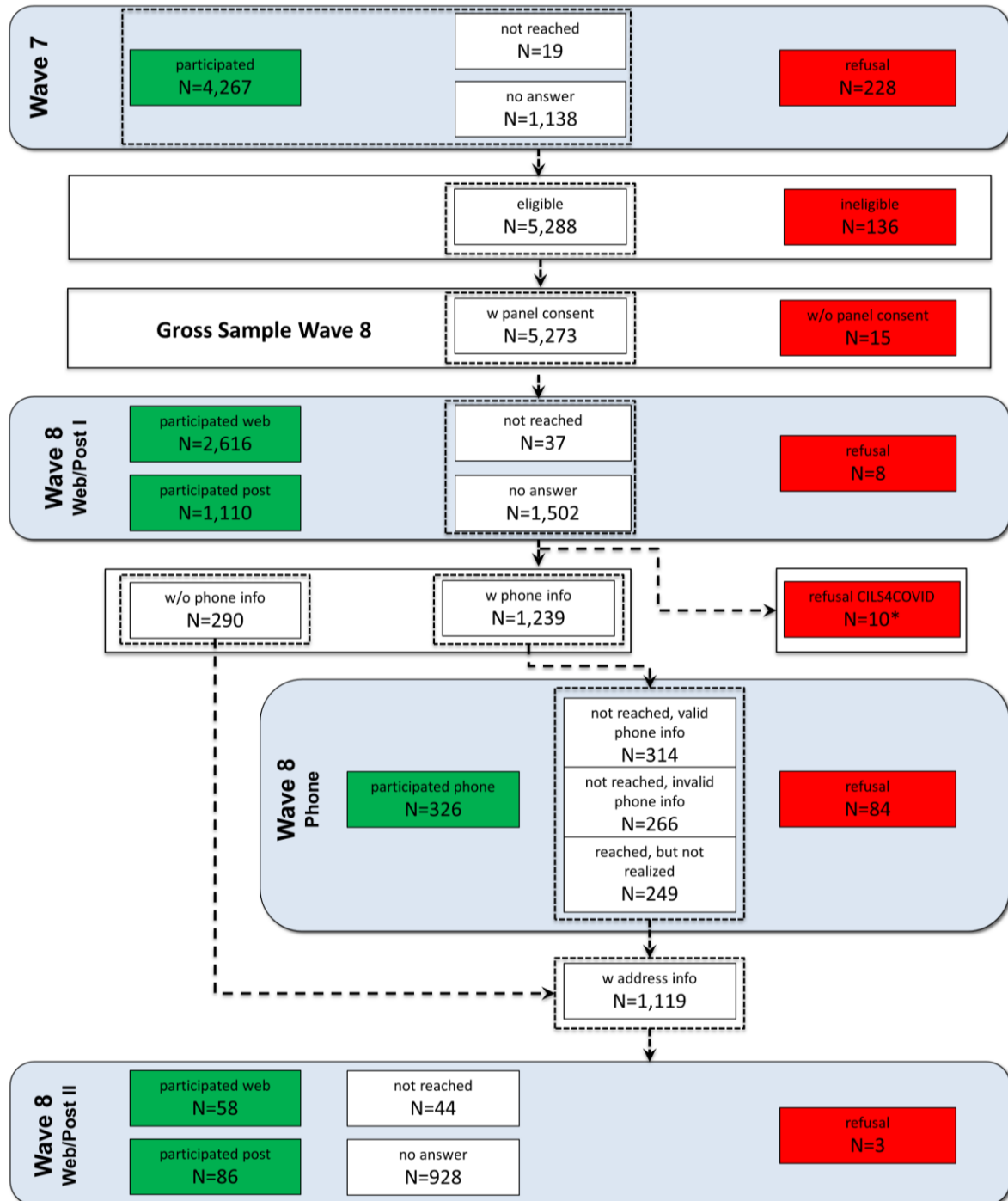
On March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 we sent out 4,885 e-mails asking for participation in the web survey, which was programmed using the provider and software “Unipark”. If the first e-mail turned out to be undeliverable, further attempts were made to contact the person via a corrected or alternative e-mail address. The following day, the remaining 388 persons of whom we did not have any e-mail address on record were sent a letter with the link to the online questionnaire asking them for their participation. Everyone who did not participate within the first week and of whom we had an e-mail address on record received a reminder e-mail about the online survey on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. On April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 we sent a self-completion questionnaire (28 pages) together with a cover letter, a contact sheet, two stamped return envelopes, information

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<sup>1</sup> One of these people did not explicitly revoke their panel consent, but could not be contacted because we had neither an e-mail nor a postal address for them.

about data protection and the study in general, and a pencil to everyone who had not yet participated online.

**Figure 1: Fieldwork overview**



\* Two more people actively refused further participation after the CILS4COVID survey. However, they had already participated in the web/postal phase I of wave 8 data collection and are therefore not included here.

Altogether, the web/postal phase I resulted in 3,726 interviews: 2,616 respondents participated online and 1,110 completed the postal mail questionnaire. Up to this point, 8 people actively refused participation and requested not to be contacted again. 1,502 people did not answer and we were unable to reach 37 people, whose e-mail addresses turned out to be invalid and/or to whom paper questionnaires could not be delivered.

## **2.4 Telephone Survey**

After the web/postal phase I, we invited our panel to participate in a supplementary survey assessing how the COVID-19 pandemic affected their life (CILS4COVID). 10 people actively refused participation for CILS4COVID and therefore also dropped out of our wave 8 sample. Of the remaining 1,529 people who had not yet participated or refused, 1,239 provided us with at least one phone number in previous waves and therefore entered the telephone data collection phase.

The telephone questionnaire was programmed using the CATI software “Voxco”. The average duration of the phone interview was 27 minutes. Respondents were informed about the survey so that they could give informed consent before the start of the interview and provided us with their contact details after the interview. Because of this, the average total duration of the call itself was longer. The telephone interviews took place in the telephone laboratory of the University of Mannheim. The interviews were carried out between August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Overall, we employed 15 student assistants as interviewers. All of them first completed a one-day training workshop. They then called respondents from Mondays to Fridays between 5.15 p.m. and 8.30 p.m., and on Saturdays between 1.45 p.m. and 6 p.m. All interviewers were paid the standard hourly wage for student assistants.

By the end of the telephone fieldwork period, 326 interviews had been conducted. Out of the total telephone sample (N = 1239), in 249 cases we had contact with the target person, but did not complete the phone interview. In 266 cases, we did not reach the target person due to an invalid phone number. We did not reach 314 people despite having valid phone information (see Table 5 for more details). Respondents who requested a link to the online questionnaire or a postal questionnaire instead of conducting the interview via telephone, received the link and/or postal questionnaire again.

## 2.5 Web/Postal Survey II

During the telephone data collection phase on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 we sent out one last e-mail with an invitation to participate and the link to the online questionnaire to everyone who did not yet participate or refuse. As in the web/postal phase I, we subsequently sent out paper questionnaires together with a cover letter, a contact sheet, and two stamped return envelopes, and information about the study and data protection on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020. After the web/postal phase I, we contacted the registration office responsible for the residents whose postal questionnaires came back as undeliverable in order to obtain current addresses.

Altogether, the web/postal phase II resulted in 144 interviews: 58 respondents participated online and 86 completed a postal questionnaire. 3 people actively refused participation during this phase. We received no answers from 928 persons and did not reach 44 people, whose e-mail and postal addresses were missing or invalid.

## 3 Participation Rates

### 3.1 Overall Participation Rates

Table 1 provides an overview of the overall participation results of wave 8 for the gross sample of 5,273 people by migration background<sup>2</sup>. The category “not reached/no answer” combines people we did not reach (i.e., of whom we had no e-mail address/the e-mail was undeliverable, and the postal questionnaire was undeliverable, and we had no contact with the target person on the phone) with people we reached via at least one of the three modes, but who did not answer. The latter subgroup accounts for a larger share of this (N = 954) than those we did not reach (N = 18).

The overall participation rate was 79.6% (N = 4,196). The participation rate is lower for people with a migration background compared to people without a migration background (71% vs. 86%). This is mostly due to the lower participation rate of people with a migration

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<sup>2</sup> People are categorized as having a migration background if at least one of their parents is foreign-born, i.e., up to the 2.75th generation. 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 9 in the appendix.



background in the web questionnaire (42% vs. 57%). Participation in the other two modes are similar across both groups. The percentage of refusals is lower than 3% in both groups.

Table 2 displays participation in wave 8 for respondents of the initial 2010 panel sample and respondents of the 2016 refreshment sample separately. The response rate is lower for respondents of the refreshment sample compared to respondents of the initial panel (75% vs. 86%). Consequently, more respondents from the refreshment sample did not answer or could not be reached (23% vs. 13%). We also see that panel respondents participate relatively more often especially in the web survey compared to the refreshment sample (56% vs. 47%).

**Table 1: Overall participation by migration background (column % in brackets)**

	<b>Without mig. background</b>	<b>With mig. background</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Participated total</b>	2,639 (85.54)	1,557 (71.16)	4,196 (79.58)
Participated web	1,755 (56.89)	919 (42.00)	2,674 (50.71)
Participated post	712 (23.08)	484 (22.12)	1,195 (22.66)
Participated telephone	172 (5.58)	154 (7.04)	326 (6.18)
<b>Refusal wave 8 total</b>	47 (1.52)	48 (2.19)	95 (1.80)
Refusal web/post	4 (0.13)	7 (0.32)	11 (0.21)
Refusal telephone	43 (1.39)	41 (1.87)	84 (1.59)
<b>Refusal CILS4COVID</b>	8 (0.26)	2 (0.09)	10 (0.19)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	391 (12.67)	581 (26.55)	972 (18.43)
<b>Total</b>	3,085 (100.00)	2,188 (100.00)	5,273 (100.00)

Note: Deviations in the percentages may occur due to rounding.

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

	<b>Refreshment</b>	<b>Initial Panel</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Participated total</b>	2,239 (74.88)	1,957 (85.72)	4,196 (79.58)
Participated web	1,391 (46.52)	1,283 (56.20)	2,674 (50.71)
Participated post	659 (22.04)	537 (23.52)	1,196 (22.68)
Participated telephone	189 (6.32)	137 (6.00)	326 (6.18)
<b>Refusal wave 8 total</b>	64 (2.14)	31 (1.36)	95 (1.80)
Refusal web/post	8 (0.27)	3 (0.13)	11 (0.21)
Refusal telephone	56 (1.87)	28 (1.23)	84 (1.59)
<b>Refusal CILS4COVID</b>	8 (0.27)	2 (0.09)	10 (0.19)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	679 (22.71)	293 (12.83)	972 (18.43)
<b>Total</b>	2,990 (100.00)	2,283 (100.00)	5,273 (100.00)

Note: Deviations in the percentages may occur due to rounding.

### 3.2 Web/Postal Survey I Participation Rates

Table 3 provides an overview of the participation during the web/postal phase I. We see that like in the overall data collection the response rate in the web/postal survey I is higher for people with no migration background compared to those with a migration background. This gap is more pronounced in the web survey than in the postal survey (web: 56% vs. 41%, post: 22% vs. 20%). The number of refusals is low in both groups.

The web/postal survey I participation rates for the panel and refreshment sample separately are presented in Table 4. There is not much difference in the postal participation rate between the refreshment sample and the initial panel (20 % vs. 22%). However, the panel sample has a 10% higher participation rate in the web survey than the refreshment sample. This might be due to two factors: 1) People in the panel sample already had a long time to drop out of the survey, while respondents from the refreshment sample had no opportunity to drop out due to non-participation yet<sup>3</sup>. 2) The contact information for people in the panel sample might be

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<sup>3</sup> This is due to our dropout policy: The refreshment sample entered the sample in wave 6 and we only count someone as a dropout if they did not participate in two consecutive waves. Since there have not yet been 2 waves after wave 6, the entire refreshment sample (excluding those who actively refused participation or withdrew their panel consent in wave 7) was contacted again for wave 8.

more up to date. They have been part of the study longer and we collected more e-mail addresses and phone numbers from them over time.

**Table 3: Participation in web/postal survey phase I by migration background (column % in brackets)**

	<b>Without mig. background</b>	<b>With mig. background</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Participated post</b>	676 (21.91)	434 (19.84)	1,110 (21.05)
<b>Participated web</b>	1,724 (55.88)	892 (40.77)	2,616 (49.61)
<b>Refusal wave 8 web/post</b>	2 (0.06)	6 (0.27)	8 (0.15)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	683 (22.14)	856 (39.12)	1,539 (29.19)
<b>Total</b>	3,085 (100.00)	2,188 (100.00)	5,273 (100.00)

Note: Deviations in the percentages may occur due to rounding.

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

	<b>Refreshment</b>	<b>Initial Panel</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Participated post</b>	608 (20.33)	502 (21.99)	1,110 (21.05)
<b>Participated web</b>	1,358 (45.42)	1,258 (55.10)	2,616 (49.61)
<b>Refusal wave 8 web/post</b>	6 (0.20)	2 (0.09)	8 (0.15)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	1,018 (34.05)	521 (22.82)	1,539 (29.19)
<b>Total</b>	2,990 (100.00)	2,283 (100.00)	5,273 (100.00)

Note: Deviations in the percentages may occur due to rounding.

### 3.3 Telephone Survey Participation Rates

Table 5 displays the participation rates in the telephone survey separately for those with and without a migration background. Please note that “irrelevant cases”, i.e., those who participated or refused during the web/postal phase I, are not included in the table. When looking at the total number of individuals in the sample, we see that there are more people with than without a migration background (856 vs. 683) in the telephone sample. Participation rates differ between the groups as well: They were higher among people without a migration background than among people with a migration background (25% vs. 18%). Those with no migration background were also slightly more likely than those with a migration background to refuse participation in the telephone survey (6% vs. 5%).

Table 6 shows a comparison of the telephone survey participation rate by sample membership. The initial panel sample has higher participation rate than the refreshment sample (26% vs. 19%) and refusal rates are similar across the two groups.

**Table 5: Participation in telephone survey by migration background (column % in brackets)**

	<b>Without mig. background</b>	<b>With mig. background</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Participated</b>	172 (25.18)	154 (17.99)	326 (21.18)
<b>Refusal CILS4COVID</b>	8 (1.17)	2 (0.23)	10 (0.65)
<b>Refusal wave 8 telephone</b>	43 (6.30)	41 (4.79)	84 (5.46)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	460 (67.35)	659 (76.99)	1,119 (72.71)
<b>Total</b>	683 (100.00)	856 (100.00)	1,539 (100.00)

Note: Deviations in the percentages may occur due to rounding.

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

	<b>Refreshment</b>	<b>Initial Panel</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Participated</b>	189 (18.57)	137 (26.30)	326 (21.18)
<b>Refusal CILS4COVID</b>	8 (0.79)	2 (0.38)	10 (0.65)
<b>Refusal wave 8 telephone</b>	56 (5.50)	28 (5.37)	84 (5.46)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	765 (75.15)	354 (67.95)	1,119 (72.71)
<b>Total</b>	1,018 (100.00)	521 (100.00)	1,539 (100.00)

Note: Deviations in the percentages may occur due to rounding.

### 3.4 Web/Postal Survey II Participation Rates

Table 7 shows the participation rates for the web/postal survey II. People who already participated or refused participation during the web/postal phase I or telephone phase are not included in the table. As we would expect, the participation rate in this phase is lower than during the previous phases (8% web/postal phase II vs. 71% in web/postal phase I vs. 21% in the telephone phase) because those who are motivated to participate already had ample time to do so. During the web/postal phase II, we do not see large differences in the participation rates, both online and via postal mail, for people with and without a migration background.

However, looking at Table 8, we see a slight tendency of initial panel respondents participating at a higher rate than the refreshment sample (web: 7% vs. 4%, post: 10% vs. 7%). Possible reasons for this were mentioned in section 3.2.

**Table 7: Participation in web/postal survey phase II by migration background (column % in brackets)**

	<b>Without mig. background</b>	<b>With mig. background</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Participated post</b>	36 (7.83)	50 (7.59)	86 (7.69)
<b>Participated web</b>	31 (6.74)	27 (4.10)	58 (5.18)
<b>Refusal wave 8 web/post</b>	2 (0.43)	1 (0.15)	3 (0.27)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	391 (85.00)	581 (88.16)	972 (86.86)
<b>Total</b>	460 (100.00)	659 (100.00)	1,119 (100.00)

Note: Deviations in the percentages may occur due to rounding.

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

	<b>Refreshment</b>	<b>Initial Panel</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Participated post</b>	51 (6.67)	35 (9.89)	86 (7.69)
<b>Participated web</b>	33 (4.31)	25 (7.06)	58 (5.18)
<b>Refusal wave 8 web/post</b>	2 (0.26)	1 (0.28)	3 (0.27)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	679 (88.76)	293 (82.77)	972 (86.86)
<b>Total</b>	765 (100.00)	354 (100.00)	1,119 (100.00)

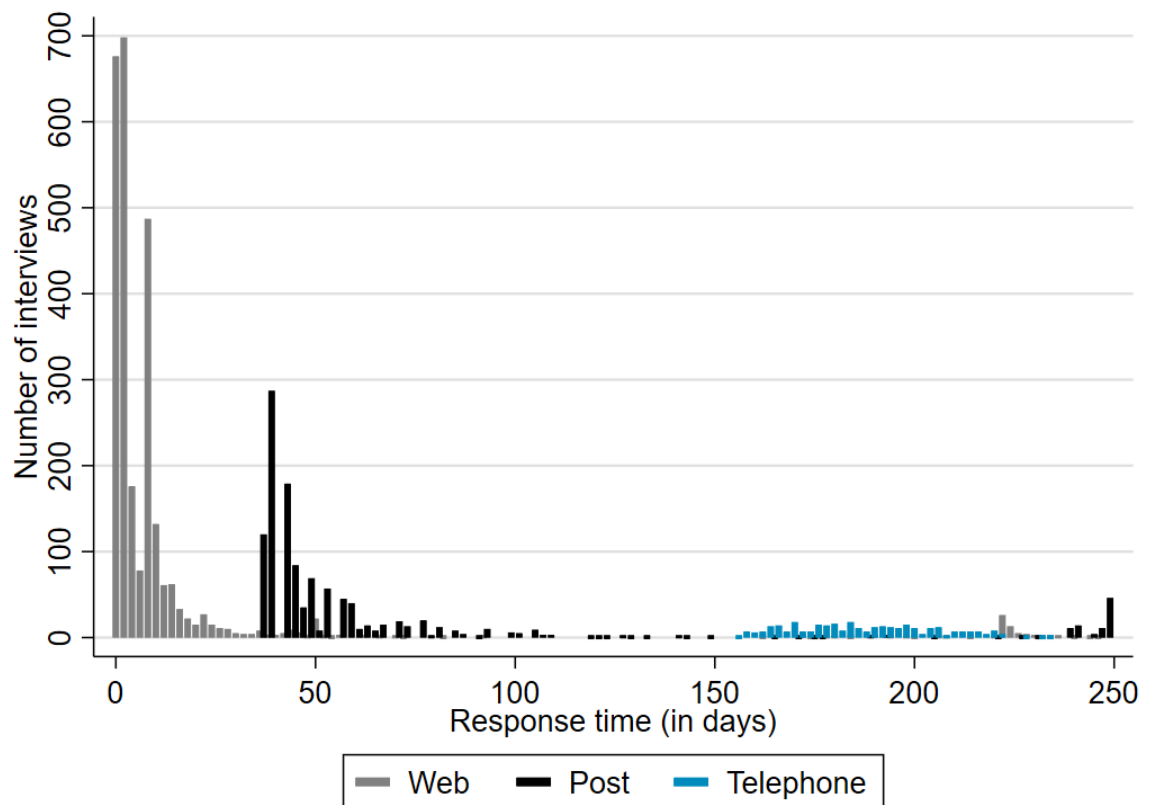
Note: Deviations in the percentages may occur due to rounding.

## 4 Timing of Responses

Figure 2 depicts a histogram of the timing of the responses, i.e., how many days after the start of the survey responses came in, for each mode of data collection. “Day 0” is defined as the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 – the day we sent out the invitation to participate in wave 8 via e-mail. Approximately 80% of the people who participated did so within the first 50 days after sending out the e-mail. The first peak in the figure below corresponds to the day we sent out the link and the day after. Around 28% of respondents (N = 1,190) completed the web survey during these first two days. The second peak in online participations is reached one week after the start of the data collection and coincides with the date we sent out the reminder e-mail.

Most postal responses also came in soon after the questionnaires were sent out: Over 65% of postal responses came in within three weeks of sending out the postal questionnaire during the postal phase I. Telephone interviews started in August, 156 days after the initial e-mail invitation. The maximum number of telephone interviews amounted to 13 interviews per day. The telephone interviews took place constantly during the 2.5 months of the telephone fieldwork without notable peaks.

**Figure 2: Response times by mode (truncated at response time = 250 days)**



## 5 Appendix

Table 9: Overall participation by migration background (broad definition<sup>4</sup>, column % in brackets)

	<b>Without mig. background</b>	<b>With mig. background</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Participated total</b>	2,500 (85.59)	1,696 (72.11)	4,196 (79.58)
Participated web	1,668 (57.10)	1,006 (42.77)	2,674 (50.71)
Participated post	668 (22.90)	527 (22.41)	1,196 (22.68)
Participated telephone	163 (5.58)	163 (6.93)	326 (6.18)
<b>Refusal wave 8 total</b>	47 (1.61)	48 (2.04)	95 (1.80)
Refusal web/post	4 (0.14)	7 (0.30)	11 (0.21)
Refusal telephone	43 (1.47)	41 (1.74)	84 (1.59)
<b>Refusal CILS4COVID</b>	8 (0.27)	2 (0.09)	10 (0.19)
<b>Not reached/No answer</b>	366 (12.53)	606 (25.77)	972 (18.43)
<b>Total</b>	2,921 (100.00)	2,352 (100.00)	5,273 (100.00)

Note: Deviations in the percentages may occur due to rounding.

Table 10: Participation in web/postal survey phase I by migration background (broad definition, column % in brackets)

	<b>Without mig. background</b>	<b>With mig. background</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Participated post</b>	636 (21.77)	474 (20.15)	1,110 (21.05)
<b>Participated web</b>	1,640 (56.15)	976 (41.50)	2,616 (49.61)
<b>Refusal wave 8 web/post</b>	2 (0.07)	6 (0.26)	8 (0.15)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	643 (22.01)	896 (38.10)	1,539 (29.19)
<b>Total</b>	2,921 (100.00)	2,352 (100.00)	5,273 (100.00)

Note: Deviations in the percentages may occur due to rounding.

<sup>4</sup> Under the broad definition, we define people with a migration background as those who have at least one grandparent on the maternal and paternal side each who is foreign-born.

**Table 11: Participation in telephone survey by migration background (broad definition, column % in brackets)**

	<b>Without mig. background</b>	<b>With mig. background</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Participated</b>	163 (25.35)	163 (18.19)	326 (21.18)
<b>Refusal CILS4COVID</b>	8 (1.24)	2 (0.22)	10 (0.65)
<b>Refusal wave 8 telephone</b>	43 (6.69)	41 (4.58)	84 (5.46)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	429 (66.72)	690 (77.01)	1,119 (72.71)
<b>Total</b>	643 (100.00)	896 (100.00)	1,539 (100.00)

Note: Deviations in the percentages may occur due to rounding.

**Table 12: Participation in web/postal survey phase II by migration background (broad definition, column % in brackets)**

	<b>Without mig. background</b>	<b>With mig. background</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Participated post</b>	33 (7.69)	53 (7.68)	86 (7.69)
<b>Participated web</b>	28 (6.53)	30 (4.35)	58 (5.18)
<b>Refusal wave 8 web/post</b>	2 (0.47)	1 (0.14)	3 (0.27)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	366 (85.31)	606 (87.83)	972 (86.86)
<b>Total</b>	429 (100.00)	690 (100.00)	1,119 (100.00)

Note: Deviations in the percentages may occur due to rounding.