



The Netherlands Institute for Social  
Research



*Why every survey is a  
3MC survey  
or  
What we should know  
about  
#  
what we could learn  
from  
comparative surveys*

Ineke Stoop



## How comparative is comparative research (1998)

We tend to accept lower standards of rigour in cross-national surveys than in national surveys, leading to heroic conclusions about differences between nations on the basis of obviously faulty data.

Arising perhaps from a commendable wish to respect different cultural norms, even some of the most conscientious cross-national studies make the mistake of permitting considerable variations by country in the type and quality of the methods they deploy.



Roger Jowell  
Founder ESS  
10 golden rules

- <http://bit.ly/29QU8V5>











# eurostat

## Your key to European statistics

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English

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ACCESS TO MICRODATA	OVERVIEW			SEE ALSO
<b>OVERVIEW</b> European Community Household Panel European Union Labour Force Survey Community Innovation Survey European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Structure of Earnings Survey Adult Education Survey European Road Freight Transport Survey European Health Interview Survey Continuing Vocational Training Survey Community Statistics on information Society Micro-Moments Dataset	<b>What are microdata?</b>  Microdata are the units of data that aggregate statistics are compiled from. Microdata consist of sets of records containing information on individual respondents or business entities. To protect the anonymity of respondents (persons, organisations), the access to microdata is restricted.  <b>Access to microdata</b>  We grant access to our microdata <b>for scientific purposes only</b> .  To apply for access to Eurostat's microdata, your organisation must first be recognised by us as a research entity – a university, research institution or research department in public administration, bank, statistical institute etc.  Contracts and contract amendments on access to microdata signed before 8th of July 2013 will remain valid until they expire.  <b>Applying for access</b>  ➤ <b>Step 1 – Apply to have your research organisation recognised as a research entity.</b> You only need to do this once, no matter how many access requests you make subsequently (the procedure takes around 4 weeks)  ➤ <b>Step 2 – Apply for access to microdata.</b> Once we have recognised your organisation as a research entity, you can apply for access by submitting a research proposal (the procedure takes around 8-10 weeks)  <b>How are data provided?</b>  Depending on the access type(s) of your choice, we will:  ➤ send your principal researcher files containing anonymised data (scientific-use files) on electronic devices (CD-Rom, DVD, etc.) and/or  ➤ authorise your organisation to access non-anonymised data (secure-use files) in Eurostat's "safe centre".		 <a href="#">How to apply for microdata access?</a>   <a href="#">List of recognised research entities</a>   <a href="#">Commission Regulation (EU) 557/2013 on access to confidential data for scientific purposes</a>   <a href="#">Regulation (EC) 223/2009 on European Statistics</a>   <a href="#">Regulation (EC) 45/2001 on Personal Data Protection</a>   <a href="#">Guidelines for the assessment of research entities and research proposals</a>   <a href="#">Datasets availability table</a>   <a href="#">Self study material for microdata users</a>	



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### Public Opinion

European Commission > DGs > Communication > Public Opinion

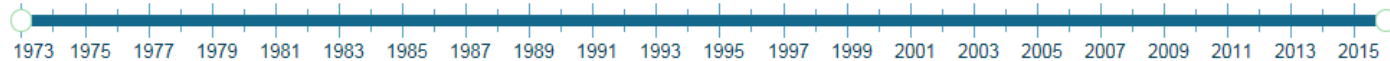
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[Links](#)



#### Standard EB



#### Special EB



#### Flash EB



#### Qualitative EB



The Standard Eurobarometer was established in 1973. Each survey consists of approximately 1000 face-to-face interviews per country. Reports are published twice yearly. Reproduction is authorised, except for commercial purposes, provided the source is acknowledged.

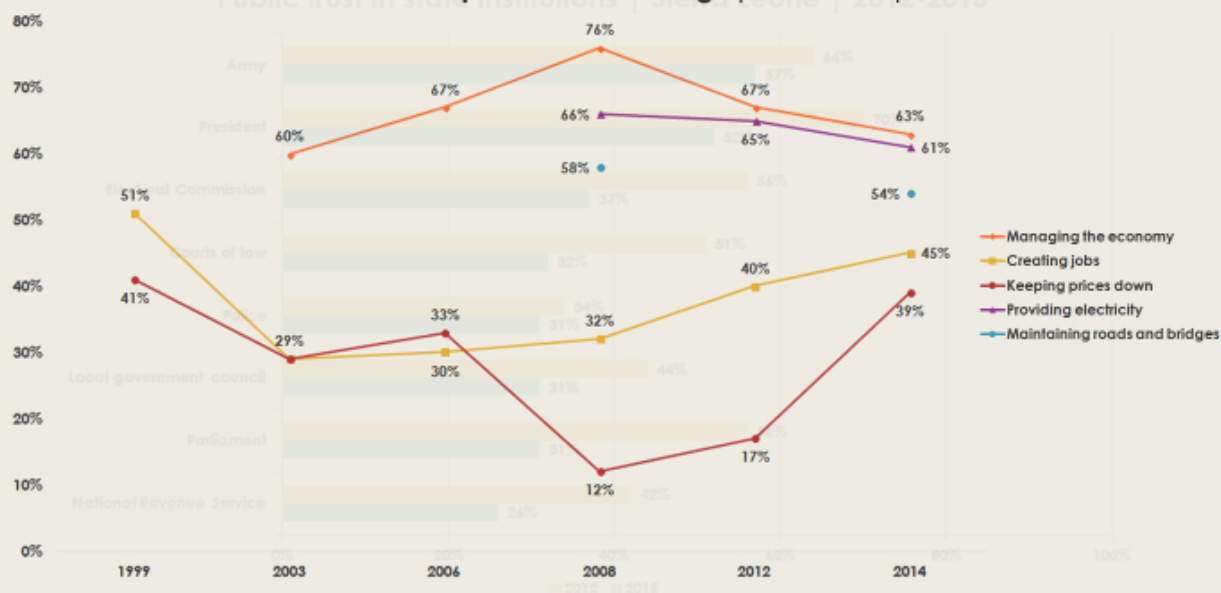
Special Eurobarometer reports are based on in-depth thematic studies carried out for various services of the European Commission or other EU Institutions and integrated in the Standard Eurobarometer's polling waves. Reproduction is authorised, except for commercial purposes, provided the source is acknowledged.

Flash Eurobarometers are ad hoc thematic telephone interviews conducted at the request of any service of the European Commission. Flash surveys enable the Commission to obtain results relatively quickly and to focus on specific target groups, as and when required. Reproduction is authorised, except for commercial purposes, provided the source is acknowledged.

The qualitative studies investigate in-depth the motivations, feelings and reactions of selected social groups towards a given subject or concept, by listening to and analysing their way of expressing themselves in discussion groups or with non-directive interviews.



## Government economic performance ratings | Botswana | 1999-2014



## Evaluating Botswana's performance on and National Vision 2016

How much progress do citizens think their country has made?

To find out read our [Policy Paper No. 33](#).

## About Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in more than 35 countries in Africa.



### Spotlight

## Findings across 30+ countries on critical issues:

Lived poverty, infrastructure, more.





# AsiaBarometer

The largest ever, comparative survey in Asia, covering East, Southeast, South and Central Asia.

## Main menu

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- **Network**

## AsiaBarometer: News and Updates

- [01-April-15] **Conditions for Using the AsiaBarometer Survey Data** has been renewed.
- [14-March-11] **Cautions on the use of the AsiaBarometer Survey data** has been renewed.
- [14-March-11] With some corrections **data of the 2003-2007 surveys** can now be downloaded from this website!
- [22-March-09] **Data of the 2006 and 2007 surveys** can now be downloaded from this website!
- [13-Nov-08] Shigeto Sonoda (Professor of Waseda University), a member of the AsiaBarometer Survey Committee, published a new book, *hitei shita shakai shugi no yukue*, Chukoshinsho, 2008!
- [13-June-08] **Cautions on the use of the AsiaBarometer Survey data** has been updated.
- [13-June-08] **Data of the 2005 survey** can also be downloaded from this website.
- [29-May-08] **Publications** pages have been updated.
- [01-Dec-07] Open symposia will be held at the University of Tokyo on December 13, 2007. Please refer to the AsiaBarometer website for details.
- [15-Oct-07] The AsiaBarometer won an A in the midterm evaluation of this project by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.
- [25-June-07] **Publications** pages have been updated.
- [20-June-07] Codebook **error** was corrected.
- [04-June-07] **Data of the 2003 and 2004 surveys** can be downloaded from this website.
- [13-Dec-06] An open symposium will be held at the University of Tokyo on December 15, 2006. Please refer to the AsiaBarometer website for details.
- [15-Nov-06] Takashi Inoguchi won an ICF Research Award (an outstanding research award) from Intel Corporation for his research on the AsiaBarometer.
- [02-Nov-06] **Publications** pages have been updated.
- [02-Nov-06] This website has been renewed.



# Latinobarómetro<sup>MR</sup>

OPINIÓN PÚBLICA LATINOAMERICANA

## En Esta Sección

- ▶ Corporación Latinobarómetro
- ▶ Banco de Datos
- ▶ Documentos
- ▶ Análisis Online
- ▶ Novedades
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## Latinobarómetro

Latinobarómetro es un estudio de opinión pública que aplica anualmente alrededor de 20.000 entrevistas en 18 países de América Latina representando a más de 600 millones de habitantes.

Corporación Latinobarómetro es una ONG sin fines de lucro con sede en Santiago de Chile, única responsable de la producción y publicación de los datos.



La Corporación Latinobarómetro investiga el desarrollo de la democracia, la economía y la sociedad en su conjunto, usando indicadores de opinión pública que miden actitudes, valores y comportamientos. Los resultados son utilizados por los actores socio políticos de la región, actores internacionales, gubernamentales y medios de comunicación.

La directora ejecutiva del estudio es Marta Lagos.

## Novedades

25 May 2016

La directora de la Corporación Latinobarómetro, Marta Lagos, realizará en el BID en Washington DC una charla sobre la confianza y la corrupción en América Latina con datos provenientes del estudio anual Latinobarómetro



04 Mar 2016

Presentación de Marta Lagos en el lanzamiento del Bien Público Regional INTAL- Latinobarómetro. Buenos Aires, 25 de febrero de 2016.



01 Feb 2016

SE LICITA ESTUDIO LATINOBARÓMETRO 2016

PLAZO DE RECEPCIÓN DE PROPUESTAS - 12 PM 15 DE FEBRERO.



23 Dec 2015



## Interviewer training & Fieldwork

nic Finance in Movement - July 11, 2016

Clement M. Henry - Islamic Bank - June 15, 2016

WP2: Nobl

### Introduction



Scholars in the Arab world and the United States established the Arab

### Arab Barometer Fourth Wave in Tunisia

[Democracy in Tunisia Report](#)

[Democracy in Tunisia Presentation](#)





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### Latest Newsletter

Subscribe to the SHARE newsletter by sending an e-mail to [info@share-project.org](mailto:info@share-project.org)

You are here: [Home](#)

## SHARE - Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe

The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) is a multidisciplinary and cross-national panel database of micro data on health, socio-economic status and social and family networks of approximately 123,000 individuals (more than 293,000 interviews) from **20 European countries** (+Israel) aged 50 or older.



The **data** are available to the entire research community **free of charge**. For a summary overview and research results of SHARE, you can download the **SHARE brochure** or our latest First Results Book: **Ageing in Europe - Supporting Policies for an Inclusive Society**

## Search

## News

**Press release - Mutual Learning:**  
Joint pan-European research improves the understanding of ageing societies

Extension of SHARE study allows for EU-wide country-comparisons

[read more...](#)

**Books are forever: New cross-European evidence of the impact of childhood conditions on education and lifetime earnings**

SHARE research findings

[read more...](#)

**Out now: Major Data Update - SHARE Release 5-0-0**

This new release is a major data update of all waves released by SHARE so far (Waves 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)

[read more...](#)



## International Social Survey Programme



### General information

Publications

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Member pages

### General information

Organisational Structure  
and Working Principles

Applying for Membership

ISSP Methodological  
Research

History of the ISSP

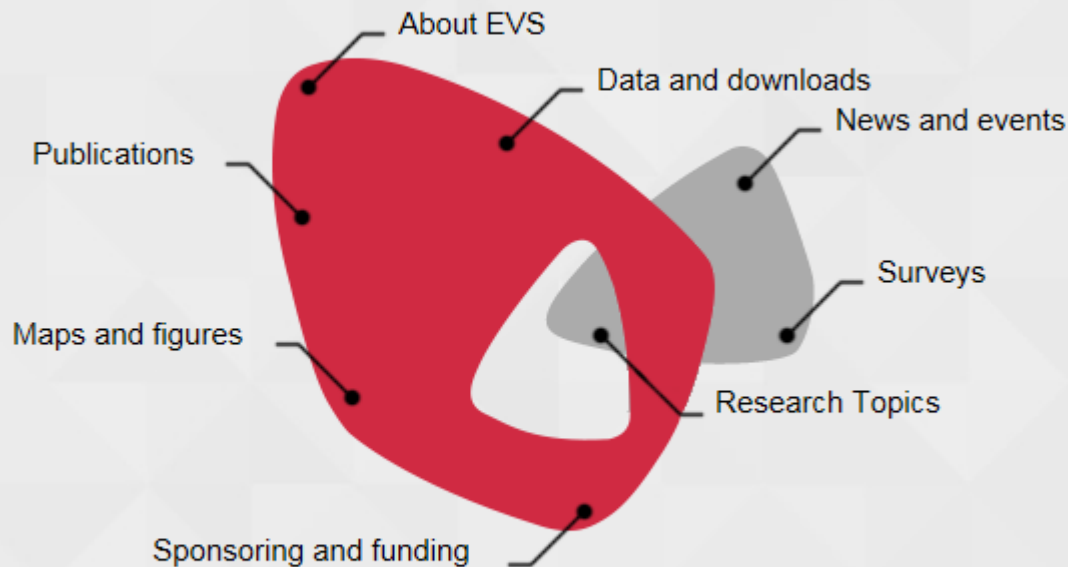
The ISSP is a continuing annual programme of cross-national collaboration on surveys covering topics important for social science research.

It brings together pre-existing social science projects and coordinates research goals, thereby adding a cross-national, cross-cultural perspective to the individual national studies.

The ISSP researchers especially concentrate on developing questions that are meaningful and relevant to all countries, and can be expressed in an equivalent manner in all relevant languages.

International Social Survey Programme 2015





# European *Values* Study

## **ESRA 2017: Call for Session**

*ESRA 2017: Submit a 400 word abstract by the 15.09.16*

## **New data release**

*EVS 2008 Integrated Dataset*

## **General Assembly and Workshop i**

*Representatives from 32 European countries participated to the GA*

## **Workshop in Warsaw: the program**

*EVS workshop "European identity, solidarity and generations": see the program*

## **Joint EVS/WVS survey in 2017**

*European Values Study and World Values*



# World Values Survey



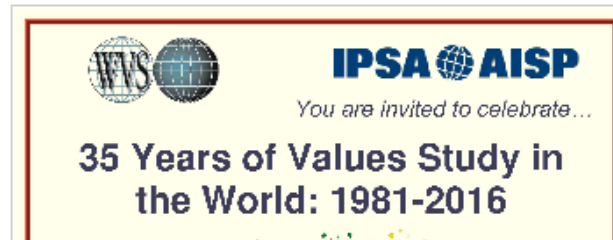
## Site Sections

- ▶ WVS wave 7
- ▶ Who we are
- ▶ What we do
- ▶ Findings & Insights
- ▶ Data & Documentation
- ▶ Publications
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## Welcome to the World Values Survey site

**WVSA meeting and social reception at IPSA World Congress of Political Science in Poznan, Poland**

WVSA will be holding a meeting of the Executive Committee, Scientific Advisory Committee and a social reception within the framework of the forthcoming World Congress of International Political Science Association. Social reception will take place on Monday, July, 25 and will be devoted to celebration of 35 years of the values survey in the world. WVSA Secretariat invites all members of the Association, PIs and co-PIs, members of national teams, partnering organizations, friends, colleagues and WVS data users to attend this event!

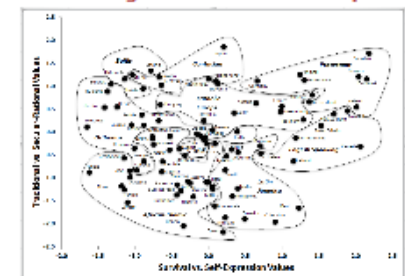


## Quick Links

**WVSA December 2015 newsletter**  
[Click to Download](#)

**WVS 1981-2014 Longitudinal File**  
**NEW** Download the latest version of the cumulated 1981-2014 data file in different formats (*last updated 18-04-2015*)

### Welzel-Inglehart's Cultural Map



### WVS Online Analysis

Browse WVS data online and produce your own tables



## Research & Publications

### — Economic research

#### + Research Bulletin

##### [Research networks](#)

Employment, internships,  
fellowships, research visits

#### + Paper series

#### + Conferences & seminars

#### + Economic Bulletin

#### + Annual Report

Convergence Report

Financial Stability Review

Macroeconomic projections

#### + Publications by activity

#### + Publications by date

# Household Finance and Consumption Network (HFCN)

The Household Finance and Consumption Network (HFCN), which was established in December 2006, consists of survey specialists, statisticians and economists from the ECB, the national central banks of the Eurosystem and a number of national statistical institutes.

The HFCN conducts the Eurosystem's Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS), which collects household-level data on households' finances and consumption. The dataset for the first wave of the survey was released in April 2013.

## About the network

The HFCN has been tasked by the Governing Council of the ECB with

- > implementing the HFCS;
- > acting as a forum for research that uses survey data;
- > further developing the HFCS.

## HFCS conferences

[▶ ECB Conference on Household Finance and Consumption, 2015](#)

[▶ ECB Conference on Household Finance and Consumption, 2013](#)

[▶ Joint conference organised by the Banque centrale du Luxembourg and the European Central Bank, 2010](#)

[▶ ECB-CFS conference on Household Finances and Consumption, 2008](#)

## Research papers

[▶ All paper series authors](#)





European Foundation for  
the Improvement of  
Living and Working  
Conditions

The tripartite EU agency providing knowledge  
to assist in the development of social and  
work-related policies

ENGLISH

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About Eurofound



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### About the Eurofound surveys



Data visualisation



European Company Surveys  
(ECS)



European Quality of Life  
Surveys (EQLS)



European Working Conditions  
Surveys (EWCS)

## Surveys



14 May 2015

Eurofound has developed three regularly repeated surveys to contribute to the planning and establishment of better living and working conditions. The surveys offer a unique source of comparative information on the quality of living and working conditions across the EU. Detailed analysis of the survey data allows Eurofound to identify new and emerging trends, as well as to gain deeper insight in the issues central to European policy. The results provide a strong basis for policy makers to identify opportunities for improvement and to develop forward looking perspectives. The surveys are a key element in Eurofound's mission to provide high quality information and advice for EU and national level policy makers, social partners, researchers and European citizens alike.

The [European Company Survey \(ECS\)](#), implemented in 2004, 2009 and 2013, gives an overview of workplace practices and how they are negotiated in European establishments. It is based on the views of both managers and employee representatives. The survey was first launched in 2005 as the European Survey on Working Time and Work-Life Balance. It was repeated in 2009 as the European Company Survey, focussing on flexibility practices and the quality of social dialogue. The first findings from the 2013 survey are now online.

The [European Quality of Life Survey \(EQLS\)](#), implemented in 2003, 2007 and 2011-12, provides a comprehensive portrait of living conditions in European countries. It contains a broad range of indicators on different dimensions of quality of life, both objective and subjective. In addition, some EQLS questions were used in a Special Eurobarometer on Poverty and Social Exclusion in autumn 2009 and 2010. Given the recent high level of interest in the quality of life of European citizens, the EQLS is increasingly important for Eurofound's contribution to the political and academic debate.

The [European Working Conditions Survey \(EWCS\)](#) is the longest running survey, and has become an established source of information about working conditions and the quality of work and employment. With five waves having been implemented since 1990, it enables monitoring of long-term trends in working conditions in Europe. Themes covered include employment status, working time arrangements, work organisation, learning and training, physical and psychosocial risk factors, health and safety, worker participation, work-life balance, earnings and financial security, as well as work and health.



## Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

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[About PISA](#)

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[PISA](#) > [About PISA](#)

### About PISA

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a triennial international survey which aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students. To date, students representing more than [70 economies](#) have participated in the assessment.

The most recently published results are from the assessment in 2012.

Around 510,000 students in [65 economies](#) took part in the PISA 2012 assessment of reading, mathematics and science representing about 28 million 15-year-olds globally. Of those economies, 44 took part in an assessment of creative problem solving and 18 in an assessment of financial literacy.

[Consult all PISA 2012 results here.](#)

More than 70 economies have signed up to take part in the assessment in 2015



## Coming Soon: Results of TIMSS 2015 and TIMSS Advanced 2015

Mark your calendars, get details of the International Release, and read about TIMSS and TIMSS Advanced.

[READ MORE >](#)

(Georgia) National Assessment and Examinations Center

## LATEST PUBLICATIONS

### PIRLS 2016 ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK, 2ND EDITION

Presents the framework for the three fourth grade reading comprehension assessments taking place in 2016...

### TIMSS 2015 ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORKS

Describes frameworks for the five mathematics and science assessments taking place in 2015...

[SEE ALL PUBLICATIONS >](#)

## ABOUT TIMSS & PIRLS



## @TIMSSANDPIRLS TWEETS

## LATEST NEWS



### PIRLS SCORING TRAINING A SUCCESS IN HONG KONG

Representatives of participating PIRLS countries and benchmarking participants convened in Hong Kong SAR from late February to early March. They trained together in scoring the PIRLS 2016 and ePIRLS 2016 assessments, which are now being conducted around the world.



### SPOTLIGHT: HONG KONG SAR

Hong Kong SAR has been a success story in reading achievement — following a modest performance in PIRLS 2001, it shot to the top in PIRLS 2006 and stayed there in PIRLS 2011. Dr. Shek Kam Tse of the University of Hong Kong reflected on Hong Kong's path to success and looked ahead to PIRLS 2016.



[OECD Home](#) > [Skills](#) > [Survey of Adult Skills \(PIAAC\)](#)

## Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC)

The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) developed and conducts the Survey of Adult Skills. The survey measures adults' proficiency in key information-processing skills - literacy, numeracy and problem solving in technology-rich environments - and gathers information and data on how adults use their skills at home, at work and in the wider community.

### About the Survey of Adult Skills

This international survey is conducted in over 40 countries and measures the key cognitive and workplace skills needed for individuals to participate in society and for economies to prosper.

[Learn more](#) about how we measure and collect data.

En [Español](#)

Contact us







# Centre for Time Use Research

Department of Sociology, University of Oxford

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## MTUS

► [Multinational Time Use Study](#)

## AHTUS

► [American Heritage Time Use Study](#)

## Information

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## Team

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## Research

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## Time use resources

### Latest CTUR presentations and publications.

- Fisher, Kimberly, Jonathan Gershuny, Killian Mullan, Oriel Sullivan and Sarah Morris. 2015. Innovations and Lessons from the UK 2014-2015 Everyday Life Survey. *Electronic International Journal of Time Use Research* 12(1), 163-169.
- Fisher, Kimberly, Sandra L Hofferth, Sarah Flood, Joan García Román, Yoonjoo Lee and Jonathan Gershuny. 2015. Introducing the American Heritage Time Use Study Data Extract Builder (AHTUS-X). *Electronic International Journal of Time Use Research* 12(1), 169-173.
- Fisher, Kimberly, Stella Chatzitheochari, Emily Gilbert, Lisa Calderwood, Emla Fitzsimons, Andrew Cleary, Tom Huskinson and Jonathan Gershuny. 2015. *A Mixed-Mode Approach to Measuring Young Peoples' Time Use in the UK Millennium Cohort Study*. *Electronic International Journal of Time Use Research* 12(1), 174-180.
- Fisher, Kimberly. 2015. Reflections on Measuring Time Alone. *Electronic International Journal of Time Use Research* 12(1), 180-185.
- Fisher, Kimberly. 2015. *Book Notes*. *Electronic International Journal of Time Use Research* 12(1), 186-190.
- Kelly, Paul, Emma Thomas, Aiden Doherty, Teresa Harms, Órlaith Burke, Jonathan Gershuny and Charlie Foster. 2015. Developing a Method to Test the Validity of 24 Hour Time Use Diaries Using Wearable Cameras: A Feasibility Pilot. *PLoS ONE* 10(12), e0142198.
- Hofferth, Sandra L, Kimberly Fisher and Ignace Glorieux. 2015. Introduction Men's Family Involvement Across Industrial Nations: Introduction to Special Section. *Family Science* 6(1), 240-242.
- Altintas, Evrim. 2015. Educational Differences in Fathers' Time With Children in Two Parent Families: Time Diary Evidence From the United States. *Family Science* 6(1), 293-301.

## Announcements

### CTUR Website undergoing maintenance

Due to ongoing maintenance some areas of our website will not be accessible over the coming weeks. This includes our member login and publications sections. For more information please email [ctur@sociology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ctur@sociology.ox.ac.uk).

### Summaries of CTUR Survey & Data Work

You can read summaries of the CTUR Everyday Life UK Time Use Survey, our collaborations with the Millennium Cohort Survey time diaries, and the American Heritage Time Use Study Data Extract System in the new issue of the eJUTUR out today (all lists on the left side of our home page). Both the Everyday Life and MCS data will be available to researchers in 2016. The AHTUS data is available now.

### AHTUS easier to access

The American Heritage Time Use Study now is easier to access through the new AHTUS-X data extract system - try it out!

### 1st analysis of MCS app & web diaries out

The MCS web diary and time diary app successfully collected comparable data to the traditional paper time diary format - read analysis of the pilot and dress rehearsal in *Measuring Young People's Time-Use in the UK Millennium Cohort Study: A Mixed-Mode Time Diary Approach*

## Related links



## Website Statistics



## Follow us







# Public opinion and voting behaviour in a comparative perspective

## Primary links

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## POV-ECPR News

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## Home

### National Election Studies

Australian Election Study (AES)  
<http://aes.anu.edu.au/>

Austrian National Election Study (AUTNES)  
<http://www.autnes.at/>

British Election Study (BES)  
<http://www.essex.ac.uk/bes/> and the new website:  
<http://bes2009-10.org/>

Canadian Election Study  
<http://ces-eec.mcgill.ca/>

Danish election project  
<http://www.valgprojektet.dk/default.asp?l=eng>

Dutch Parliamentary Election Study (DPES)  
<http://www.dpes.nl/>

Hungarian Election Study (only in Hungarian)  
<http://www.valasztaskutatas.hu/>

Irish National Election Study (INES)  
<http://www.tcd.ie/ines/>

Israel National Election Studies (INES)  
<http://www.ines.tau.ac.il/elections.html>

Italian National Election Study (ITANES)  
<http://www.itanes.org/>

German Longitudinal Election Study (GLES)  
<http://www.dgfw.eu/index.php?lang=en>  
Data available at: <http://www.gesis.org/en/elections-home/gles/>

New Zealand Election Study (NZES)  
<http://www.nzes.org/>

Portuguese Election Study  
<http://www.cep.ics.ul.pt/pages/en/initial-page.php>  
<http://er.cies.iscte-iul.pt/>

Swedish National Election Studies (SNES)  
<http://www.valforskning.pol.gu.se/english/>

Swiss Electoral Studies (SELECTS)  
<http://www2.unil.ch/selects/?lang=en>

American National Election Study (ANES)

## Explore ESS findings on Europeans' Wellbeing

*This is a new initiative which showcases the scope that ESS data provide for exploring the definition, distribution and drivers of subjective wellbeing across Europe. More...*



lez Webb / [weareblackwood.com](http://weareblackwood.com)

The 3rd International ESS Conference • 13-15th July 2016 • Lausanne, Switzerland [MORE >>](#)

## Methodological Research

The European Social Survey runs a programme of research to support and enhance the methodology that underpins the high standards it pursues in every aspect of survey design, data collection and archiving.

## Data and Documentation

Data and documentation can be accessed by round (year), by theme or by country. Data are available for download and online analysis.

## ESS Resources

The ESS provides a series of outreach resources designed to increase the use of its data, including [ESS Bibliography](#), [Findings](#), [Training Courses](#) and [eLearning](#) resources.



# 10 golden rules of comparative surveys

## 1. No gee whiz

- Social scientists should undertake not to interpret survey data relating to a country about which they know little or nothing.

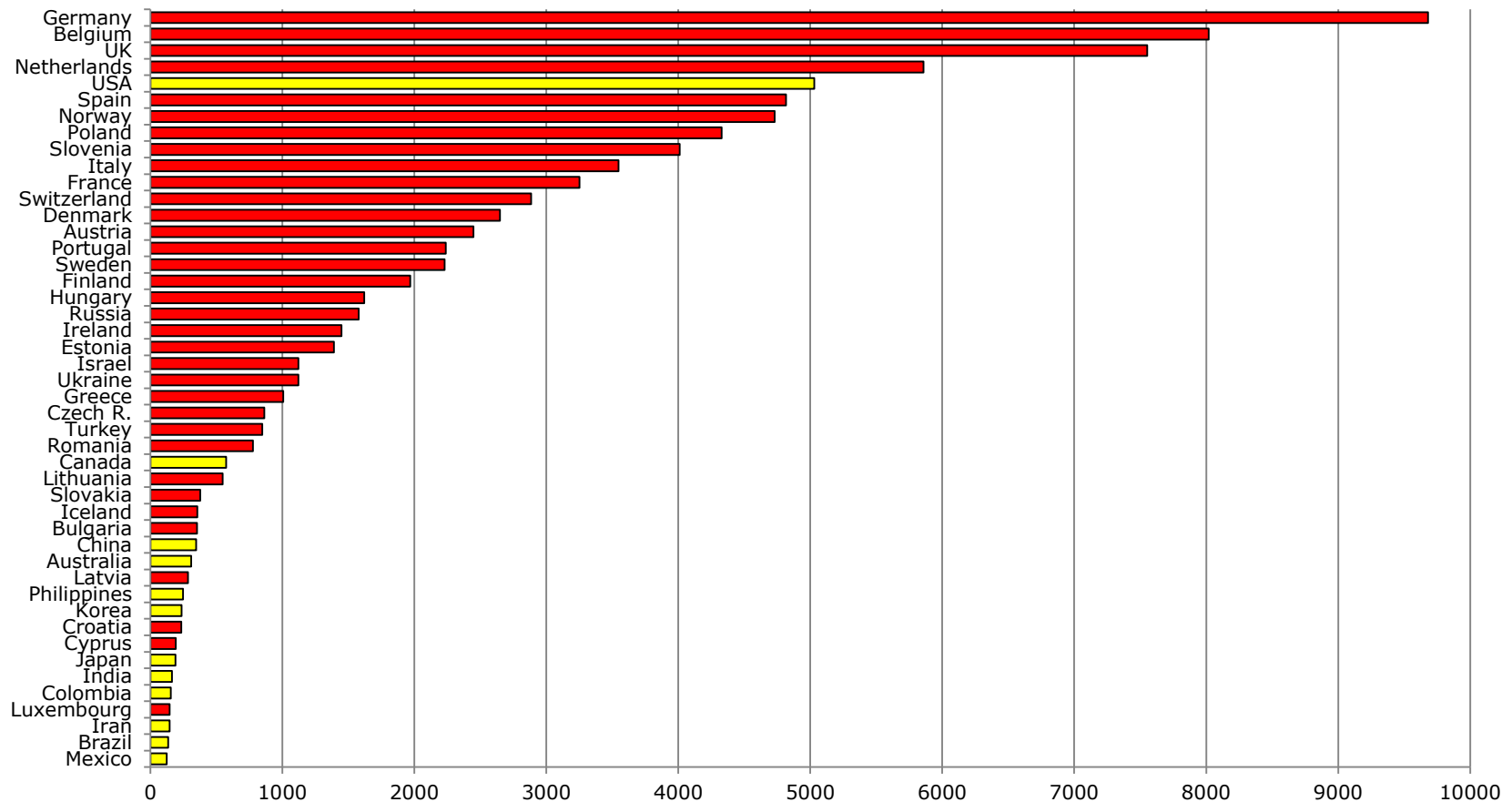
## 2. No league tables

- Analysts of cross-national data should resist the temptation to compare too many countries at once.



## ESS top data user countries (n>100)

(June 2016) (N=94,617) (Nc=236)





# 10 golden rules of comparative surveys (3)

## 3. Context is crucial

Cross-national surveys should pay as much attention to the choice and compilation of aggregate-level contextual variables as they do to individual-level dependent and independent variables.

## ESS Multilevel Data

The ESS Multilevel Data has been partly funded by the **Descartes Research Prize** awarded the ESS.

The purpose is to make it easier for the research community to analyse the ESS respondents with reference to the context they live in.

This resource contains data about a) individuals (the ESS respondents) b) regions and c) countries. The ESS survey data is the point of departure for this resource. The purpose is to facilitate the task of adding data on countries and regions to the ESS survey data. [More information...](#)

There are two gateways into the data:

Online Browsing	Multilevel Download
Browse data from three levels:	Combine data from six levels in your download:
ESS survey data Country ESS region <sup>1</sup>	ESS survey data Country ESS region <sup>1</sup> NUTS 1 NUTS 2 NUTS 3
Go to <a href="#">Online Browsing</a>	Go to <a href="#">Multilevel Download</a>

<sup>1</sup> = Most countries have a regional variable that is possible to map to the NUTS nomenclature. Some countries use NUTS 1, others NUTS 2 or 3, and the data is therefore collected from different files. [More about the ESS regions.](#)





# 10 golden rules of comparative surveys

## 4. Know your limits

- Social scientists contemplating or engaged in cross-national studies should be as open about their limitations as they are enthusiastic about their explanatory powers.



## Coverage errors LFS 2014 (selection <http://bit.ly/29PIBFX>)

BE	Households, all members of which are 77 years or older and collective households are excluded before draw.
CZ	Persons living in institutional households are not covered.
DE	Homeless people, other people without registered residence (e.g. people living in huts, caravans) out of frame
EL	Population living in collective households or in dwellings outside the borders of built areas is not covered.
IT	It is required that each non-responding household be replaced with a household having similar characteristics of the first one, in order to maintain as much as possible the sample representativeness and to minimize the impact of unit non-response. No more than 3 replaces are admitted.
LU	Households with no telephone will not be in the frame.
HU	Hard-to-access groups are characterized either by extremely bad traffic conditions to get to their place or by collective reluctance — usually within a small community — towards being interviewed. Though the effect of these factors cannot be estimated, it is supposed to be not significant.
NL	
AT	This could mean an undercoverage of recent migrants.
SK	The LFS sample is based on a Population Census conducted once each ten years (last time in 2011). There is the lack of information on new statistical units during a rather long period.
SE	The over coverage consists of people born abroad who left Sweden without reporting this to the Swedish authorities. When these persons are included in the sample there are no information that they have moved out from Sweden. They cannot be reached for interview and will be classified as non-response.
UK	The LFS coverage omits communal establishments, excepting NHS housing and students in halls of residence. Members of the armed forces are only included if they live in private accommodation.



# 10 golden rules of comparative surveys

## 5. Sound survey methodology

- Stringent and well-policed ground rules for comparable survey methods should become much more common in comparative studies than they are now.

### Managing the European Statistical System Eurostat's Perspective

Marie Bohatá, Eurostat  
2010 IAOS Conference  
Santiago, 20-22 October 2010



# ESS definition and challenges

Partnership between the Community statistical authority (Eurostat), the national statistical institutes (NSIs) and other national authorities

- Governance – **strategic partnership**
- Achieve more operational integration and more specialisation and consequently also reduced heterogeneity among NSIs – **operational partnership**
- European Statistics seen as a by-product of national statistics (the sum of national components, output harmonisation) - **development of true EU statistics based on identical methods, more input harmonisation**



# 10 golden rules of comparative surveys

6. Be wary of spectacular country differences
  - Analysts of cross-national data should undertake to suspend belief initially in any major inter-country differences they discover.





Monkey Cage

## World values lost in translation

By Charles Kurzman September 2, 2014



Soldiers parade during official celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Vietnam's Dien Bien Phu victory over France at a stadium in the Northwestern town of Dien Bien Phu on May 7. (Hoang Dinh Nam/AFP/Getty Images)

- Washington Post
- World Values Survey
- Inglehart and Wetzel reported weak statistical correlation with pro-democracy values "that only exists because of one single leverage case: Vietnam. Without Vietnam, there would be no relationship at all."
- In favor of military rule
- 2001: 99%
- 2006: 33%
- 2001: military role



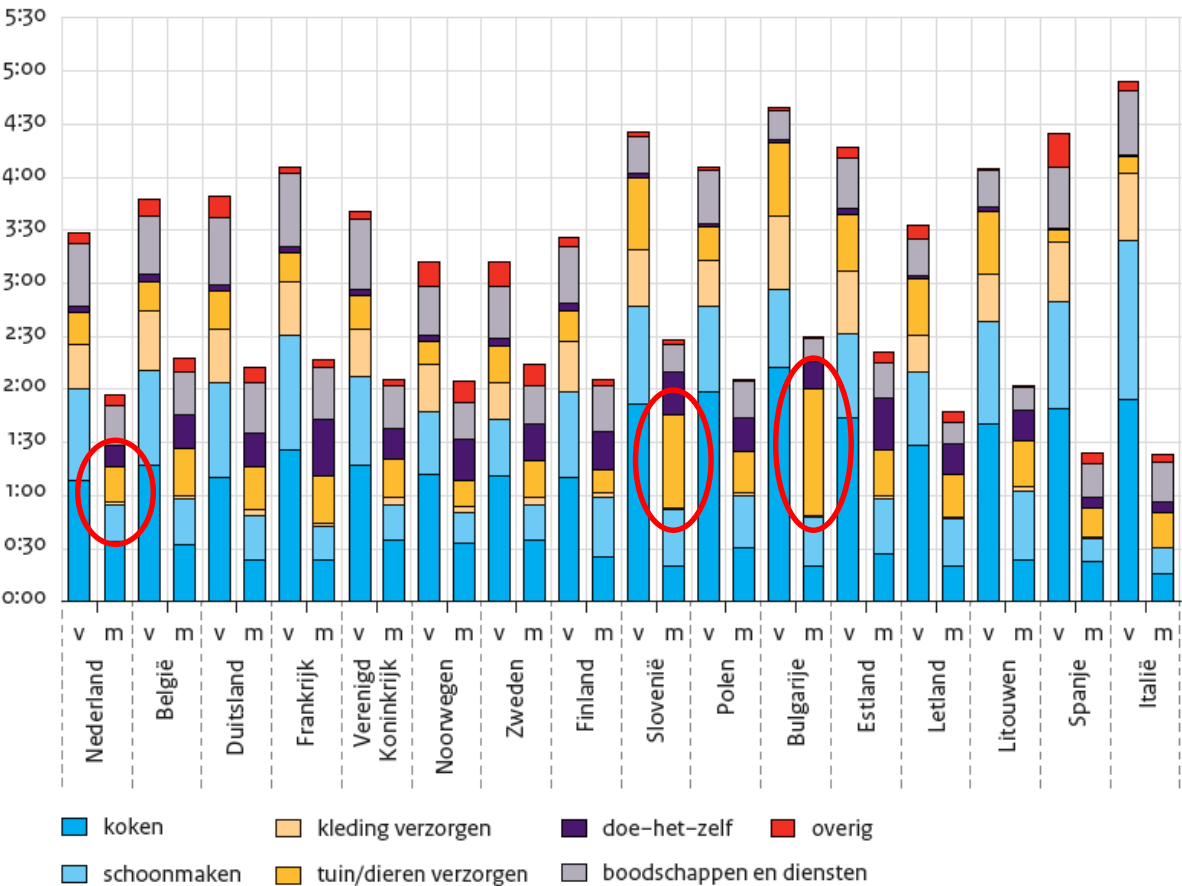
# 10 golden rules of comparative surveys

## 7. Be guided by aims and theory

- Emerging naturally from the six previous rules, cross-national surveys should ideally be confined to the smallest number of countries consistent with their aims, rather than celebrating as many nations as possible in their purview.

Figuur 3.2

Tijd besteed aan diverse huishoudelijke taken<sup>a</sup> naar geslacht in Nederland en vijftien Europese vergelijkingslanden, bevolking 20-74 jaar (in uren:minuten per dag)



a Frankrijk excl. hond uitlaten, Finland en Noorwegen excl. dieren verzorgen.

Bron: Nederland: SCP (TBO '06/EU); overige landen: HETUS

- Time Use Survey
- Time spent on housekeeping (h:m/day)
- Gardening and taking care of animals



# 10 golden rules of comparative surveys

## 8. Avoid single country perspective

- In order to transform cross-national surveys from parallel exercises into joint ones, collective development work, experimentation, scale construction and piloting should be undertaken in all participating nations.





## CSDI guidelines on adaptation (Harkness) (1)

- A recent international project proposed fielding the question in multiple countries
- "Can you lift a two liter bottle of water or soda?"



## CSDI guidelines on adaptation (Harkness) (2)

- Several locations (countries) noted that
  - the normal size of bottle in their context was 1.5 liter bottles, not 2 liter bottles
  - that they were unsure whether the bottle referred to was intended to be glass or plastic (which would affect the lifting task)
  - that "soda" was not a salient generic concept in their locations
  - that the formulation in English which indicates that the bottle is not empty
  - ("bottle of water or soda") needed to become "a full bottle of water" or "a bottle full of water" in their translations. However, there was some concern that these much more explicit renderings of "bottle of water" might alter respondent perceptions of the lifting task.





# 10 golden rules of comparative surveys

## 9. Publish and read methodological background information

- Routinely provide for secondary analysts of the data (and primary analysts for that matter) detailed methodological reports about each participating nation's procedures, methods and success rates, highlighting rather than suppressing variations.

### Switzerland • documents and data files

#### ESS Round 7 - 2014

##### Data files

Country file (subset of integrated file)

Parents' occupation - country file

Country-specific data

##### Documents in French

ESS7 Main and Supplementary Questionnaire CH (Fre)

ESS7 Interviewer Questionnaire CH (Fre)

ESS7 Contact Form CH (Fre)

ESS7 Showcards CH (Fre)

ESS7 Fieldwork and Interviewer Instructions CH (Fre)

ESS7 Letters to Respondents CH (Fre)

ESS7 Capi Questionnaires CH (Fre)

##### Documents in German

ESS7 Main and Supplementary Questionnaire CH (Ger)

ESS7 Interviewer Questionnaire CH (Ger)

ESS7 Contact Form CH (Ger)

ESS7 Showcards CH (Ger)

ESS7 Fieldwork and Interviewer Instructions CH (Ger)

ESS7 Letters to Respondents CH (Ger)

ESS7 Capi Questionnaires CH (Ger)

##### Documents in Italian

ESS7 Main and Supplementary Questionnaire CH (Ita)

ESS7 Interviewer Questionnaire CH (Ita)

ESS7 Contact Form CH (Ita)

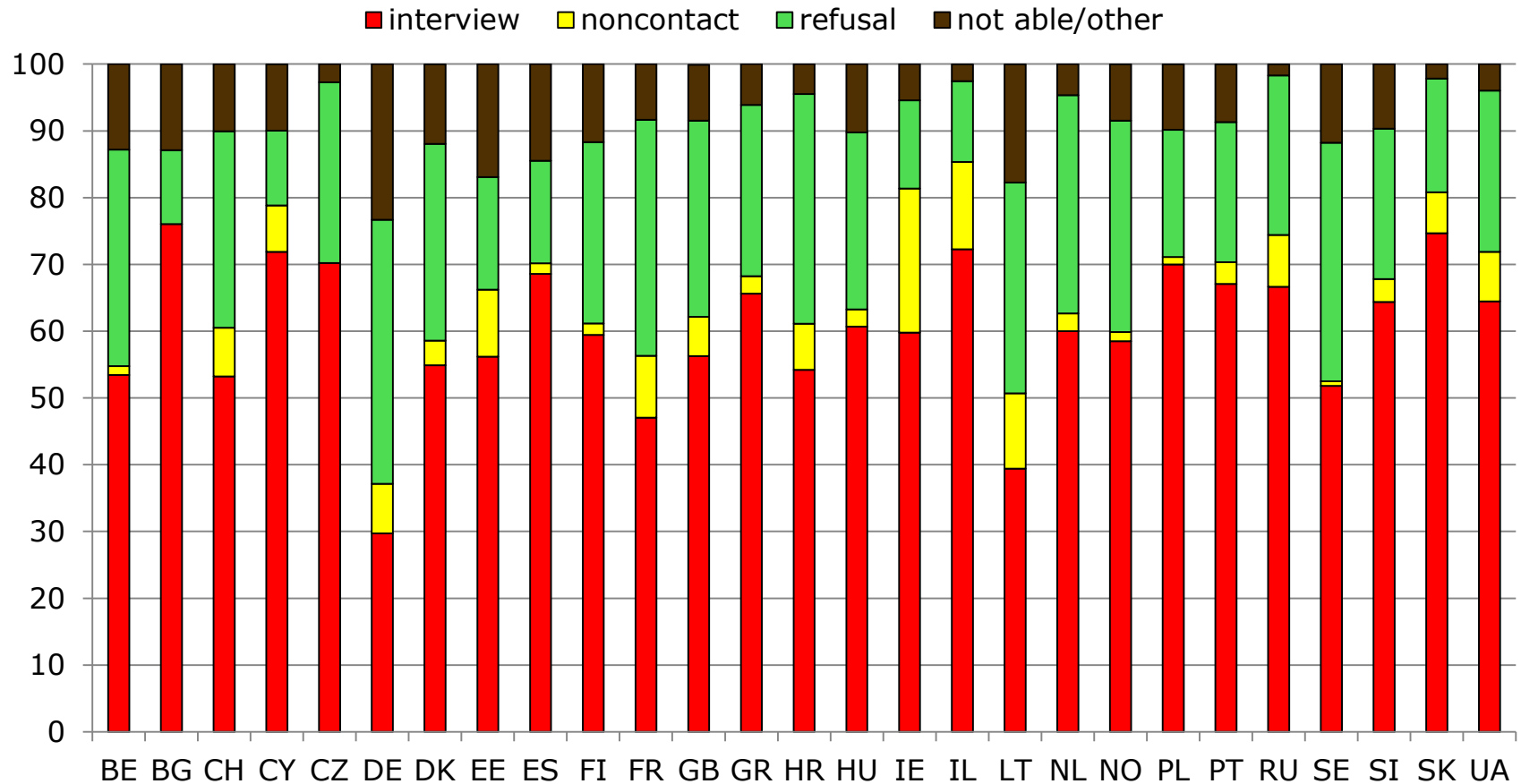
ESS7 Showcards CH (Ita)

ESS7 Letters to Respondents CH (Ita)

ESS7 Capi Questionnaires CH (Ita)



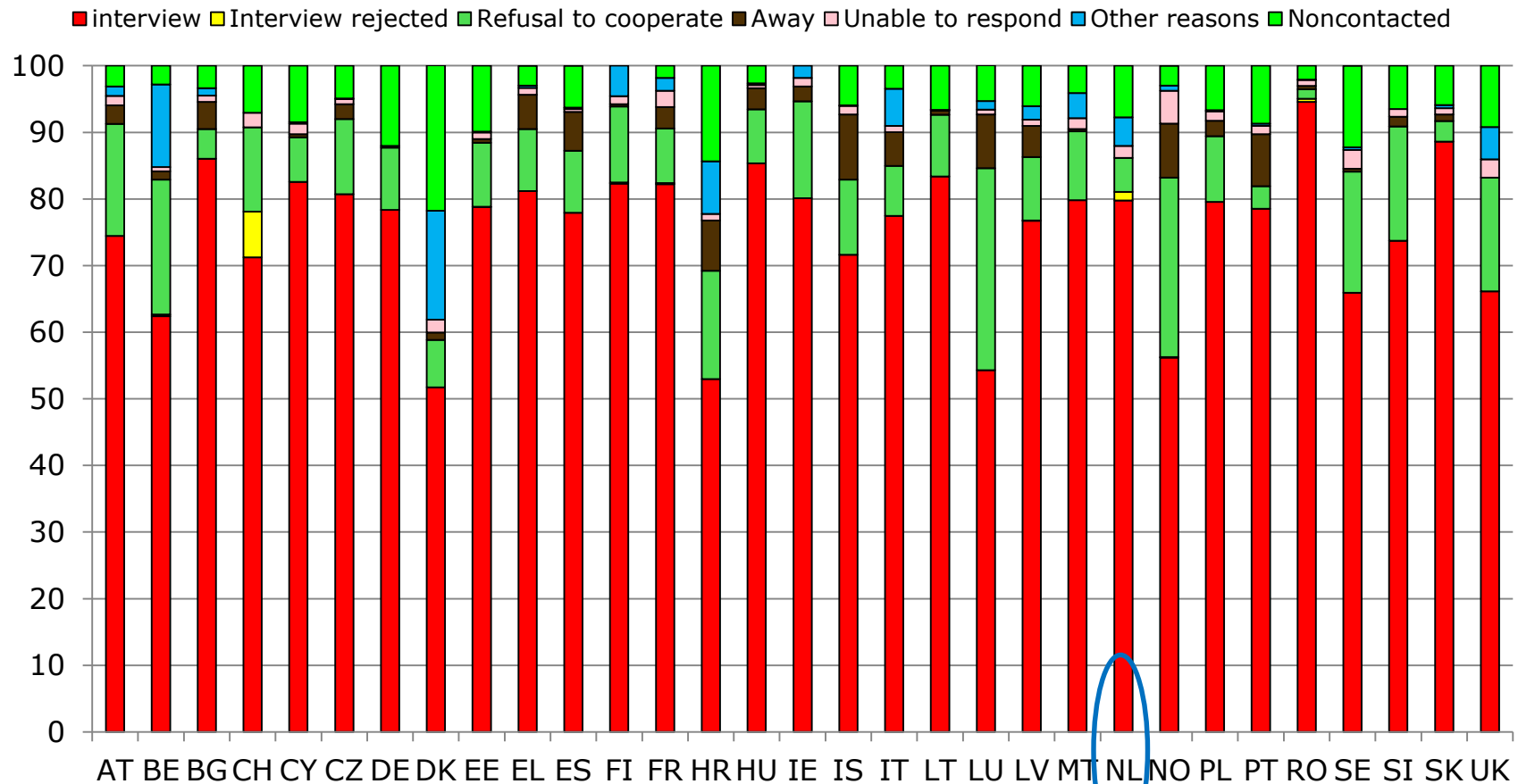
# Response outcomes European Social Survey, R5



Report on quality assessment of contact data files in Round 5: Final report 27 countries, Hideko Matsuo and Geert Loosveldt, Working paper Centre for Sociological Research (CeSO) Survey Methodology CeSO/SM/2013-3



# Response outcomes EU SILC 2010



2010 COMPARATIVE EU INTERMEDIATE QUALITY REPORT Version 3 – October 2012



## The Netherlands

### *Type of sampling design*

The EU-SILC NL 2010 survey is based on stratified two-stage sampling design, from two sets of addresses: the first part with households which participated in LFS survey and willing to cooperate also to EU-SILC survey and the second part with all residents aged 65 years and over.

### *Primary and secondary sample unit*

The primary sample unit (PSU) is the municipality.

The secondary sample unit (SSU) is the address.

All households on selected addresses are eligible for the survey. For the measurement of detailed information on social variables one member of the household aged 16 and over is selected.

### *Stratification criteria*

Stratification is done by geographical criteria (NUTS3) into 40 strata.

### *Sample selection scheme*

At the first stage sample is selected with PPS where size is the number of addresses per municipality. At the second stage the selection is done by simple random sampling such that the total sampling design becomes self-weighting.

### *Renewal of sample*

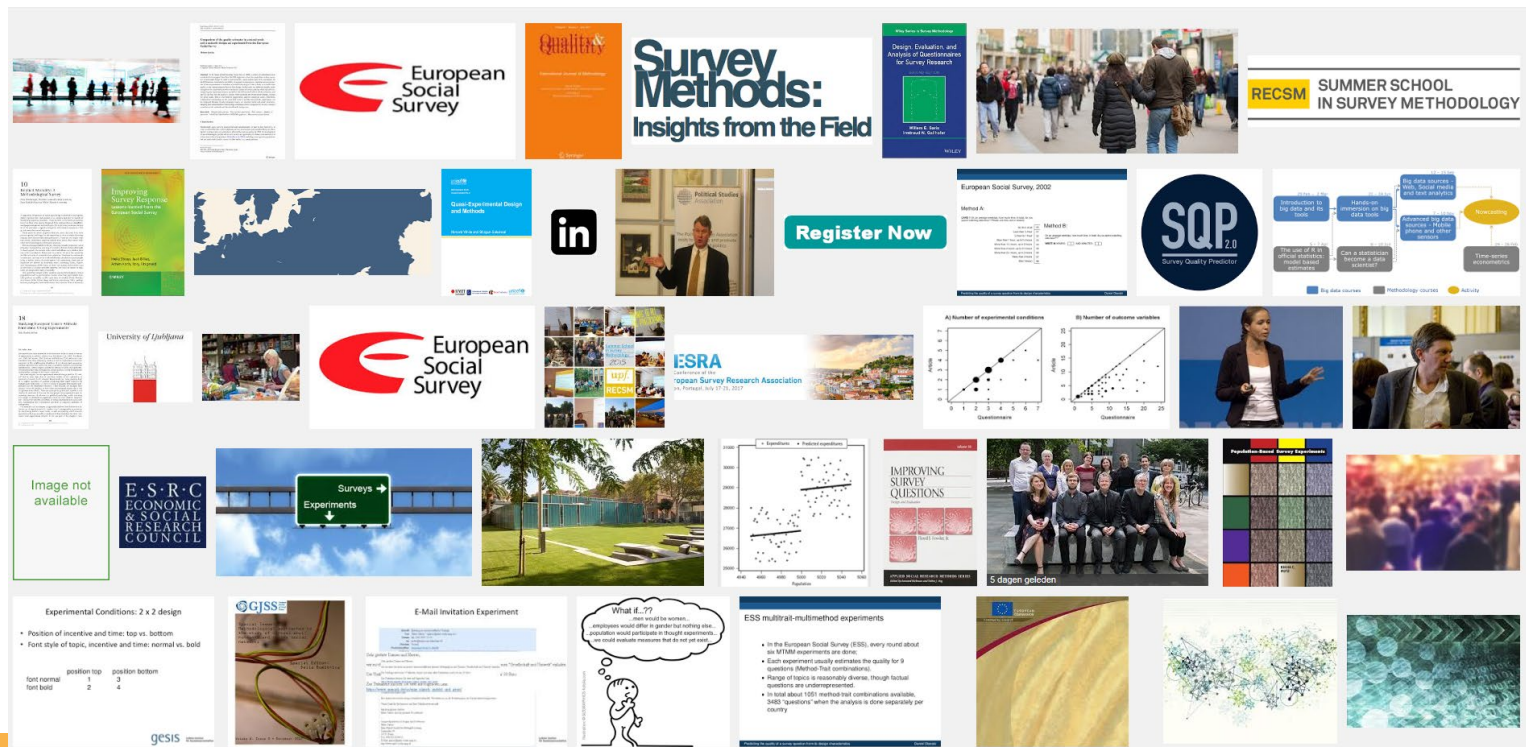
The Netherlands has adopted the 4-year rotational integrated design recommended by Eurostat.



# 10 golden rules of comparative surveys

## 10. Experiment, innovate and improve

- Routinely include methodological experiments in cross-national research







# What should users know about cross-national surveys

- History
- Aims
- Coverage
- Sampling: design and frames
- Nonresponse
- Languages
- Translation
- Questionnaires
- Survey modes
- National context



# Why 3MC knowledge is relevant for national surveys

- Different languages
- Different cultures
  - Ethnic minority groups
  - Regions/states
  - Generations
- Subgroups that are often excluded
  - Non private residents (most statistical surveys)
  - Not in population register
- House effects (unknown unknowns)
- Characteristics interviewers
- Generalise from Anglo-Saxon survey literature?
  - Incentives
  - Advance letters



# Why 3MC knowledge is relevant for national surveys

- Survey modes
  - Different mode – different language
- Background variables
  - Level of education (born in another country)
- Understanding survey questions
- Relevance questions
  - Divorce
- Own perspective
  - How was it for you to grow up as someone from foreign origin?
  - How would you feel about your daughter marrying someone from Turkish descent?



## What did I learn from cross-national surveys?

- You take so much for granted
  - Is our way the best way?
  - Is our way the only way?
- It's complicated
  - Is it doable?
  - Are national surveys doable?
- Don't take anything for granted
  - Delve deeper
- Herding cats
- And I made a lot of friends and went to a lot of wonderful places





Thank you for your attention

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