

Whom do we compare?
Exclusion, Sampling, Noncoverage
and Nonresponse
in the European Social Survey

*Ineke Stoop (SCP)
and many others*

Structure ESS

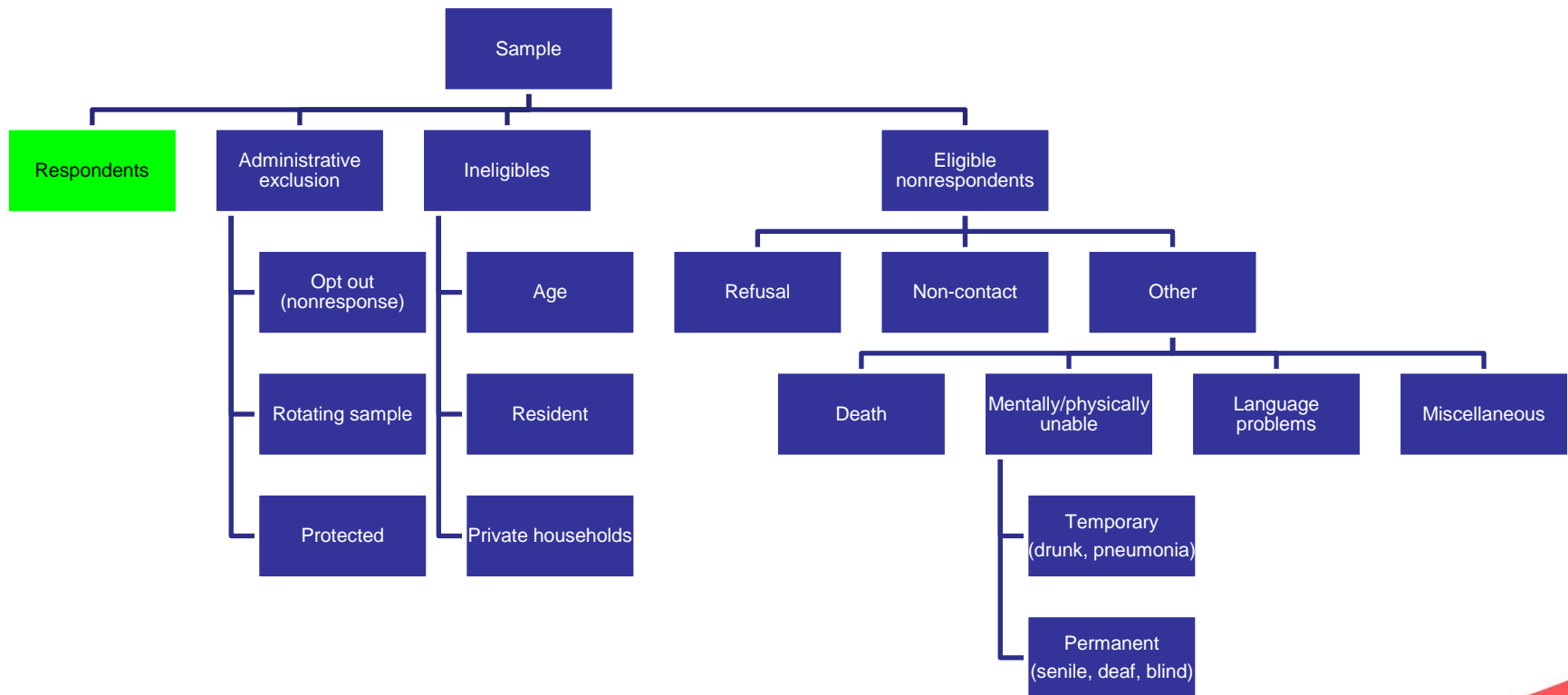
Central

- CST, GA, SAB, MAB, NC forum
- Specifications, rules, guidelines
- Questionnaire
- Contact history forms (CHIFs)
- Mode (F2F)
- Documentation and dissemination

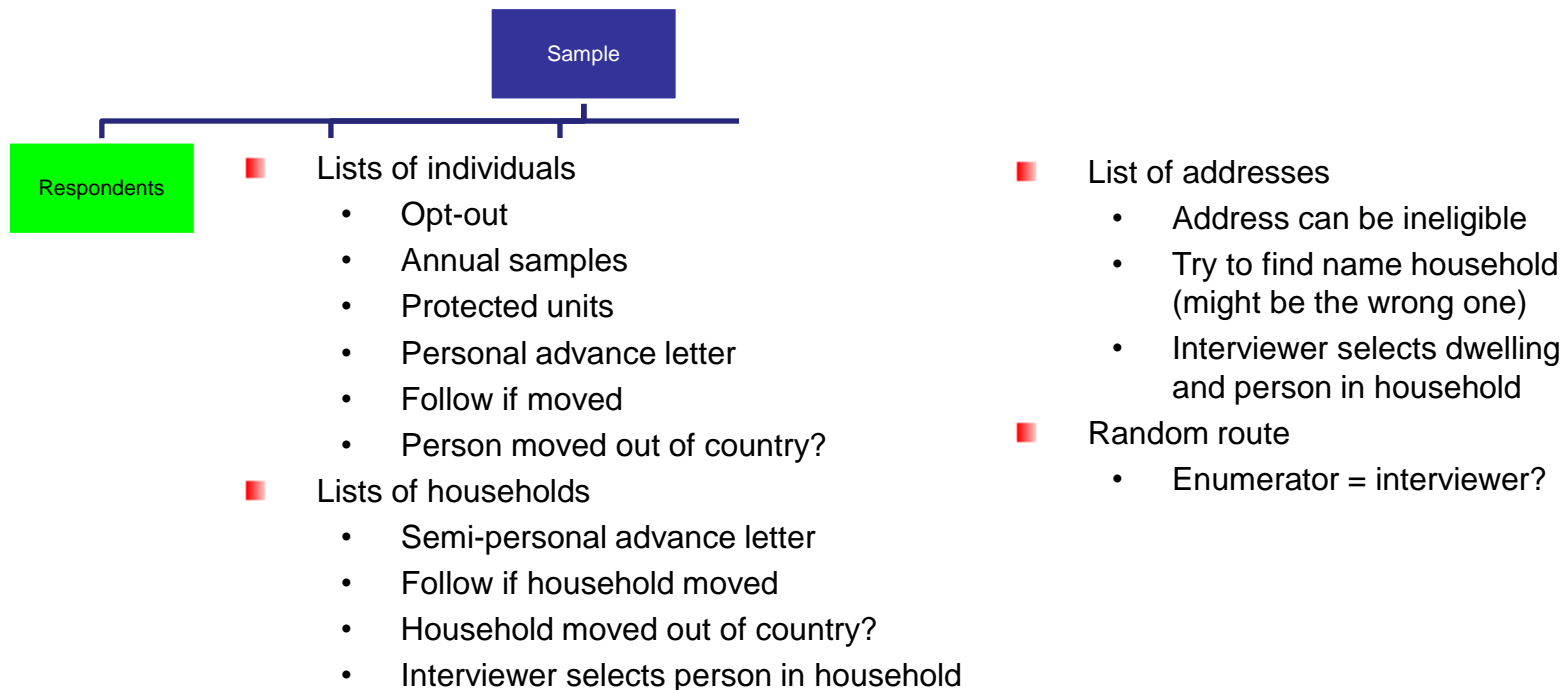
Decentral

- Funding
- Survey agency
- Interviewer staff
- CAPI/PAPI
- Sampling frame
- No (central) dashboard
- CHIF info used for quality assessment after fieldwork

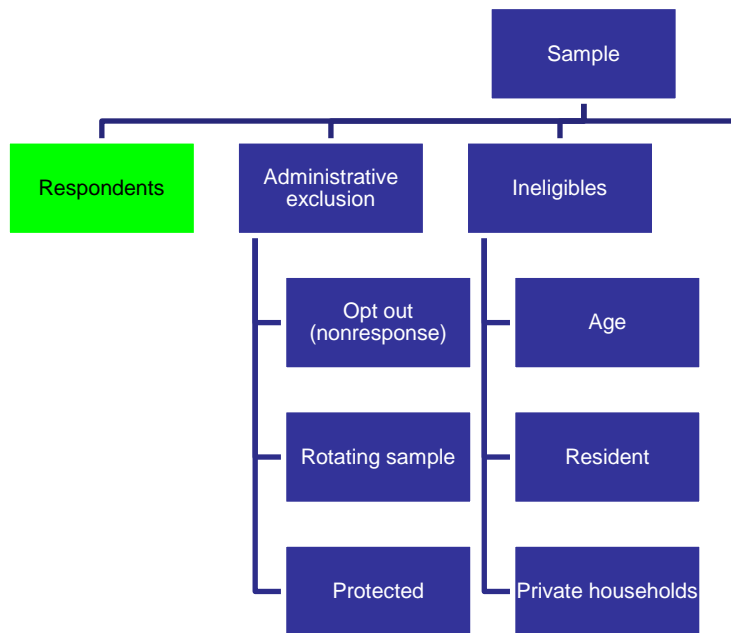
From sample to respondents



Sampling frames and respondent recruitment



Target population and ineligibility



- All persons aged 15 and over (no upper age limit) resident within private households in each country, regardless of their nationality, citizenship or language
- Age
 - 15 years: when?
- Resident
 - What does it mean?
 - Different immigration and emigration contexts
- Private households
 - Types of residential households across countries
 - Can people in non-residential households be excluded?
 - Should they be excluded?

Respondents and respondent selection

Following an idea of Sodeur (1997) and Kohler (2007), using 'internal' criteria for the assessment of nr-bias:

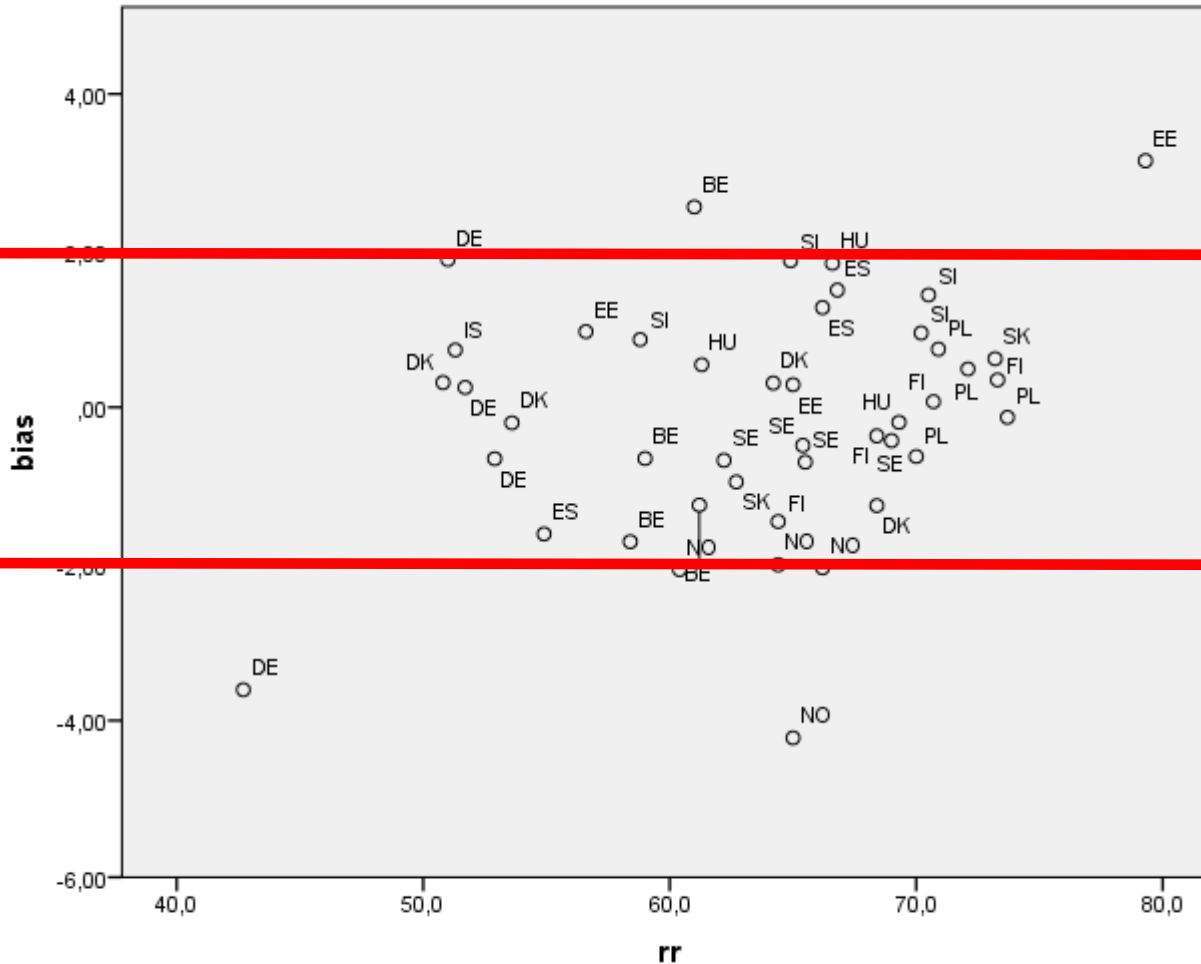
- In HHs with a gender heterogenous couple, the male and female partner should have the same chance of being interviewed
- Bias = deviation of respondents gender distribution from 50/50 female/male split, divided by standard error

Kohler, U. (2007): Surveys from inside: An assessment of unit nonresponse bias with internal criteria. *Survey Research Methods*, 1, 55-67

Sodeur, W. (1997): Interne Kriterien zur Beurteilung von Wahrscheinlichkeitsauswahlen. *ZA-Information*, 41, 58-82

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Sample of individuals



HHs with a gender heterogenous couple;

Bias = deviation of respondents sex distribution from 50/50 female/male split, divided by standard error

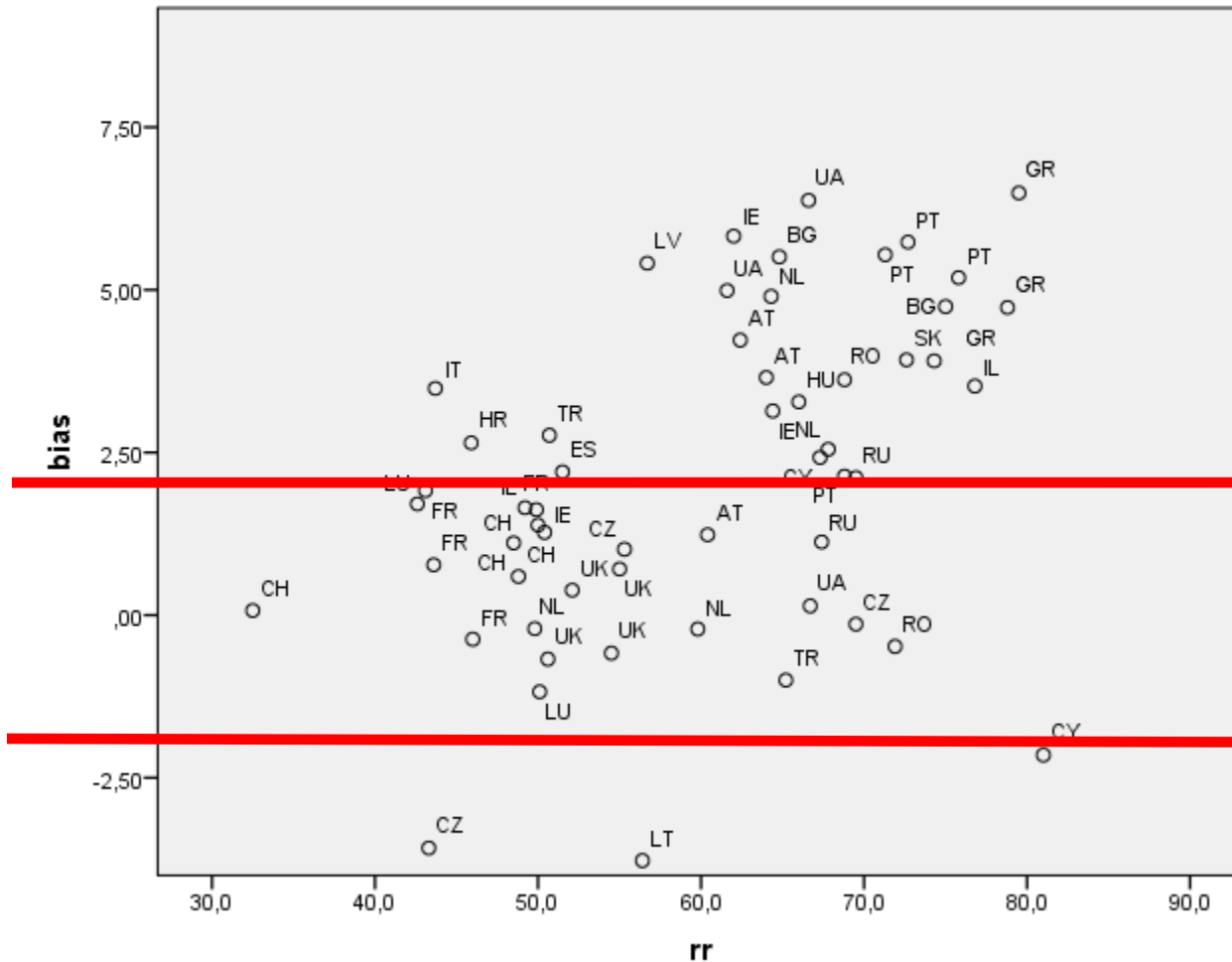
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Sample of hhs/addresses

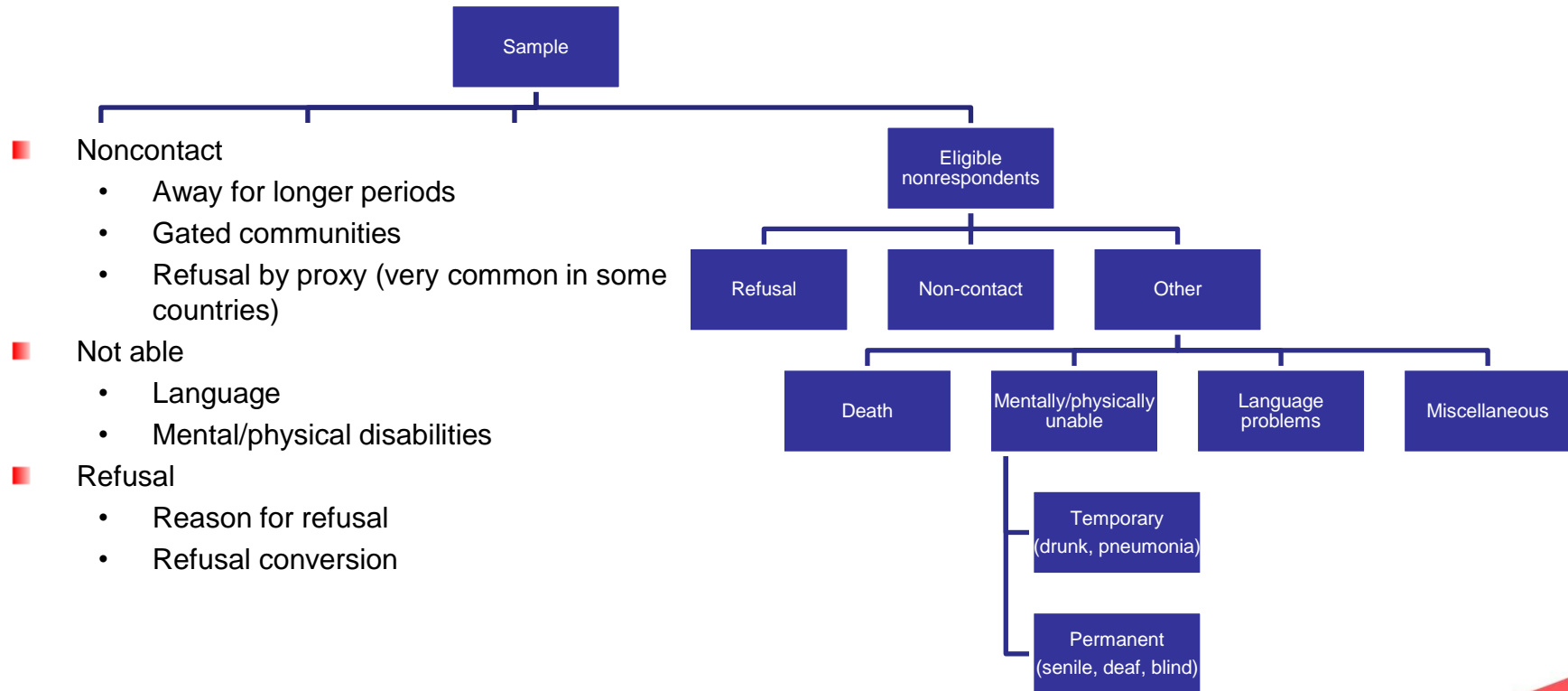
$r = .44$

HHs with a gender heterogenous couple;

Bias = deviation of respondents sex distribution from 50/50 female/male split, divided by standard error

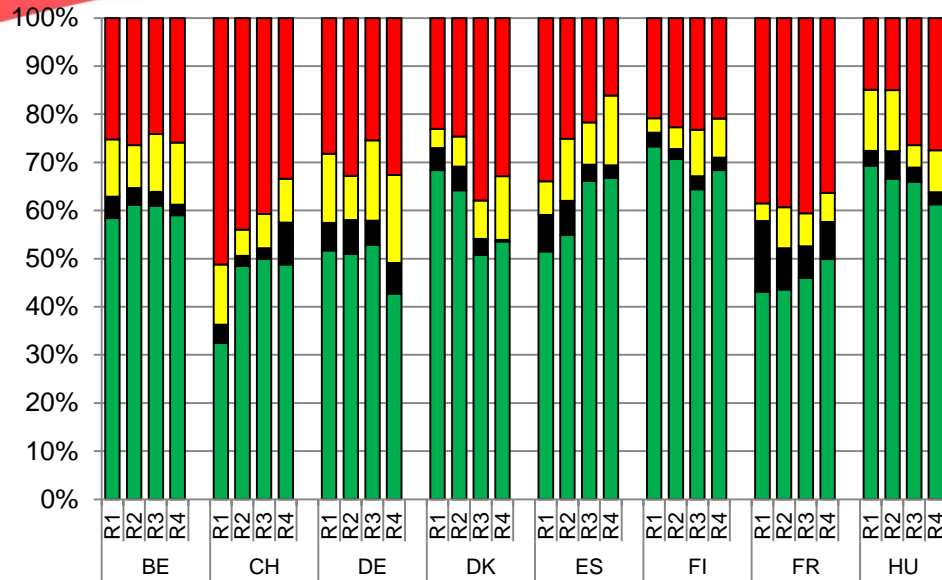


Classifying outcomes

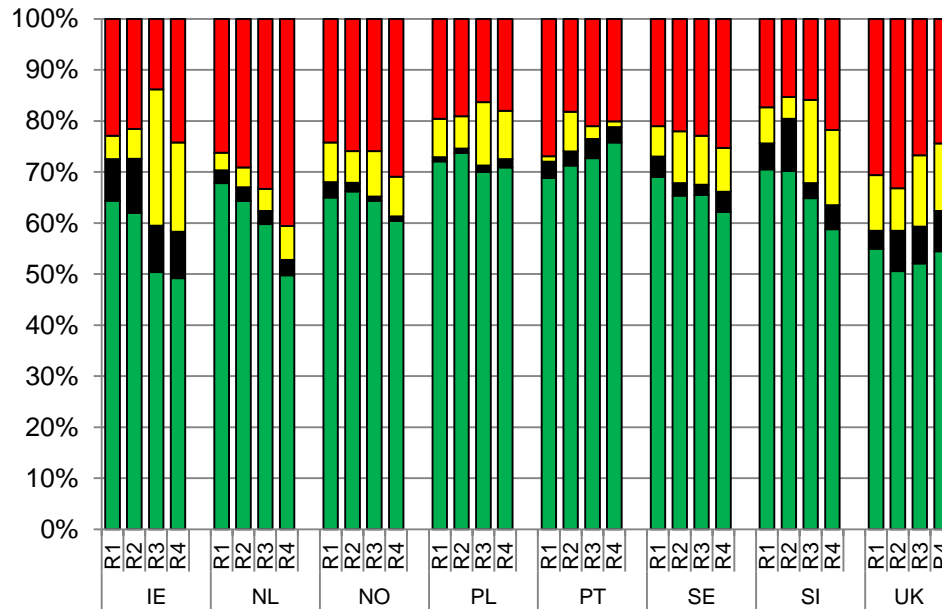


70%

3%



refusal

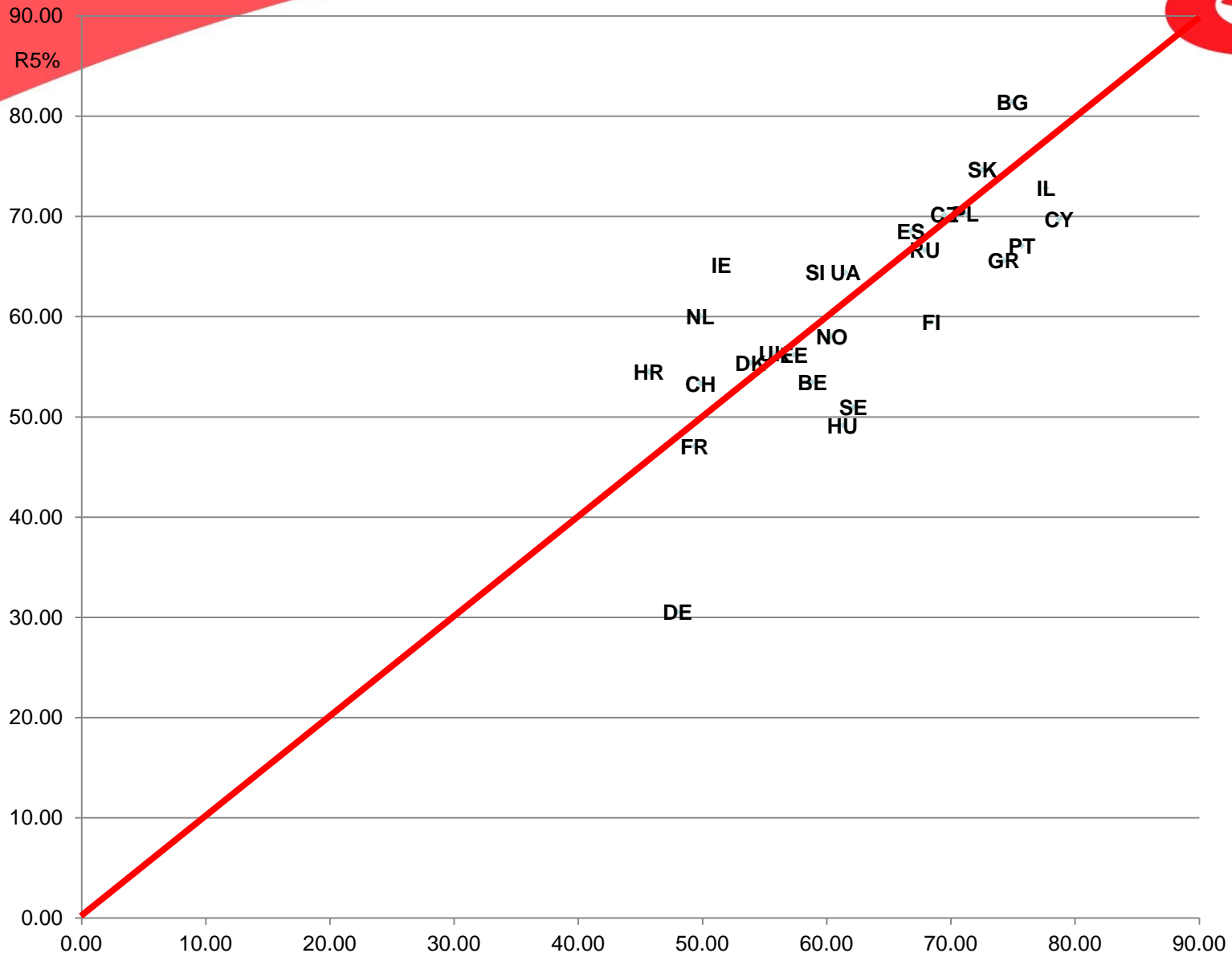


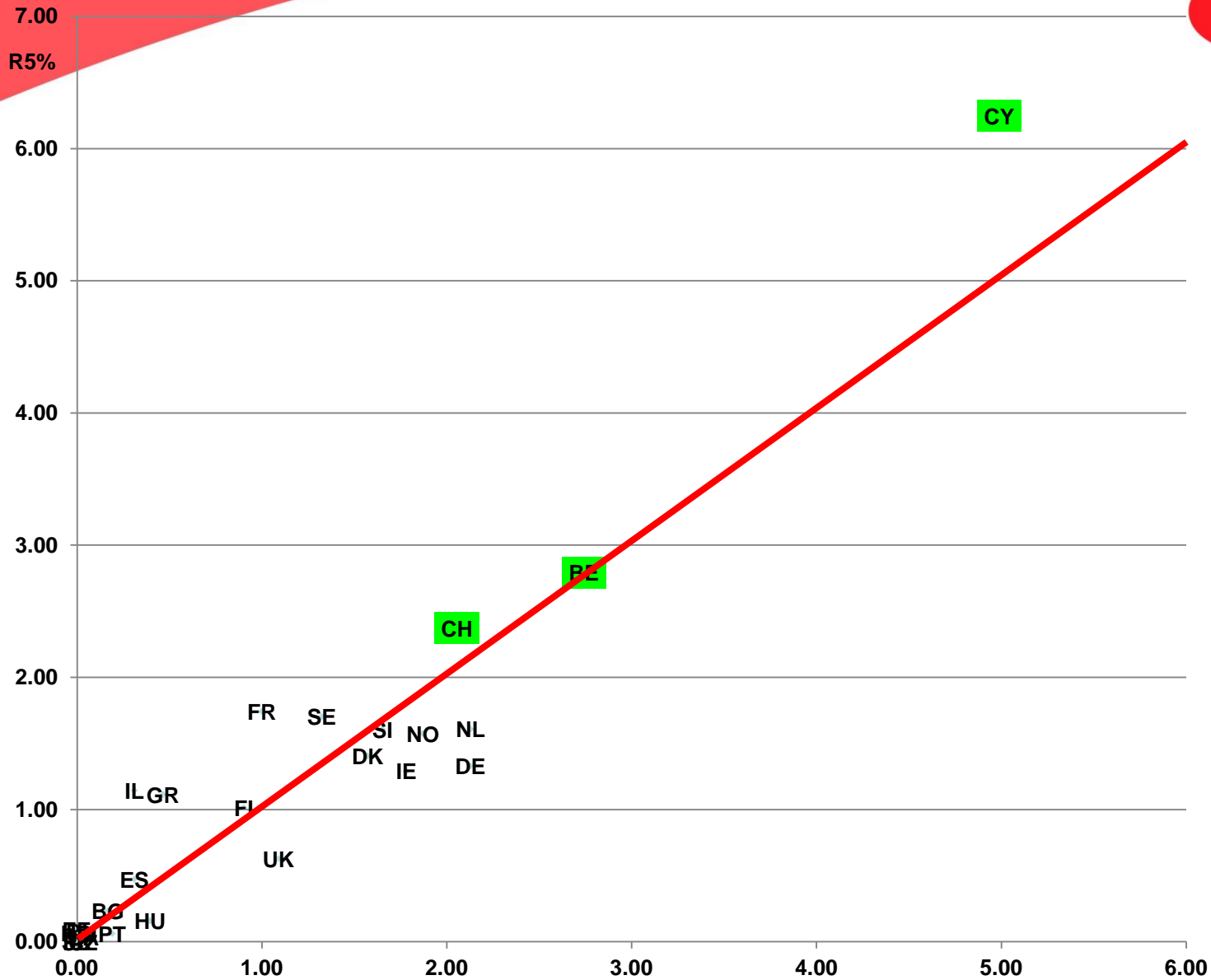
■ Interview ■ Noncontact ■ Not able/other ■ Refusal

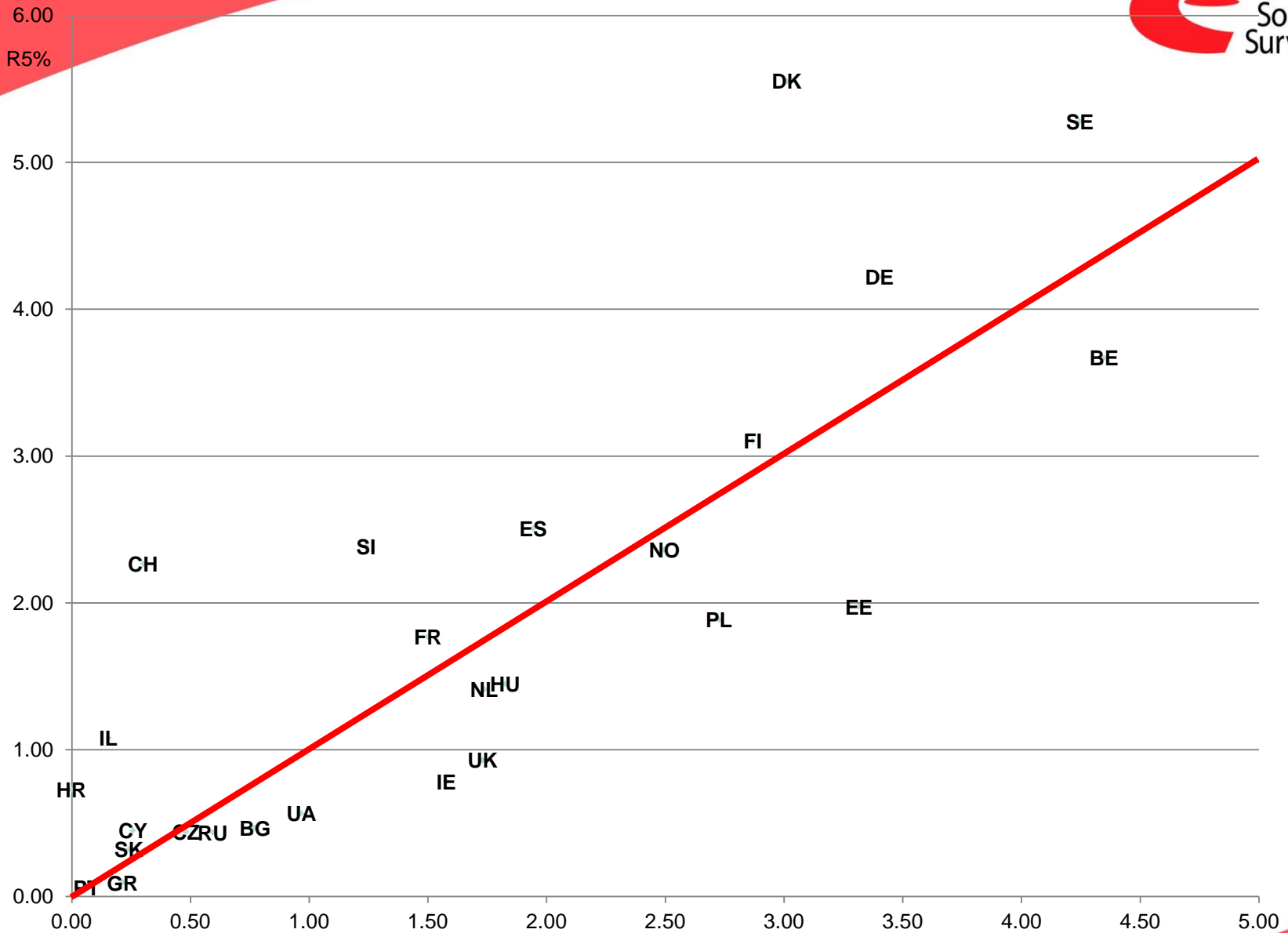
6. OUTCOME CONTACT		ONLY IF CONTACT but NO INTERVIEW									
		Visit 1	Visit 2	Visit 3	Visit 4	Visit 5	Visit 6	Visit 7	Visit 8	Visit 9	Visit 10
1.	Appointment → N1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
2.	Refusal of respondent → 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
3.	Refusal by proxy → 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
4.	Refusal. Don't know if target respondent → 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
5.	Respondent is unavailable/not at home → N1 until/.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
6.	Mentally/physically unable/ill/sick (short term and therefore could revisit during the fieldwork period) → N1 and re-visit	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
7.	Mentally/physically unable/ill/sick (long term and would be unable to complete interview during the fieldwork period) → N1	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
8.	Respondent is deceased → END	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
9.	Respondent has moved out of country →	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
END											
10.	Respondent moved to unknown destination* → END	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
11.	Respondent has moved, still in country → 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11
12.	Language Barrier → 6b	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 12
13.	Other → N1	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 13
.....											

6b in case of language barrier: What is the language of the respondent? → N1, p.5

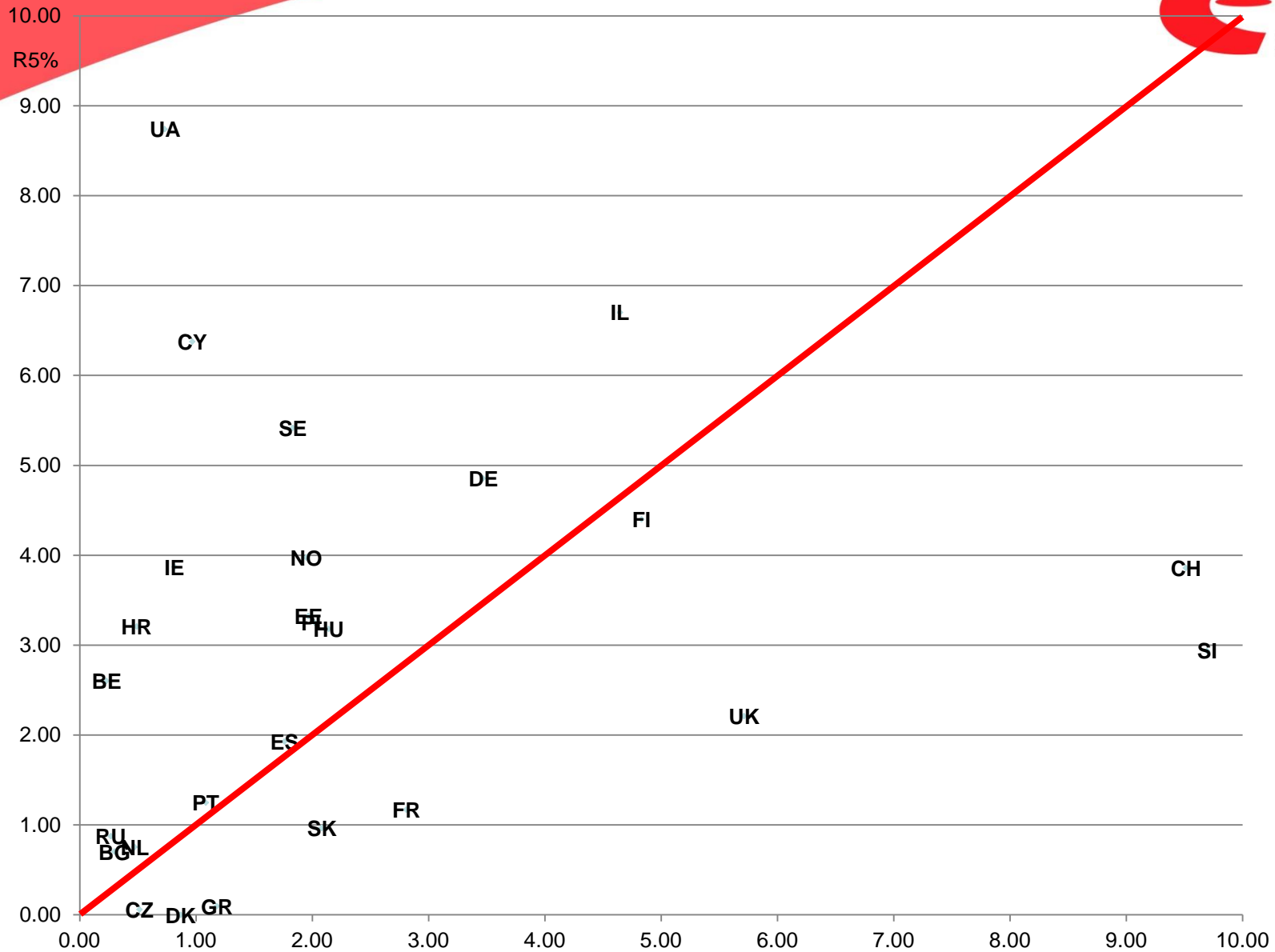
*Only use this category when interviewers really do not know whether the selected sampling unit has moved within or outside the country. Otherwise use codes 9 or 11.







Not able R4 %



Unavailable R4 %

What happened

- Different national situation
 - Migration, languages
- Different design
 - Telephone refusal
- Different sampling frame
 - Undocumented substitution
- Different house rules

What to do?

- Review specifications
- Communication with national organisations
- Cooperation sampling and fieldwork
- Monitor fieldwork
- Collect paradata
- Review aims of representativeness