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

[www.europeansocialsurvey.org](http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org)
From sample to respondents

Sample

Respondents

Administrative exclusion

Ineligibles

Opt out (nonresponse)

Age

Refusal

Non-contact

Other

Eligible nonrespondents

Protected

Resident

Private households

Rotating sample

Death

Mentally/physically unable

Language problems

Miscellaneous

Other

Non-response probe

Other

Protected

Private households

Temporary (drunk, pneumonia)

Permanent (senile, deaf, blind)
Sampling frames and respondent recruitment

Respondents

- Lists of individuals
  - Opt-out
  - Annual samples
  - Protected units
  - Personal advance letter
  - Follow if moved
  - Person moved out of country?
- Lists of households
  - Semi-personal advance letter
  - Follow if household moved
  - Household moved out of country?
  - Interviewer selects person in household

Sample

- List of addresses
  - Address can be ineligible
  - Try to find name household (might be the wrong one)
  - Interviewer selects dwelling and person in household
- Random route
  - Enumerator = interviewer?
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


www.europeansocialsurvey.org
ESS 1 – 4
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
ESS 1 – 4
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

- Noncontact
  - Away for longer periods
  - Gated communities
  - Refusal by proxy (very common in some countries)

- Not able
  - Language
  - Mental/physical disabilities

- Refusal
  - Reason for refusal
  - Refusal conversion
70%

3%

www.europeansocialsurvey.org
### 6. OUTCOME CONTACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step Description</th>
<th>Visit 1</th>
<th>Visit 2</th>
<th>Visit 3</th>
<th>Visit 4</th>
<th>Visit 5</th>
<th>Visit 6</th>
<th>Visit 7</th>
<th>Visit 8</th>
<th>Visit 9</th>
<th>Visit 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Appointment</td>
<td>□1</td>
<td>□1</td>
<td>□1</td>
<td>□1</td>
<td>□1</td>
<td>□1</td>
<td>□1</td>
<td>□1</td>
<td>□1</td>
<td>□1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Refusal of respondent</td>
<td>□2</td>
<td>□2</td>
<td>□2</td>
<td>□2</td>
<td>□2</td>
<td>□2</td>
<td>□2</td>
<td>□2</td>
<td>□2</td>
<td>□2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Refusal by proxy</td>
<td>□3</td>
<td>□3</td>
<td>□3</td>
<td>□3</td>
<td>□3</td>
<td>□3</td>
<td>□3</td>
<td>□3</td>
<td>□3</td>
<td>□3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Refusal. Don’t know if target respondent</td>
<td>□4</td>
<td>□4</td>
<td>□4</td>
<td>□4</td>
<td>□4</td>
<td>□4</td>
<td>□4</td>
<td>□4</td>
<td>□4</td>
<td>□4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Respondent is unavailable/not at home</td>
<td>□5</td>
<td>□5</td>
<td>□5</td>
<td>□5</td>
<td>□5</td>
<td>□5</td>
<td>□5</td>
<td>□5</td>
<td>□5</td>
<td>□5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>until ..........</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Mentally/physically unable/ill/sick (short term and therefore could revisit during the fieldwork period)</td>
<td>□6</td>
<td>□6</td>
<td>□6</td>
<td>□6</td>
<td>□6</td>
<td>□6</td>
<td>□6</td>
<td>□6</td>
<td>□6</td>
<td>□6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Mentally/physically unable/ill/sick (long term and would be unable to complete interview during the fieldwork period)</td>
<td>□7</td>
<td>□7</td>
<td>□7</td>
<td>□7</td>
<td>□7</td>
<td>□7</td>
<td>□7</td>
<td>□7</td>
<td>□7</td>
<td>□7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Respondent is deceased</td>
<td>□8</td>
<td>□8</td>
<td>□8</td>
<td>□8</td>
<td>□8</td>
<td>□8</td>
<td>□8</td>
<td>□8</td>
<td>□8</td>
<td>□8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Respondent has moved out of country</td>
<td>□9</td>
<td>□9</td>
<td>□9</td>
<td>□9</td>
<td>□9</td>
<td>□9</td>
<td>□9</td>
<td>□9</td>
<td>□9</td>
<td>□9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>END</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Respondent moved to unknown destination*</td>
<td>□10</td>
<td>□10</td>
<td>□10</td>
<td>□10</td>
<td>□10</td>
<td>□10</td>
<td>□10</td>
<td>□10</td>
<td>□10</td>
<td>□10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>END</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Language Barrier</td>
<td>□12</td>
<td>□12</td>
<td>□12</td>
<td>□12</td>
<td>□12</td>
<td>□12</td>
<td>□12</td>
<td>□12</td>
<td>□12</td>
<td>□12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Other</td>
<td>□13</td>
<td>□13</td>
<td>□13</td>
<td>□13</td>
<td>□13</td>
<td>□13</td>
<td>□13</td>
<td>□13</td>
<td>□13</td>
<td>□13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

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.
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