

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

**Germany  
(CILS4EU-DE)**

**Technical Report**

**Wave 9 – 2022**

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## **1 General Remarks**

We started the fieldwork of wave nine with a gross sample of 4,554 young adults. By the end of the fieldwork period, a total of 87.2% ( $N = 3,972$ ) of this gross sample participated in the survey (for further details see section two). The fieldwork was conducted using three interview modes: 1) Online via web survey, 2) via postal questionnaires we sent out to the respondents, and 3) via telephone. People were first contacted via e-mail and invited to participate in the web survey. We then sent a postal questionnaire to everyone who did not participate online. People who could not be reached via e-mail or postal mail or who did not answer 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 and had not explicitly refused participation was contacted again via e-mail, then postal mail. Regardless of the interview mode, respondents were offered 20 Euro in cash as an incentive for participation. The incentive was sent to participants via postal mail after completion of the interview.

In section two of this technical report, we describe the different fieldwork stages in more detail. In section three, we present response rates for each fieldwork stage. In section four, we provide information about the timeframe of responses. Lastly, section five briefly describes the vignette experiment included in the wave nine questionnaire.

## **2 Fieldwork**

### **2.1 Gross Sample of Wave 9**

In wave eight of the CILS4EU-DE data collection we successfully conducted a total of 4,196 interviews across the three modes (web, postal, telephone). Of these respondents, 1,957 were part of the initial panel first surveyed in the year 2010. The other 2,239 respondents were part of the refreshment sample drawn in 2016. A total of 954 people from both groups did not answer and 18 people could not be reached by the end of wave eight data collection. Another 95 people refused to participate in wave eight, and ten more during the CILS4COVID supplementary survey, which we fielded partially in parallel to the wave eight main survey.

Net of the number of people who refused further participation, a total of 5,168 people remained for further investigation in wave nine. Of these, 610 were not eligible to be contacted because they did not participate in wave seven, the CILS4COVID supplementary survey, and wave eight, therefore dropping out of the panel. Four eligible respondents revoked their panel consent between the end of wave eight data collection and the beginning of wave nine data collection<sup>1</sup>. Overall, the gross sample size for wave nine of CILS4EU-DE was 4,554.

## **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 on record, we instead sent the person a letter via postal mail with an invitation and the link to the web survey. People who did not participate online within four weeks after we sent out the first e-mail invitation were sent a postal questionnaire (web/postal survey phase I). If the online/postal approach was not successful, we contacted the remaining non-respondents by phone (telephone survey). After the telephone survey phase, we approached everyone who had not yet participated via e-mail again with the link to the online questionnaire. Three weeks later we followed this up with a second postal questionnaire (web/postal survey phase II). Figure 1 illustrates the different stages of fieldwork for wave nine data collection and gives an overview of case numbers.

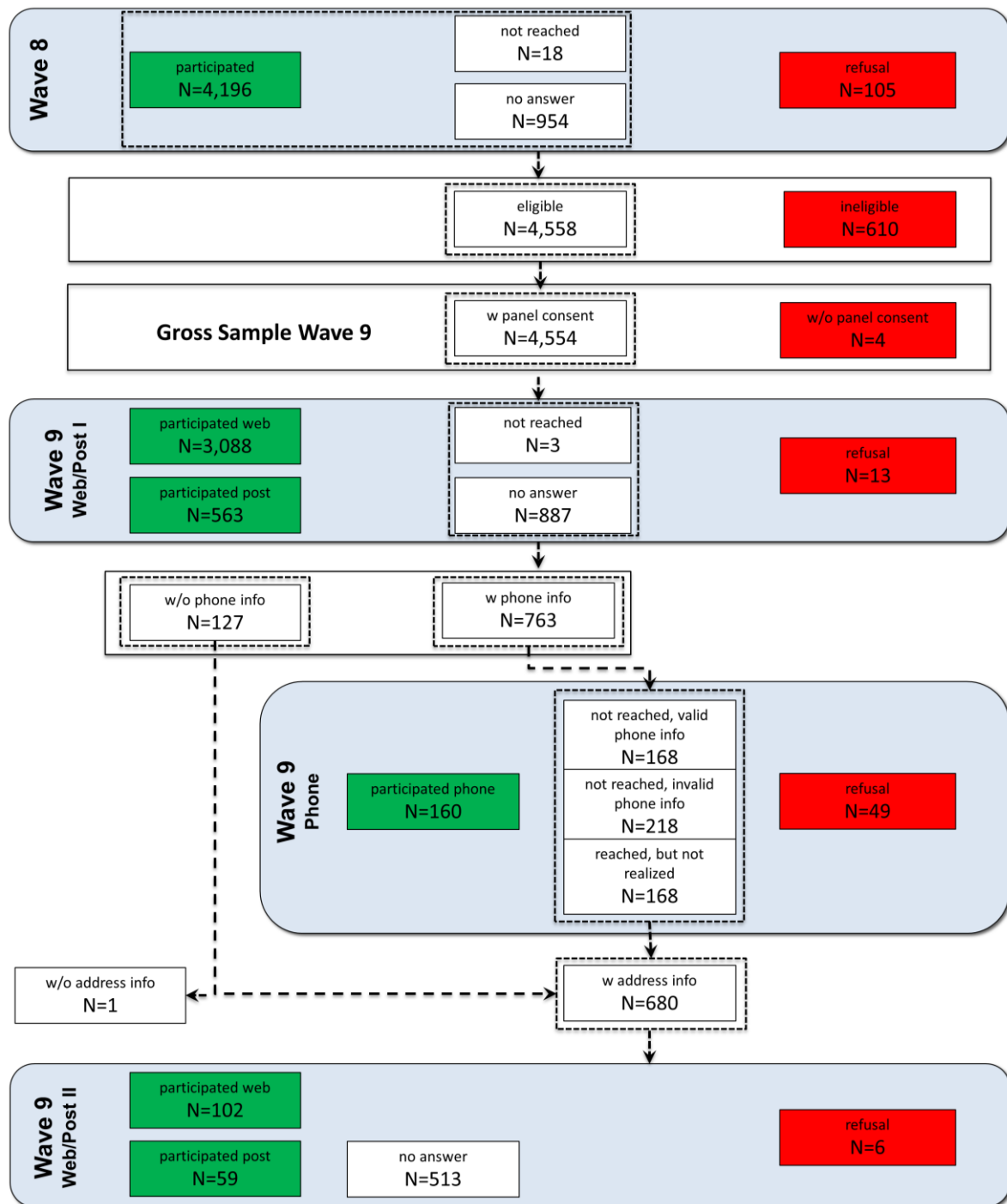
## **2.3 Web/Postal Survey I**

As can be seen in Figure 1, after wave eight data collection 4,554 eligible young adults had given their consent to be contacted for subsequent surveys, constituting the gross sample for wave nine data collection. All of them entered the first step (web/postal phase I) of the sequential interview modes. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, we sent out 4,416 e-mails inviting eligible respondents to the web survey, which was programmed using the software “Unipark”. If the first e-mail was undeliverable, further attempts were made to contact the person via a corrected or alternative e-mail address.

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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 no e-mail or postal address and no telephone number.

Figure 1: Fieldwork overview



All 136 people without an e-mail address on record got a letter with the link to the online questionnaire and an invitation to participate<sup>2</sup>. Everyone who had not participated and of whom we had an e-mail address on record received a reminder e-mail about the online survey

<sup>2</sup> Two people did not get an e-mail invitation or a letter with the link because they indicated during previous waves that they do not want to participate online at all. They were later approached via post/telephone.

on March 28<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup>, and April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022. On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, we sent a self-completion questionnaire (33 pages) to everyone who had not yet participated in the web survey. The letters included a cover letter, a contact sheet, two stamped return envelopes, three information sheets about the study and about data protection, and a pencil.

Altogether, the web/postal phase I resulted in 3,651 interviews: Of these, 3,088 respondents participated online and 563 completed the postal questionnaire. Up to this point, 13 people actively refused participation and requested not to be contacted again. Another 887 people did not answer, and we were unable to reach three people, whose e-mail addresses turned out to be invalid and to whom postal questionnaires could not be delivered. After the web/postal phase I, we contacted registration offices around Germany to obtain updated addresses for respondents whose postal questionnaires came back as undeliverable so we could try contacting them via mail again during the web/postal phase II.

## **2.4 Telephone Survey**

Of the remaining 890 people who had not yet participated or refused participation after the web/post I phase, 763 provided us with at least one phone number in previous waves and therefore entered the telephone data collection phase<sup>3</sup>. The telephone questionnaire was programmed using the CATI software “Voxco”. The average duration of the phone interview was 31 minutes. However, before the start of the interview, all respondents were read information about the survey and about data protection so that they can give informed consent. After the interview, they provided us with their contact details so we can send them their money and contact them again for subsequent waves. 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 July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Overall, we employed eight student assistants as interviewers. All interviewers were paid the standard hourly wage for student assistants and took part in a training workshop where they

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<sup>3</sup> Three people provided phone numbers in the past but requested not to be surveyed via telephone. These three people and 124 people from whom we did not have phone numbers were excluded from the telephone sample. However, they remained eligible to be contacted again in the post/web II phase.

learned how to conduct telephone interviews. They then called respondents from Mondays to Fridays between 5.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m., and on Saturdays between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Note that the telephone laboratory was not always staffed during these times, we just never called respondents during other times of day.

By the end of the telephone fieldwork period, 160 interviews had been conducted. Out of the total telephone sample ( $N = 763$ ), we had contact with the target person in 168 cases but could not conduct the interview. In 218 cases, we did not reach the target person due to an invalid phone number. We could not reach 168 people despite having valid phone information (see Tables 5 and 6 for more details). Respondents who requested a link to the online questionnaire or a postal questionnaire instead of being interviewed via telephone were sent the link and/or postal questionnaire again.

## **2.5 Web/Postal Survey II**

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, we sent out one last e-mail invitation with the link to the online questionnaire to those who had not yet participated and who had not refused. Like in the web/postal phase I, we subsequently sent out paper questionnaires with a cover letter, a contact sheet, two stamped return envelopes, and information materials about the study and data protection in two batches on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Altogether, the web/postal phase II resulted in 161 interviews: A total of 102 respondents participated online and 59 sent back a completed postal questionnaire. Six people actively refused participation during this phase and 513 people did not answer. For one person, address information was no longer available for the web/postal survey II. Therefore, they could not be contacted.



### 3 Participation Rates

#### 3.1 Overall Participation Rates

Table 1 provides an overview of the overall participation results of wave nine for the gross sample of 4,554 people by migration background<sup>4</sup>. Note that four respondents revoked their panel consent between waves eight and nine. They were still considered for the calculation of the response rates in Table 1. The category “not reached/no answer” combines people we did not reach (i.e., of whom we had no e-mail address/the e-mails were undeliverable, *and* the postal questionnaire was undeliverable, *and* we had no contact with the target person on the phone) and people we reached via at least one of the three modes, but who did not answer. The latter subgroup accounts for almost all these cases (N = 514), only a single person could not be reached through any channel.

The overall participation rate was 87.1% (N = 3,972). The participation rate is lower for people with a migration background compared to people without a migration background (81% vs. 91%). This is due to the lower participation rate of people with a migration background in the web questionnaire (62% vs. 75%). Participation in the other two modes is similar across both groups, with slightly higher rates among those with a migration background. This emphasizes the importance of using all the different modes to minimize selective drop-out. The refusal rate is below 2% in both groups.

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<sup>4</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.

**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>	2,541 (90.81)	1,431 (81.31)	3,972 (87.14)
Participated web	2,101 (75.09)	1,089 (61.88)	3,190 (69.99)
Participated post	344 (12.29)	278 (15.80)	622 (13.65)
Participated telephone	96 (3.43)	64 (3.64)	160 (3.51)
<b>Refusal wave 9 total</b>	35 (1.25)	33 (1.88)	68 (1.49)
Refusal web/post	12 (0.43)	7 (0.40)	19 (0.42)
Refusal telephone	23 (0.82)	26 (1.48)	49 (1.08)
<b>No panel consent w9</b>	2 (0.07)	2 (0.11)	4 (0.09)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	220 (7.86)	294 (16.70)	515 (11.28)
<b>Total</b>	2,798 (100.00)	1,760 (100.00)	4,558 (100.00)

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

Table 2 displays participation in wave nine separately for respondents of the initial 2010 panel sample and the respondents of the 2016 refreshment sample. Response rates are very similar across both groups. The participation rate of the initial panel respondents is slightly higher in the postal survey (15% vs. 12%), while those in the refreshment sample participate more often via phone (4% vs. 3%).

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

	<b>Refreshment</b>	<b>Initial Panel</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Participated total</b>	2,119 (86.45)	1,853 (87.94)	3,972 (87.14)
Participated web	1,708 (69.69)	1,482 (70.34)	3,190 (69.99)
Participated post	307 (12.53)	315 (14.95)	621 (13.65)
Participated telephone	104 (4.24)	56 (2.66)	160 (3.51)
<b>Refusal wave 9 total</b>	35 (1.43)	33 (1.57)	68 (1.49)
Refusal web/post	12 (0.49)	7 (0.33)	19 (0.42)
Refusal telephone	23 (0.94)	26 (1.23)	49 (1.08)
<b>No panel consent w9</b>	2 (0.08)	2 (0.09)	4 (0.09)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	295 (12.04)	219 (10.39)	514 (11.28)
<b>Total</b>	2,451 (100.00)	2,107 (100.00)	4,558 (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 web/postal phase I. The response rate in the web/postal survey I is higher for people without migration background compared to those with a migration background (73% vs. 59%), mirroring the pattern in overall participation from Table 1. However, people with a migration background participate relatively more often in the postal survey (14% vs. 12%). Refusals are rare in both groups.

**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>	315 (11.27)	248 (14.11)	563 (12.36)
<b>Participated web</b>	2,048 (73.25)	1,040 (59.16)	3,088 (67.81)
<b>Refusal wave 9 web/post I</b>	7 (0.25)	6 (0.34)	13 (0.29)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	426 (15.24)	464 (26.39)	890 (19.54)
<b>Total</b>	2,796 (100.00)	1,758 (100.00)	4,554 (100.00)

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

The web/postal survey I participation rates by sample are presented in Table 4. We see a slightly higher participation rate in the postal survey among panel respondents (14% vs. 11%), but very similar web participation rates (both 67%).

**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>	277 (11.31)	286 (13.59)	563 (12.36)
<b>Participated web</b>	1,659 (67.74)	1,429 (67.89)	3,088 (67.81)
<b>Refusal wave 9 web/post I</b>	8 (0.33)	5 (0.24)	13 (0.29)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	505 (20.62)	385 (18.29)	890 (19.54)
<b>Total</b>	2,449 (100.00)	2,105 (100.00)	4,554 (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 web/postal phase I, and those with no telephone number on record are not included here. In absolute numbers, we have slightly more people with a migration background in the telephone sample than without (386 vs. 377), although in the total sample we see the opposite pattern (see Table 1). This is mainly due to the high web/post I participation rates of those without a migration background, who then do not enter 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. 17%).

**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>	96 (25.46)	64 (16.58)	160 (20.97)
<b>Refusal wave 9 telephone</b>	23 (6.10)	26 (6.74)	49 (6.42)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	258 (68.44)	296 (76.68)	554 (72.61)
<b>Total</b>	377 (100.00)	386 (100.00)	763 (100.00)

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

Table 6 shows a comparison of the telephone survey participation rate by sample. The initial panel sample has lower participation rate than the refreshment sample (16% vs. 25%), but refusal rates are similar across the two groups.

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

	<b>Refreshment</b>	<b>Initial Panel</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Participated</b>	104 (25.24)	56 (15.95)	160 (20.97)
<b>Refusal wave 9 telephone</b>	23 (5.58)	26 (7.41)	49 (6.42)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	285 (69.17)	269 (76.64)	554 (72.61)
<b>Total</b>	412 (100.00)	351 (100.00)	763 (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 the telephone phase are not included. As we would expect, the participation rate in this phase is much lower than during the first web/postal phase (23% web/postal phase II vs. 80% in web/postal phase I). Those who are motivated to participate already had ample time to do so, leading to a drop-off in participation rate as time goes on. In contrast to web/postal phase I, we now have a slightly higher postal participation rate for those with a migration background than for those without (9 vs. 8%), which reverses the pattern from phase I. The web participation rate of those without a migration background remains higher than that of people with a migration background, but the gap shrinks from 14 percentage points in web/postal phase I to four percentage points in web/postal phase II (17% vs. 13%).

Looking at Table 8, we observe that initial panel respondents participate at a higher rate than the refreshment sample in web/postal phase II (web: 17% vs. 13%, post: 10% vs. 8%). This might be because people in the panel sample who are not motivated to participate had a longer time to drop out of the survey (since wave four in 2014), while respondents from the refreshment sample had less opportunity (only those who did not participate in waves seven, eight, and the COVID wave were dropped).

**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>	29 (9.45)	30 (8.02)	59 (8.66)
<b>Participated web</b>	53 (17.26)	49 (13.10)	102 (14.98)
<b>Refusal wave 9 web/post II</b>	5 (1.63)	1 (0.27)	6 (0.88)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	220 (71.66)	294 (78.61)	514 (75.48)
<b>Total</b>	307 (100.00)	374 (100.00)	681 (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>	30 (7.94)	29 (9.57)	59 (8.66)
<b>Participated web</b>	49 (12.96)	53 (17.49)	102 (14.98)
<b>Refusal wave 9 web/post II</b>	4 (1.06)	2 (0.66)	6 (0.88)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	295 (78.04)	219 (72.28)	514 (75.48)
<b>Total</b>	378 (100.00)	303 (100.00)	681 (100.00)

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

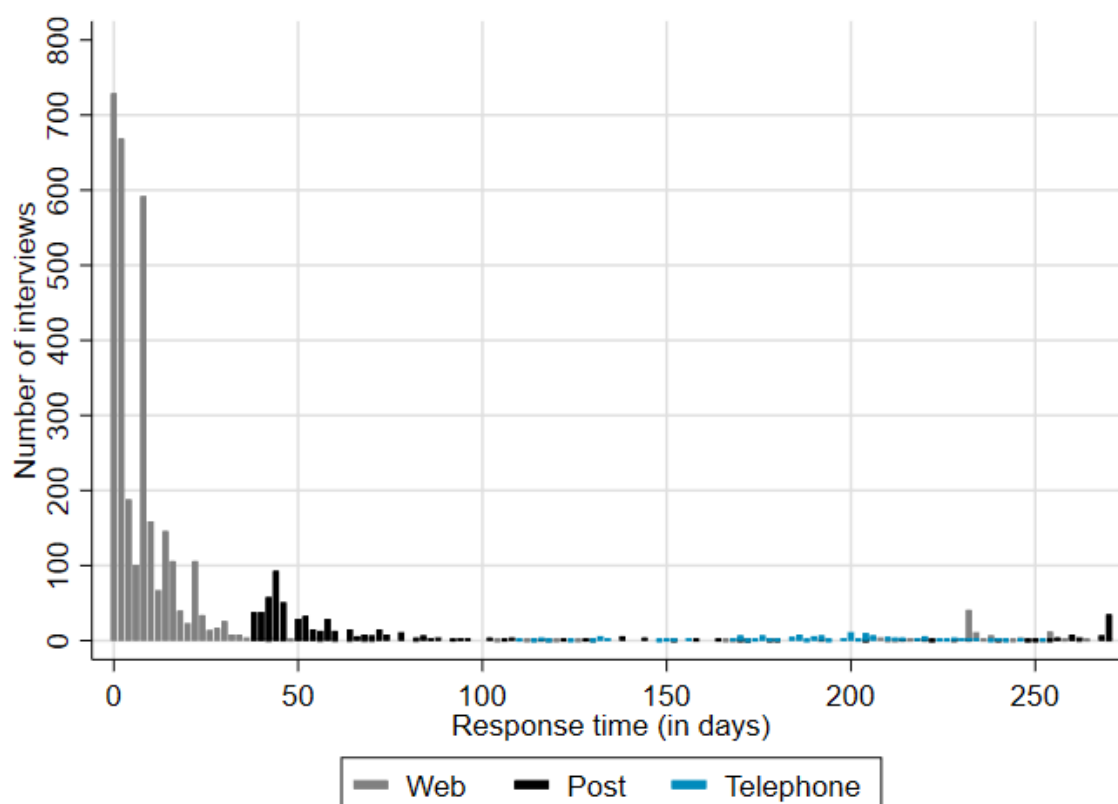
## 4 Timeframe of responses

Figure 2 depicts a histogram of the timing of the responses, i.e., how many days after the start of the survey people responded, for each mode of data collection. “Day 0” is defined as the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2022 – the day we sent out the invitation to participate in wave nine via e-mail. Approximately 75% of the people who participated did so within the first 30 days after sending out the e-mail. On the day we sent out the link and the day after, participation was highest, with 746 and 505 participations respectively, which accounted for over 30% of all participants. The subsequent peaks on day seven (N = 382 interviews) and day 14 (N = 125 interviews) are the days we sent out e-mail-reminders.

Most postal responses also came in soon after the questionnaires were sent out: Over 67% of postal responses came in within four weeks of sending out the postal questionnaire during the postal phase I. Note that interview dates for postal respondents correspond to the day the

questionnaire was processed by us (which explains why there are no postal interviews during the weekend). Telephone interviews started in June, 110 days after the initial e-mail invitation. The maximum number of telephone interviews in one day was nine. The telephone interviews took place constantly during the five months of the telephone fieldwork without notable peaks.

**Figure 2: Response times by mode (truncated at response time = 270 days)**



## 5 Vignette experiments on partnership formation

The in-depth thematic module in wave nine was focused on romantic relationships and their formation. This included a factorial survey experiment on partnership preferences that was developed by the team of the PARFORM (Partnership Formation in the Context of Recent Refugee Migration) project. For a detailed description of the survey experiment, including the wording of all conditions and information on realized sample sizes, please refer to the Technical Report on the Factorial Survey Experiment “Partnership Preferences among Young Adults in Germany” (Heyne et al., 2024). It is included in the data package and available to download via [www.cils4.eu](http://www.cils4.eu).

## 6 Appendix

Table 9: Overall participation by migration background (broad definition<sup>5</sup>, column % in brackets)

	Without mig. background	With mig. background	Total
<b>Participated total</b>	2,413 (91.06)	1,559 (81.71)	3,972 (87.14)
Participated web	1,999 (75.43)	1,191 (62.42)	3,190 (69.99)
Participated post	322 (12.15)	300 (15.72)	622 (13.65)
Participated telephone	92 (3.47)	68 (3.56)	160 (3.51)
<b>Refusal wave 9 total</b>	30 (1.13)	38 (1.99)	68 (1.49)
Refusal web/post	11 (0.42)	8 (0.42)	19 (0.42)
Refusal telephone	19 (0.72)	30 (1.57)	49 (1.08)
<b>No panel consent w9</b>	2 (0.07)	2 (0.11)	4 (0.09)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	205 (7.74)	309 (16.19)	514 (11.28)
<b>Total</b>	2,650 (100.00)	1,908 (100.00)	4,558 (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)

	Without mig. background	With mig. background	Total
<b>Participated post</b>	295 (11.14)	268 (14.06)	563 (12.36)
<b>Participated web</b>	1,952 (73.72)	1,136 (59.60)	3,088 (67.81)
<b>Refusal wave 9 web/post I</b>	7 (0.26)	6 (0.31)	13 (0.29)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	394 (14.88)	496 (26.02)	890 (19.54)
<b>Total</b>	2,648 (100.00)	1,906 (100.00)	4,554 (100.00)

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

<sup>5</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>	92 (26.51)	68 (16.35)	160 (20.97)
<b>Refusal wave 9 telephone</b>	19 (5.48)	30 (7.21)	49 (6.42)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	236 (68.01)	318 (76.44)	554 (72.61)
<b>Total</b>	347 (100.00)	416 (100.00)	763 (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>	27 (9.54)	32 (8.04)	59 (8.66)
<b>Participated web</b>	47 (16.61)	55 (13.82)	102 (14.98)
<b>Refusal wave 9 web/post II</b>	4 (1.41)	2 (0.50)	6 (0.88)
<b>Not reached/no answer</b>	205 (72.44)	309 (77.64)	514 (75.48)
<b>Total</b>	283 (100.00)	398 (100.00)	681 (100.00)

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