



gesis

Leibniz Institute  
for the Social Sciences

TECHNICAL *Reports*

2010|17

European *Values* Study 

EVS 2008 Method Report

Country Report - Belgium

*Documentation of the full data release 30/11/10*

*Related to the national dataset*

*Archive-Study-No. ZA4759, doi:10.4232/1.10156*

*European Values Study and*

*GESIS Data Archive for the Social Sciences*

## Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork of the 2008 European Values Study (EVS) was financially supported by universities and research institutes, national science foundations, charitable trusts and foundations, companies and church organizations in the EVS member countries.

A major sponsor of the surveys in several Central and Eastern European countries was Renovabis.



Renovabis - Solidarity initiative of the German Catholics with the people in Central and Eastern Europe: Project No. MOE016847 <http://www.renovabis.de/>.

An overview of all national sponsors of the 2008 survey is provided in the "EVS 2008 Method Report" in section funding agency/sponsor, the "EVS 2008 Guidelines and Recommendations", and on the website of the European Values Study <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/sponsoring.html>.

The project would not have been possible without the National Program Directors in the EVS member countries and their local teams.

Gallup Europe developed a special questionnaire translation system WebTrans, which appeared to be very valuable and enhanced the quality of the project.

Special thanks also go to the teams at Tilburg University, CEPS/INSTEAD Luxembourg, and GESIS Data Archive for the Social Sciences Cologne.

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## Introduction

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The present paper is an excerpt from the "EVS 2008 Method Report" on the Integrated Dataset published in volume 17 of series GESIS-Technical Reports in December 2010.

The EVS 2008 Method Report provides standardised information on the survey implementation and fieldwork procedures in the EVS member countries. Metadata includes all information given in the methodological questionnaires completed by each national team or the fieldwork organization.

After the EVS reviewed the fieldwork information it was archived in a database designed by the GESIS Data Archive. The outcome of the database was reviewed by the national teams and/or fieldwork organization before making them publicly available.

The structure of the database corresponds to DDI/XML V.2 standards and ensures different output formats. This allows users to choose between several approaches to the standardized information: the "EVS 2008 Method Report" on the Integrated Dataset (PDF), a HTML surface that offers an extended Study Description, and the GESIS retrieval and analysis systems Online Study Catalogue ZACAT and Data Catalogue.

The Method Report consists of three sections providing metadata on the Integrated Dataset and the 47 national datasets:

Section one provides brief information on the EVS including an overview of all data and documentation available for EVS 2008 and refers to an easy way to get data access.

The study description of the Integrated Dataset in section two contains more general information and summarized country-specific information on study scope, principal investigator, funding agency, data depositor, data access and version, etc.

The third section includes the current country report on the national dataset providing comprehensive country-specific information on sampling procedure, mode of data collection, fieldwork procedure, and additional country-specific information on harmonized variables (electoral systems, political parties, education, occupation, and region).

## 1 European Values Study

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Where is Europe heading? This is one of the main questions of the European Values Study (EVS) – the most comprehensive research project on human values in Europe. The EVS is a large-scale, cross-national, and longitudinal survey research program on how Europeans think about family, work, religion, politics and society. Repeated every nine years in an increasing number of countries, the survey provides insights into the ideas, beliefs, preferences, attitudes, values, and opinions of citizens all over Europe.

The research program was initiated by the European Value System Study Group (EVSSG) in the late 1970s and has emerged as a well-established network of social and political scientists aiming at high standards in data creation and processing. The data is being intensively used in social science research and teaching. It may also be of interest to policymakers, politicians, journalists, and others interested in getting to know and understand the societies which they are part of.

Four waves of surveys were executed from 1981 to 2008. These surveys explore value differences, similarities, and value changes. Representative national samples were drawn from the population of citizens over 18 years of age and face-to-face interviews were carried out. Standardized questionnaires with comparable questions across waves were then administered.

- The first wave was conducted in 1981, when citizens of the European Member States of that time were interviewed. The national datasets were combined into an international dataset including a total of 16 countries.
- The second wave was launched in 1990 to explore the dynamics of value change. It covered almost the same themes as the first wave. Surveys were carried out in 29 European, as well as other countries.
- The wave in 1999/2000 was administered in 33 countries. Several new issues, such as questions on solidarity, social capital, democracy, and work ethics were added to the questionnaire of this wave.
- The fourth wave was carried out in 2008 and included a total of 47 European countries/regions. Again, the questions in this wave are highly comparable across waves and across countries. In addition, this wave has a strong focus on region, both within and across countries.

## 1.1 EVS 1981–2008: Participating countries

Specific information on country surveys and integrated data of single waves is available at the GESIS [Data Catalogue](#). The Study Descriptions include notes about Version History & Errata along with the information on the origin and context of the data.

Table 1: Participating countries in European Values Study 1981–2008

Country/Region	1981	1990	1999	2008
USA	1982	1990		
Canada	1982	1990		
Belgium	1981	1990	1999	2009
Denmark	1981	1990	1999	2008
France	1981	1990	1999	2008
Germany*	1981	1990	1999	2008/2009
Great Britain	1981	1990	1999	2009/2010
Iceland	1984	1990	1999	2009/2010
Ireland	1981	1990	2000	2008
Italy	1981	1990	1999	2009
Malta	1984	1991	1999	2008
Netherlands	1981	1990	1999	2008
Northern Ireland	1981	1990	1999	2008
Spain	1981	1990	1999	2008
Sweden	1982	1990	2000	2009/2010
Norway	1982	1990		2008
Austria		1990	1999	2008
Bulgaria		1991	1999	2008
Czech Republic		1991	1999	2008
Estonia		1990	1999	2008
Finland		1990	2000	2009
Hungary		1991	1999	2008/2009
Latvia		1990	1999	2008
Lithuania		1990	1999	2008
Poland		1990	1999	2008
Portugal		1990	1999	2008
Romania		1993	1999	2008
Slovak Republic		1991	1999	2008
Slovenia		1992	1999	2008
Belarus			2000	2008
Croatia			1999	2008
Greece			1999	2008
Luxembourg			1999	2008
Russian Federation			1999	2008
Turkey			1999	2008/2009
Ukraine			2001	2008
Albania				2008
Armenia				2008
Azerbaijan				2008
Bosnia and Herzegovina				2008
Cyprus				2008
Northern Cyprus				2008
Georgia				2008
Kosovo				2008
Macedonia, Republic of				2008
Moldova, Republic of				2008
Montenegro, Republic of				2008
Serbia				2008
Switzerland				2008

\*1981 only West-Germany

## 1.2 EVS 2008

The fourth wave has a persistent focus on a broad range of values. Questions with respect to family, work, religious, political and societal values are highly comparable with those in earlier waves (1981, 1990 and 1999/2000). This longitudinal scope of the study makes it possible to study trends in time. EVS draws random probability samples with a net sample size 1500 which again differs in countries regarding their population size. Usually citizens were interviewed personally (face-to-face).

The EVS 2008 has an increasing international and regional coverage. It covers almost all countries of Europe. In total, the fieldwork is administered in 47 countries/regions:

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Cyprus (North), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Great-Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Montenegro, The Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine.

The full data release (Version 2.0.0, 2010-11-30) includes data and documentation of all participating countries/regions in EVS 2008.

Large efforts were taken to guarantee high scientific standards in developing and translating the Master Questionnaire and the field questionnaires, high quality fieldwork, and standardized data processing and documentation.

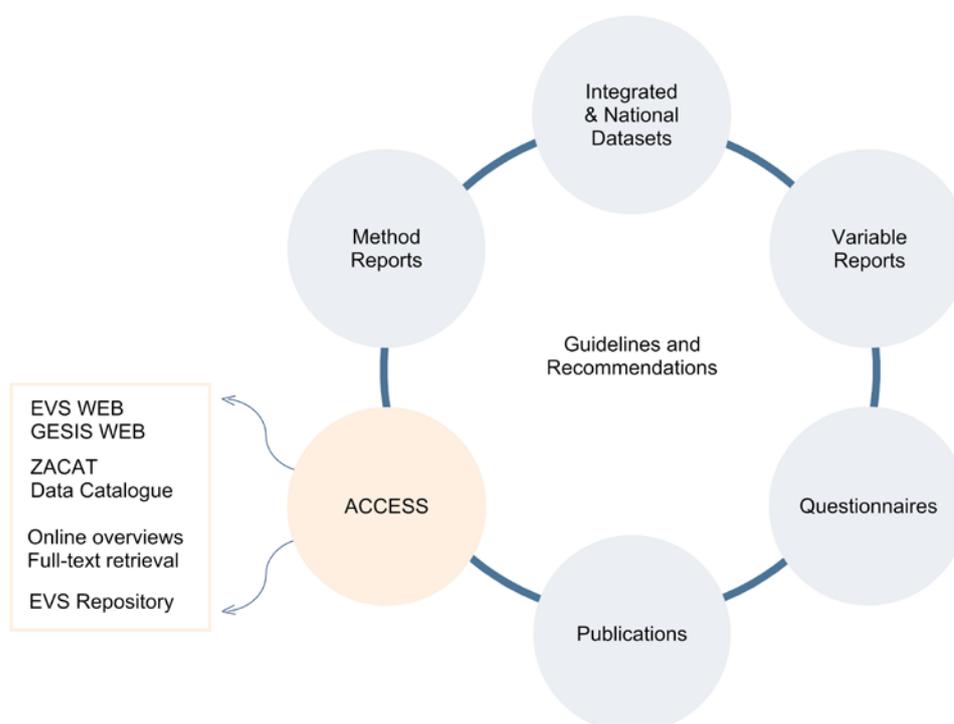
A set of guidelines and recommendations was set up and the whole process of data creation and processing was guided and monitored by the EVS advisory groups.

For more information, see the report "EVS 2008 Guidelines and Recommendations" provided on EVS website and additionally via GESIS Online Study Catalogue - ZACAT and Data Catalogue.

### 1.3 Overview of data and documentation of EVS 2008

The documentation created for the fourth EVS wave includes both the guidelines and standards developed to produce comparable data and detailed information on peculiarities of the national datasets on study and variable level.

Figure 1: Overview of available data and documentation



#### Data

Beside the Integrated Dataset the national datasets, including additional country-specific variables, are provided through ZACAT for national rather than multinational use.

#### Reports

Standards and recommendations designed by the EVS advisory groups for all countries are compiled in the report "EVS 2008 Guidelines and Recommendations". The information is mainly related to the questionnaire development and translation process, fieldwork, and data processing.

The "EVS 2008 Method Report" includes both summarized information on the Integrated Dataset and country reports with country-specific information on the origin of the national datasets. It is based on the methodological questionnaires submitted by all EVS member countries.

The English variable documentation on the Integrated Dataset and the bilingual variable report on each national dataset are available as "EVS 2008 - Variable Reports".

#### Questionnaires

The English Master Questionnaire and the field questionnaires in all languages fielded in participating countries are downloadable.

#### Publications

The EVS repository is an easy way to find relevant publications based on EVS data. Moreover, it contains enhanced publications with direct links to the dataset, variables, and syntax codes of the concepts used.

## 1.4 Access to data and documentation

The data and documentation of the four EVS waves is publicly available at the EVS and GESIS websites.

### General study information

The EVS website (<http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>) covers information on the origin of the project, and the master questionnaires as well as field questionnaires in different language versions. Additionally, method reports and original language variable reports of integrated and/or national datasets are offered for the third and fourth EVS wave.

### Data and documentation

**ZACAT** - GESIS Online Study Catalogue provides data of all EVS waves for retrieval purposes, data exploration and free download. It supports full access to datasets and documentation and assists users in identifying trend variables of all four waves. Furthermore, ZACAT enables comparisons of original questions in survey languages of the third and fourth wave.

### Version History & Errata

**GESIS Data Catalogue** provides an overview on version history and errata. It contains study descriptions for all EVS datasets with information about updates, errors, and error corrections.

### Online study and variable information

Online study description and variable overview offer comprehensive metadata on the EVS datasets and variables.

The **extended study description** of the EVS 2008 provides country-specific information on the origin and outcomes of the national surveys.

The **variable overview** is available for the four EVS waves 1981- 2008. It allows identification of country-specific deviations in the question wording within and across the waves.

### Full-text retrieval

Qbase-retrieval system is a facility for word/phrase searches in EVS text documents.

**Method report retrieval** supports full-text searches in EVS 2008 guidelines and method reports of both integrated and national datasets.

**Question text retrieval** serves for full-text searches in the Master Questionnaire and variable reports of integrated datasets of all EVS waves 1981-2008 and in bilingual variable reports of national datasets.

### Publication

EVS Repository contains publications based on the data of the EVS. These publications are mostly enhanced with direct links to datasets, variables, and syntax codes of concepts used. The EVS Repository can be found at <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/publications/>.

### Secondary education

In cooperation with Fontys University of Applied Sciences Netherlands, a special EVS website for educational use has been established (<http://www.atlasofeuropeanvalues.eu/>). By means of maps, teachers and pupils can make assignments and gain a better understanding of European values.

### The Atlas of European Values

Published in 2005, the Atlas of European Values unlocks the results of the EVS project for the general public. It presents values, beliefs, attitudes, and opinions through graphs, charts, and maps (<http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/evsatlas.html>).

## 1.5 Bibliographic Citation

Publications based on EVS data should acknowledge this by means of bibliographic citations. To ensure that such source attributions are captured for social science bibliographic utilities, citations must appear in the footnotes or in the reference section of publications.

How to cite the data:

EVS (2010): European Values Study 2008, 4th wave, Belgium. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne, Germany, ZA4759 Data File Version 1.1.0 (2010-11-30), [doi:10.4232/1.10156](https://doi.org/10.4232/1.10156).

The country report is an excerpt from the EVS 2008 Method Report on Integrated Dataset published in volume 17 of series GESIS-Technical Reports. This paper should be cited as the following publication:

EVS, GESIS (2010): EVS 2008 Method Report. GESIS-Technical Reports 2010/17. Retrieved from <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>.

In addition to data files a study comprises further data depositor's original documents and materials processed by the Data Archive: for example code sheets, questionnaires or reports. It is recommended to acknowledge respective documents from the archive holdings in publications by means of bibliographic citations including Archive-Study-No.

### Disclaimer

EVS, GESIS, and the producers bear no responsibility for the uses of the EVS data, or for interpretations or inferences based on these uses. EVS, GESIS, and the producers accept no liability for indirect, consequential or incidental damages or losses arising from use of the data collection, or from the unavailability of, or break in access to the service for whatever reason.

Country Report  
Belgium

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Study Description

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**EUROPEAN VALUES STUDY 2008 - BELGIUM**

**I. BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION**

STUDY NO.

ZA4759

VERSION

Data File Version 1.1.0 (2010-11-30) doi:10.4232/1.10156 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.4232/1.10156>)

ALTERNATIVE TITLE

EVS 2008

STUDY COLLECTION: TITLE

European Values Study

STUDY COLLECTION: DESCRIPTION

The EVS is a large-scale, cross-national, and longitudinal survey research program on basic human values conducted in 1981 (16 countries), 1990 (29 countries), 1999/2000 (33 countries), and 2008 in 47 countries/regions.

AUTHORING ENTITY

European Values Study at Tilburg University

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Prof. dr. Marc Swyngedouw (Program director Flanders)  
Prof. dr. Liliane Voye (Program director Wallonia)  
Koen Abts, Jaak Billiet  
Center for Sociological Research, Catholic University of Leuven

FUNDING AGENCY/SPONSOR

Koning Boudewijnstichting  
Center for Sociological Research, Catholic University of Leuven

DATA DEPOSITOR

Prof. dr. Marc Swyngedouw

DATA DISTRIBUTOR

GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Data Archive  
Bachemer Str. 40, 50931 Köln, Germany; Postal address: Postfach 41 09 60, 50869 Köln, Germany  
Phone: +49/(0)221/47694-0; Fax: +49/(0)221/47694-44  
GESIS Web: <http://www.gesis.org/>  
EVS Web: <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION

EVS (2010): European Values Study 2008, 4th wave, Belgium. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne, Germany, ZA4759  
Data File Version 1.1.0 (2010-11-30) doi:10.4232/1.10156 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.4232/1.10156>).

**II. STUDY SCOPE**

TOPIC CLASSIFICATION

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## Study Description

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Moral, religious, societal, political, work, and family values of Europeans.

### ABSTRACT

Topics: 1. Perceptions of life: importance of work, family, friends and acquaintances, leisure time, politics and religion; frequency of political discussions with friends; happiness; self-assessment of own health; memberships and unpaid work (volunteering) in: social welfare services, religious or church organisations, education, or cultural activities, labour unions, political parties, local political actions, human rights, environmental or peace movement, professional associations, youth work, sports clubs, women's groups, voluntary associations concerned with health or other groups; tolerance towards minorities (people with a criminal record, of a different race, left/right wing extremists, alcohol addicts, large families, emotionally unstable people, Muslims, immigrants, AIDS sufferers, drug addicts, homosexuals, Jews, gypsies and Christians - social distance); trust in people; estimation of people's fair and helpful behaviour; internal or external control; satisfaction with life.

2. Work: reasons for people to live in need; importance of selected aspects of occupational work; employment status; general work satisfaction; freedom of decision-taking in the job; importance of work (work ethics, scale); important aspects of leisure time; attitude towards following instructions at work without criticism (obedience work); give priority to nationals over foreigners as well as men over women in jobs.

3. Religion: Individual or general clear guidelines for good and evil; religious denomination; current and former religious denomination; current frequency of church attendance and at the age of 12; importance of religious celebration at birth, marriage, and funeral; self-assessment of religiousness; churches give adequate answers to moral questions, problems of family life, spiritual needs and social problems of the country; belief in God, life after death, hell, heaven, sin and re-incarnation; personal God versus spirit or life force; own way of connecting with the divine; interest in the sacred or the supernatural; attitude towards the existence of one true religion; importance of God in one's life (10-point-scale); experience of comfort and strength from religion and belief; moments of prayer and meditation; frequency of prayers; belief in lucky charms or a talisman (10-point-scale); attitude towards the separation of church and state.

4. Family and marriage: most important criteria for a successful marriage (scale); attitude towards childcare (a child needs a home with father and mother, a woman has to have children to be fulfilled, marriage is an out-dated institution, woman as a single-parent); attitude towards marriage, children, and traditional family structure (scale); attitude towards traditional understanding of one's role of man and woman in occupation and family (scale); attitude towards: respect and love for parents, parent's responsibilities for their children and the responsibility of adult children for their parents when they are in need of long-term care; importance of educational goals; attitude towards abortion.

5. Politics and society: political interest; political participation; preference for individual freedom or social equality; self-assessment on a left-right continuum (10-point-scale); self-responsibility or governmental provision; free decision of job-taking of the unemployed or no permission to refuse a job; advantage or harmfulness of competition; liberty of firms or governmental control; equal incomes or incentives for individual efforts; attitude concerning capitalism versus government ownership; postmaterialism (scale); expectation of future development (less emphasis on money and material possessions, greater respect for authority); trust in institutions; satisfaction with democracy; assessment of the political system of the country as good or bad (10-point-scale); preferred type of political system (strong leader, expert decisions, army should rule the country, or democracy); attitude towards democracy (scale).

6. Moral attitudes (scale: claiming state benefits without entitlement, cheating on taxes, joyriding, taking soft drugs, lying, adultery, bribe money, homosexuality, abortion, divorce, euthanasia, suicide, corruption, paying cash, casual sex, avoiding fare on public transport, prostitution, experiments with human embryos, genetic manipulation of food, insemination or in-vitro fertilization and death penalty).

7. National identity: geographical group the respondent feels belonging to (town, region of country, country,

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## Study Description

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Europe, the world); citizenship; national pride; fears associated with the European Union (the loss of social security and national identity, growing expenditure of the own country, the loss of power in the world for one's own country and the loss of jobs); attitude towards the enlargement of the European Union (10-point-scale); voting intentions in the next election and party preference; party that appeals most; preferred immigrant policy; opinion on terrorism; attitude towards immigrants and their customs and traditions (take jobs away, undermine a country's cultural life, make crime problems worse, strain on country's welfare system, threat to society, maintain distinct customs and traditions); feeling like a stranger in one's own country; too many immigrants; important aspects of national identity (being born in the country, to respect country's political institutions and laws, to have country's ancestry, to speak the national language, to have lived for a long time in the country); interest in politics in the media; give authorities information to help justice versus stick to own affairs; closeness to family, neighbourhood, the people in the region, countrymen, Europeans and mankind; concerned about the living conditions of elderly people, unemployed, immigrants and sick or disabled people.

8. Environment: attitude towards the environment (scale: readiness to give part of own income for the environment, overpopulation, disastrous consequences from human interference with nature, human ingenuity remains earth fit to live in, the balance of nature is strong enough to cope with the impacts of modern industrial nations, humans were meant to rule over the rest of nature, an ecological catastrophe is inevitable).

Demography: sex; age (year of birth); born in the country of interview; country of birth; year of immigration into the country; father and mother born in the country; country of birth of father and mother; current legal marital status; living together with the partner before marriage or before the registration of partnership; living together with a partner and living with a partner before; steady relationship; married to previous partner; living together with previous partner before marriage; end of relationship; number of children; year of birth of the first child; size and composition of household; experienced events: the death of a child, of father or mother, the divorce of a child, of the parents or of another relative; age of respondent when these events took place; age at completion of education; highest educational level attained; employment status; employed or self-employed in the last job; profession (ISCO-88) and occupational position; supervising function and span of control; size of company.

Social origin and partner: respondent's partner or spouse: partner was born in the country and partner's country of birth; highest educational level; employment status of the partner; employment or self-employment of the partner in his/her last job; partner's profession (ISCO-88) and occupational position; supervising function of the partner and span of control; unemployment and dependence on social-security of the respondent and his partner longer than three months in the last five years; scale of household income; living together with parents when the respondent was 14 years old; highest educational level of father/mother; employment status of father/mother when the respondent was 14 years old; profession of father/mother (ISCO-88) and kind of work; number of employees (size of business); supervising function and span of control of father and mother; characterization of the parents when respondent was 14 years old (scale: liked to read books, discussed politics at home with their child, liked to follow the news, had problems making ends meet, had problems replacing broken things); region the respondent lived at the age of 14, present place of residence (postal code); size of town; region.

Interviewer rating: respondent's interest in the interview.

Additionally encoded: interviewer number; date of the interview; total length of the interview; time of the interview (start hour and start minute, end hour and end minute); language in which the interview was conducted.

Additional country specific variables are included in the national datasets.

### UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Individuals

### UNIVERSE

Persons 18 years or older who are resident within private households, regardless of nationality and citizenship or language.

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Study Description

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GEOGRAPHIC UNITS

Were there any regional categories changed since EVS 1999?	
Yes	
No	X
Country having not participated to EVS 1999	

Please list the categories in the variable Region in the data set

Correspondence with NUTS classification

BE100 Arr. de Bruxelles-Capitale / Arr. van Brussel-Hoofdstad  
 BE211 Arr. Antwerpen  
 BE212 Arr. Mechelen  
 BE213 Arr. Turnhout  
 BE221 Arr. Hasselt  
 BE222 Arr. Maaseik  
 BE223 Arr. Tongeren  
 BE231 Arr. Aalst  
 BE232 Arr. Dendermonde  
 BE233 Arr. Eeklo  
 BE234 Arr. Gent  
 BE235 Arr. Oudenaarde  
 BE236 Arr. Sint-Niklaas  
 BE241 Arr. Halle-Vilvoorde  
 BE242 Arr. Leuven  
 BE251 Arr. Brugge  
 BE252 Arr. Diksmuide  
 BE253 Arr. Ieper  
 BE254 Arr. Kortrijk  
 BE255 Arr. Oostende  
 BE256 Arr. Roeselare  
 BE256 Arr. Tielt  
 BE258 Arr. Veurne  
 BE310 Arr. Nivelles  
 BE321 Arr. Ath  
 BE322 Arr. Charleroi  
 BE323 Arr. Mons  
 BE324 Arr. Mouscron  
 BE325 Arr. Soignies  
 BE326 Arr. Thuin  
 BE327 Arr. Tournai  
 BE331 Arr. Huy  
 BE332 Arr. Liège  
 BE333 Arr. Verviers  
 BE334 Arr. Waremme  
 BE341 Arr. Arlon  
 BE342 Arr. Bastogne  
 BE343 Arr. Marche-en-Famenne

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## Study Description

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BE344 Arr. Neufchâteau  
 BE345 Arr. Virton  
 BE351 Arr. Dinant  
 BE352 Arr. Namur  
 BE353 Arr. Philippeville

### KIND OF DATA

Survey data

### FIELDWORK PERIOD

30-04-2009 to 02-08-2009

### III. METHODOLOGY AND PROCESSING

#### TIME METHOD

Cross section, partly repetitive

#### NUMBER OF VARIABLES

442

#### NUMBER OF UNITS

1509

#### ADDITIONAL COUNTRY-SPECIFIC VARIABLES

a. Additional country-specific questions included in the questionnaire:		
Yes		
No		X
b. Will additional country-specific variables be included in the data set deposited:		
Yes		
No		X
c. Will documentation of additional country-specific questions be deposited:		
Yes		
No		X

#### FIELDWORK ORGANISATION

TNS-Dimarso

F. Rigasquare 30, B-1030 Brussel, Belgium

#### LANGUAGE OF THE INTERVIEWS

Dutch, French

#### QUESTIONNAIRE TRANSLATION

WebTrans is a questionnaire database and translation system designed by Gallup Europe.

a. WebTrans has been used fully	X
WebTrans has not been used fully, but questions will be updated	

Study Description

WebTrans has not been used (fully)	
b. Translation of questionnaire items changed since EVS 1999:	NAP
Yes	
No	
c. If Yes, please list the question numbers:	NAP
d. Who did the translation of the questionnaire?	
The fieldwork agency	
The Programme Director or its team	X
Any other person (please specify):	
e. Were professional translators involved in the translation process?	
Yes	
No	X
f. What type of translation procedure was followed?	
Simple back-translation	X
Iterative back-translation	X
Other types of back-translation procedure	
TRADP or equivalent	
None of these	
g. Were there any questions or concepts that caused particular problems when being translated into your language?	
Yes	
No	X
Which?	

MODE OF DATA COLLECTION

Mode(s) of administration of the data collection (tick all applicable):	
CAPI (Computer assisted)	X
PAPI (Paper)	
Any other ....	

FIELD WORK PROCEDURE

A. INTERVIEWERS TRAINING	
Total number of interviewers:	104
Number of experienced interviewers:	87
Number of inexperienced interviewers:	17
How many of the interviewers received specific training for this survey?	104
How many members of the research team attended/participated/organized training sessions of interviewers?	5
Written EVS specific instructions:	
Yes	X
No	
Training in refusal conversion:	

Study Description

Yes	X
No	
<b>B. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THE INTERVIEWERS</b>	
a. Employment status of interviewers:	
Free-lance interviewers	X
Employed by the survey organization	
Other (please give details):	
b. Payment of interviewers:	
Hourly	
Per completed interview	X
Assigned payment (a fix payment for an assigned number of interviews)	
Regular fixed salary	
Bonus payment	
Other (please give details):	
<b>C. VISITS TO THE RESPONDENTS</b>	
Total number of minimum visits per respondent/sampling unit:	4
Among the total, required visits on week-ends:	1
Among the total, required visits in the evening:	1
<b>D. ENHANCING THE INTERVIEWS, INCENTIVES</b>	
a. Was any information, advance letter, brochure, leaflet used?	
Use of advance letter	Yes
Use of brochure, leaflet, written information	No
b. Was any incentive offered to respondent?	
No incentives	X
Unconditional monetary incentives (paid before the interview)	
Conditional monetary incentives (upon completion of the interview)	
Unconditional non-monetary incentives (given before the interview)	
Conditional non-monetary incentives (upon completion of the interview)	
Please specify and give as much details as possible about the incentives:	
c. Use of other types of response enhancing measures (call-center, web-pages, hotline):	
Yes	X
No	
If yes, please specify and give as much details as possible about the procedure:	
A free phone number people could call for additional information about the project and the fieldwork	
<b>E. STRATEGY FOR REFUSAL CONVERSION</b>	
Yes	X
No	
If yes, please specify and give as much details as possible about the procedure:	
Only interviewers with the high response rates (not only for EVS, but taking previous academic assignments into account) worked on re-issued addresses. The sample points with the lowest response rates were recontacted.	
<b>F. PRETEST PERIOD (DD/MM/YY)</b>	
From: 11-03-2009	

## Study Description

To: 20-03-2009	
Number of pretest interviews:	8

### CONTROL OPERATIONS

Please note that refusals and non-contacts refer to what is considered as the final status of the sample unit.

	Interviews	Refusals	Non-contacts
Number of units selected for back-checking	1935	119	37
Number of back-check achieved	308	57	14
Number of units where outcome was confirmed	304	53	14
Type of back-checks: P(ersonal), T(elephone) or M(ail)	T	T	T

### CLEANING / VERIFICATION OF DATA AND QUESTIONNAIRE

<b>A. CHECKING OF DATA</b>		
a. Were data checked for consistency?		
Yes		X
No		
b. If yes, were the data edited?		
Yes, data corrected individually		
Yes, data corrected automatically		
Yes, data corrected both individually and automatically		X
No, no correction was done		
c. Were data corrected always according to filter instructions?		
Yes		X
No		
d. Who did the data corrections?		
The fieldwork agency		
The Programme Director or its team		X
Any other person (please specify):		
<b>B. VERIFICATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE - CAPI</b>		
a. How was the CAPI questionnaire programme checked?		
The CAPI questionnaire was checked by three persons independently by screening all the possible routings in the CAPI format. On the one hand the field manager of the fieldwork agency did it, on the other hand two job students has tried out the possible routings. Besides that, the CAPI questionnaire was also tested by doing different pretest interviews in quasi-real situations, namely a test interview with persons with various social-economic status.		
b. Who did the CAPI questionnaire checking?		
The fieldwork agency		X
The Programme Director or its team		X
Any other person (please specify):		
<b>C. VERIFICATOIN OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE - PAPI</b>		NAP
a. Was the scanning of optical or keying questionnaire checked?		
Yes		
No		
b. Who did the PAPI questionnaire checking?		

## Study Description

The fieldwork agency	
The Programme Director or its team	
Any other person (please specify):	
c. Approximate proportion of questionnaires checked?	NAP

### SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The samples are so called PPR samples. These are two-step samples that after a stratification stage (number of sets of equal size (e.g. 20 cases) proportional to region and province), result in equal selection probabilities for the secondary units (sampled persons).

In principle, the number of sets (PSU's depending of planned sample size) are first proportionally divided over provinces (and thus regions), it is randomly chosen how much sets will fall in each geographical administrative unit (a city or village). This is anyway proportional to size of the population in the cities/villages.

In the second step, it was the intention that the sample persons (secondary cases) of each set are completely randomly selected from the National Population Register (NPR). Since the NPR data was however not available because the permission of the privacy commission was not obtained in time, we had to use the Orgassim data, that is a register of all un-named individuals (with address, age and gender) for every address in Belgium.

We randomly assign sets (the primary units) to NIS-units (villages, towns, cities) with a probability proportional to the size of population in each NIS-unit. These primary sampling units contain the secondary sampling units, the individual respondents. We follow strictly the PPR-procedure, within both subsamples, resulting in equal selection probability for the secondary units.

For more elaborate information and tables concerning the sampling units see "Other documentation".

### CHARACTERISTIC OF SAMPLE

Response and non response (numbers)	
A. Total number of issued sample units (addresses, households or individuals):	3021
B. Refusal by respondent:	624
C. Refusal by proxy (or household or address refusal):	22
D. No contact (after at least 4 visits):	293
E. Language barrier:	92
F. Respondent mentally or physically unable to co-operate throughout fieldwork period:	112
G. Respondent unavailable throughout the fieldwork period for other reasons:	101
H. Address not residential (institution, business/industrial purpose):	93
I. Address not occupied (not occupied, demolished, not yet built):	25
J. Address not traceable:	60
K. Other ineligible address:	27
L. Respondent moved abroad/unknown destination:	13
M. Respondent deceased:	11
N. Other:	12
Y. Invalid interviews:	27
Z. Number of valid interviews:	1509
X. Number of units not accounted for (A-[sum of B to M,Y,Z]): if all sample units are accounted for, X will=0:	0

Did your sample have a panel component (either from the earlier EVS-survey or otherwise)?

Please specify:

## Study Description

- No panel component

### REPRESENTATIVITY

	Country level	Regional level
Age * Gender	X	X
Educational distribution	X	X
Degree of urbanisation		
Gender * Age * Education	X	X
... (any other than the above mentioned-see Appendix A; please specify)		

- Please see "Other documentation" for the country specific tables.

### WEIGHTS AND CHARACTERISTIC OF NATIONAL POPULATION

a. National weights variables included in the data set:	
Yes	
No	X
b. If Yes, please specify very precisely and with as much details as possible what type of weights. Document as much as possible:	NAP
c. Provide all information necessary for the Methodology Group to compute weights (what is the selection probability for each potential respondent?)	
Number of inhabitants over 18 year in your country at the time of interviewing (ideally number of residential people that are not institutionalised = sample frame):	10666866
The population size (ideally over 18, residential and not institutionalised) of the areas/strata at each step in the sample:	see table below
The actual number of interviewed respondent at each step of the sample for each area/stratum:	see table below
Population   Realised	
BE1 1048491 127	
BE2 6161600 791	
BE3 3456775 591	

#### Weighting Variables

##### Weight: gender by age

The variable "weight" was computed by the EVS for all national datasets on the basis of information and population statistics provided by the EVS countries. The weight is constructed on the basis of gender and age categories (-24; 25-34; ... ; 65-74; 75 and over). Value '0' implies that year of birth information was missing in the data.

The weight adjusts the socio-structural characteristic in the samples to the distribution of gender and age of the universe-population. In a future release, the weight variable will be developed further (also taking at least region into account). The current weight variable should be used with caution. Especially when the weights are "big", say outside the 0.50-2.00 range.

##### Weight: country-specific characterization

For German and Belgium data an additional country-specific weight variable (weight\_c) is provided that includes a special weight factor for the regions of Germany (East- and West) and of Belgium (Brussels capital region, Flanders and Walloon region). This design weight corrects for the disproportional sample size of these regions in both countries. The reported population sizes refer to adult inhabitants, i.e. people of age 18 and older. For the

## Study Description

computation of the weighing factors two calculation steps are necessary:

(I) (inh. Region1 / inh. country) \* total sample size = proportional share of interviews from Region1

(II) proportional share of interviews / realized share of interviews = weighing factor

Germany:

- West-Germany (81.54 % inhabitants West-Germany, total sample size is 2075):

$(55451318/68002101)*2075=1692$

Weighting factor for West-Germany (1071 interviews from West Germany):  $1692/1071=1.579$

- East Germany (18.46 % inhabitants East Germany, total sample size is 2075):

$(12550783/68002101)*2075=383$

Weighting factor for East-Germany (1004 interviews from East Germany):  $383/1004=0.381$

Belgium:

- Brussels - capital region (9.59 % inhabitants Brussels, total sample size is 1509):  $(818462/8534862)*1509=144$

Weighting factor for Brussels (127 interviews from Brussels):  $144/127 = 1.13385$

- Flanders (57.97 % inhabitants Flanders, total sample size is 1509):

$(4947997/ 8534862)*1509 = 874$

Weighting factor for Flanders (791 interviews from Flanders):  $874/791 = 1.1049$

- Walloon region (32.24 % inhabitants Walloon region, total sample size is 1509):  $(2768402/8534862)*1509 = 489$

Weighting factor for Walloon region (591 interviews from Walloon region):  $489/591 = 0.82741$

A combination (i.e multiplication) of the design weight "weight\_c" and the general weight "weight" corrects for any over-/under-sampling related to sex, age and regions.

### IV. DATA ACCESS

#### USAGE REGULATIONS

Data and documents are released for academic research and teaching - Access category A.

#### ANONYMISED DATA

According to data regulations in participating countries, only anonymised data are made available to users. Before depositing data, each national team was responsible for checking their data confidentiality.

	Anonymised - assured	Anonymised - Non assured
Respondent questionnaires	Yes	
Interviewer questionnaires	Yes	
Contact forms	Yes	

#### CITATION REQUIREMENTS

Publications based on EVS data should acknowledge this by means of a bibliographic citations as listed under item "Bibliographic Citation". To ensure that such source attributions are captured for social science bibliographic utilities, citations must appear in the footnotes or in the reference section of publications.

How to cite the data:

EVS (2010): European Values Study 2008, 4th wave, Belgium. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne, Germany, ZA4759 Data File Version 1.1.0 (2010-11-30) doi:10.4232/1.10156 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.4232/1.10156>).

How to cite this publication:

EVS, GESIS (2010): EVS 2008 Method Report. GESIS-Technical Reports 2010/17. Retrieved from <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>.

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## Study Description

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### DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS

To provide funding agencies with essential information about the use of EVS data and to facilitate the exchange of information about the EVS, users of EVS data are required to send to bibliographic citations and/or electronic copies of each completed report, article, conference paper or thesis abstract using EVS data. These will be included in the EVS repository. For more information, see [www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/publications](http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/publications).

### DISCLAIMER

EVS, GESIS, and the producers bear no responsibility for the uses of the EVS data, or for interpretations or inferences based on these uses. EVS, GESIS, and the producers accept no liability for indirect, consequential or incidental damages or losses arising from use of the data collection, or from the unavailability of, or break in access to the service for whatever reason.

### PUBLICATIONS

Publications using EVS data can be found in the EVS Repository. The repository is an easy way to find relevant publications in the field of value studies. Moreover, it contains enhanced publications with direct links to the dataset, variables, and syntax codes of the concepts used.

The EVS Repository can be found at [www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/publications](http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/evs/publications).

### EDUCATION

Please specify the educational variable:

## Study Description

ISCED 97	EVS 1999 Belgium	EVS 2009 Belgium (Dutch)	EVS 2009 Belgium (French)
0. Pre Primary	1. Lager onderwijs niet voltooid	1. Lager onderwijs niet voltooid	1. Ecole primaire non terminée
1. Primary of first stage basic	2. Geen schoolopleiding na lager onderwijs	2. Lager onderwijs	2. Ecole primaire avec certificate d'études
2. Lower secondary of second stage of basic education			
2A. To provide direct access to level 3A or 3B	5. Lager secundair algemeen vormend	5. Lager secundair onderwijs: algemeen (ASO)	5. Enseignement secondaire inférieur général
2B. To provide direct access to level 5B	3. Lager secundair beroepsonderwijs	3. Lager secundair onderwijs: beroeps (BSO)	3. Enseignement secondaire inférieur professionnel
2C. to lead directly to level 5A or 5B	4. Lager secundair technisch onderwijs	4. Lager secundair onderwijs: technisch (TSO) (A3)	4. Enseignement secondaire inférieur technique
3. Upper secondary education			
3A. To provide direct access to 5A	8. Hoger secundair algemeen vormend	8. Hoger secundair onderwijs: algemeen (ASO)	8. Enseignement secondaire supérieur général
3B. To provide direct access to 5B	6. Hoger secundair beroepsonderwijs	6. Hoger secundair onderwijs: beroeps (BSO)	6. Enseignement secondaire supérieur professionnel
3C. To provide direct access to 5A or 5B	7. Hoger secundair technisch onderwijs	7. Hoger secundair onderwijs: technisch (TSO) (A2)	7. Enseignement secondaire supérieur technique
4. Post secondary non-tertiary			
4A. Prepare for entry of level 5			
4B. Access to level 5 (for direct labour market)			
5. First stage of tertiary education			
5A. Theoretical based lead to entry to advanced research programs and professions with high skills requirements	11. Universitair onderwijs: kandidaturen 12. Universitair onderwijs: licentiaat of doctoraat	11. Universitair onderwijs: kandidatuur of academische bachelor 12. Universitair onderwijs: licentiaat of academische master 13. Universitair onderwijs: doctoraat of PhD	11. Enseignement universitaire: candidatures ou bachelor 12. Enseignement universitaire: licence ou master 13. Enseignement universitaire: doctorat
5B. Practically oriented, occupationally specific, more practical	9. Hoger niet-universitair onderwijs: korte type (twee-drie jaar) 10. Hoger niet-universitair onderwijs: lange type	9. Hoger niet-universitair onderwijs: korte type (A1) (HOKT) (Professionele Bachelor) 10. Hoger niet-universitair onderwijs: lange type (HOLT)	9. Enseignement supérieur non universitaire: type court (2-3 ans) 10. Enseignement supérieur non universitaire: type long
6. Second stage of tertiary			

### Description of educational system:

The education system is divided in four general parts: preschool education for ages 2,5 to 6, primary education for ages 6 to 12, secondary education for ages 12 to 18, and tertiary education in both university and nonuniversity format averaging from three to five years.

Primary education lasts for six years and leads to the Getuigschrift van Lager Onderwijs (Primary Education Certificate). Secondary education is provided for young people aged 12 to 18 in four branches: ASO (general), TSO (technical), KSO (artistic) and BSO (vocational), each divided into three 2-year periods. Pupils study as many subjects as possible during basic education. From the third and fourth year of secondary education, pupils can opt for a certain branch of study within ASO, TSO, KSO, or BSO. They may also follow a 7th year after the 6th TSO, KSO or BSO year, or study for a 5th year after the 4th BSO year. In the fifth and sixth years of secondary education pupils are offered either occupational training or higher education training. From age 15/16, pupils may

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## Study Description

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also attend from 1 day/week to 15 weeks/year part-time secondary education, while having signed a part-time labour or apprenticeship contract. General, vocational and technical secondary education lead to the Diploma van Secundair Onderwijs.

Universities and university colleges (in Flemish: "Hogescholen") offer higher education programmes; transfer from one type to another is possible thanks to bridging courses. Entrance examinations exist only for Civil Engineering, Architecture, Dental Sciences, Medical Sciences, Nautical Sciences and Fine Arts. For the Flemish Community, the most recent amendments linked to the Bologna Process are specified in the Higher Education Act of April 4, 2003. The degree structure from 2004/2005 is based on three main cycles (Bachelor-Master-PhD). The transitional period should end in 2006 and in 2010 for some programmes. A credit system based on ECTS has been applied since 1991 in universities and since 1994 in university colleges. The new Act endorses the compatibility of the existing credit system and the ECTS. Universities and University colleges have been delivering diploma supplements since 1991 and 1994 respectively. They are now adapted to the international one and all students can obtain a free English version of their diploma supplement on request. The Flemish community is a member of ENQA (European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) through the VLIR (Flemish Interuniversity Council) ) and the VLHORA (Flemish Council of University Colleges). The concept of accreditation has been integrated into the Higher Education Act. Private non-state higher education institutions can become registered institutions subject to the accreditation procedure. Before the academic year 2004/2005, university colleges used to offer both short-term (one cycle) three-year programmes and long-term (two cycles) four-to-five year programmes. As from 2004/2005, profession-oriented Bachelor's degrees are offered only in university colleges and two-tier Bachelor's and Master's degrees are offered in Universities and University colleges in an association framework. Thanks to associations allowed by the new Act, holders of a profession-oriented Bachelor's degree have access to Master programmes.

Owing originally to Article 17 of the Constitution of 1831 (which was retained as Article 24 in the new constitution), Belgium has more private than public schools, and almost all private schools are government subsidized. Federalization of education in 1989 gave the communities authority to organize education with federally provided financial resources and gave them very few areas of decision-making under federal control. The federal government determines the length of compulsory education, the minimum requirements for obtaining diplomas, and pensions and other benefits of teachers. Although at the community level the education authorities can set their own time tables, curriculum, and teaching methods, education has remained fairly comparable across the three communities. Belgian educators are well aware of the need to retain high standards in education, and to maintain its strong position among the world's 15 main trading nations.

Please indicate the correspondence between the national educational categories and ISCED standard classification.

### OCCUPATION

Occupation should be measured by ISCO88 as supplied; please specify any deviations:

- No deviations

### POLITICAL PARTIES

Please give a short description of each political party in the data set.

## Study Description

### Classification of political parties (Belgium)

	Name	Original complet name	Translation	Type of party	Region
1	CD&V	Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams	Christian Democratic and Flemish	Christian Democratic Party	Flemish
2	Open VLD	Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten	Flemish Liberals and Democrats	Liberal Party	Flemish
3	SP.a	Socialisten en Progressieven anders	Socialist and Progressive Alternative	Social democratic Party	Flemish
4	Vlaams Belang	Vlaams Belang	Flemish Interest	Extreme Right Party	Flemish
5	Groen!	Groen!	Green!	Green Party	Flemish
6	Lijst Dedecker	Lijst Dedecker	List Dedecker	Neoliberal populist party	Flemish
7	N-VA	Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie	New-Flemish Alliance	Flemish nationalist party	Flemish
8	SLP	Sociaal Liberale Partij	Social-Liberal Party	Social Liberal Party	Flemish
9	PS	Parti Socialiste	Socialist Party	Social Democratic Party	Wallonia
10	MR	Mouvement Réformateur	Reform Party	Liberal Party	Wallonia
11	CDH	Centre Démocrate Humaniste	Centre Democratic Humaniste	Christian Democratic Party	Wallonia
12	Ecolo	Ecolo	Ecolo	Green Party	Wallonia
13	FN	Front National	National Front	Extreme Right Party	Wallonia
14	PTB-UA	Parti du Travail de Belgique – Unité Antifasciste	Communist Party	Communist Party	Wallonia
15	LiDé	Libéral Démocrate	Libéral Democrats	Libertarian Party	Wallonia

Please indicate the position of political parties in relation to each other on a 10 point left-right scale:

We have used partly the Expert Survey of Liesbeth Hooghe, Ryan Bakker, Anna Brigevidh, Catherine De Vries, Erica Edwards, Gary Marks, Jan Rovny, Marco Steenbergen (2008), "Reliability and Validity of Measuring Party Positions: The Chapel Hill Expert Survey of 2002 and 2006". Unpublished Manuscript.

L-R : 'position of party in 2006 in terms of its overall ideological stance' (0=extreme left; 5=center and 10=extreme right).

1. PS - 3.5
2. SPA-spirit - 3.22
3. Ecolo - 2.83
4. Groen! - 1.89
5. MR - 6.67
6. Open VLD - 6.78
7. CDH - 5.5
8. CD&V - 5.56
9. NVA - 7.89
10. VB - 9.67
11. LDD - 8.50
12. LSP - 3.50
13. FN - 9.70
14. PTB-UA - 1.00
15. Lidé - 8.50

Please indicate the party size for each political party, by providing each party's share of the vote in the last national legislative election.

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## Study Description

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Name	Translation	Percentage of the votes
CD&V/N-VA	Christian Democratic and Flemish/New-Flemish Alliance	18,51 %
Open VLD	Flemish Liberals and Democrats	11,83 %
SP.a/Spirit	Socialist and Progressive Alternative/Social-Liberal Party	10,26 %
Vlaams Belang	Flemish Interest	11,99 %
Groen!	Green!	3,98 %
Lijst Dedecker	List Dedecker	4,03 %
PS	Socialist Party	10,86 %
MR	Reform Party	12,52 %
CDH	Centre Democratic Humaniste	6,06 %
Ecolo	Ecolo	5,10 %
FN	National Front	1,97 %
PTB-UA	Communist Party	0,22 %
LiDé	Libéral Democrats	/

Date of the last national legislative elections:

- 10-06-2007

### ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Please indicate the number of votes registered in the national elections.

Please indicate the number of votes registered in the national elections.

- Only one single vote registered

Description of the electoral system with details and precision:

Suffrage in Belgium is based on the "one man, one vote" principle: every Belgian national, male or female, who has reached the age of 18 has the right to cast one vote (unless this right has been suspended or the individual is ineligible for some reason).

Voting in Belgium is compulsory and secret. Everyone is obliged to take part in the elections at the six different levels: the European level (members of the European Parliament), the Federal level (all members of the Chamber of Representatives and some members of the Senate), the Community level (members of the Councils), the Regional level (members of the Councils), the Provincial level (members of the Councils) and the Municipal (members of the Councils) level.

In Belgium, the principle by which the members of the Federal Parliament, the European Parliament, and the Councils at the different levels (Community, Region, Province, Municipality) are elected is one of proportional representation. It is a system in which the seats in the legislative assemblies are allocated roughly in proportion to the number of votes each party receives within the electoral districts or constituencies, which form the territorial basis for the direct elections. Since the 1995 election for the Federal Parliament, there have been two different systems for assigning the votes according to the constituencies.

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## Study Description

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For the Chamber of Representatives, there are twenty constituencies. For the Senate, there are only three constituencies, geographically similar to the three regions: Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels. Proportional representation in Belgium allows all political parties and political groupings and movements to take part in the distribution of the seats, as long as they have a number of votes equivalent to at least the electoral divisor (i.e. the number of valid votes in an electoral district or constituency divided by the number of seats allocated to the constituency).

Representation in the assemblies can be by individuals or political parties. In Belgium, the votes in the legislature are divided and distributed among the political parties or groupings, each of which has the same proportion of the legislature as it does of the popular vote. In principle, proportional representation of the parties is combined with selection of the actual persons who sit in the assembly on behalf of the parties. Thus the voter in Belgium has several options. He can select a party and the particular people who will represent it in the assembly: (1) he may simply cast his vote for a party list and thereby accept the priority list of the party in question. This is called a "top-of-the-list vote; (2) if he is concerned about who will actually sit in the assembly, he may cast a "preference" vote by marking an individual candidate on his ballot sheet. In practice, however, the chance of preference voting changing the order of the seats, certainly at the national level, is very low indeed.

To allocate seats to the parties, the votes for the party list and the preference votes are first aggregated to ascertain the total vote for the party. The seats are then allocated to parties, constituencies and individuals according to a rather complicated procedure.

The proportional representation system in Belgium is closely linked to its multi-party system. Today, the Belgian multi-party system is characterized by extreme fragmentation. Not only does it reflect the major political and social cleavages which have polarized and continue to polarize Belgian society (at least to a certain extent). It also reflects the emergence of new conflict dimensions and new issues. One major cleavage along ethical-religious lines - and the first to be institutionalized - is the opposition between the Liberal Party and the Catholic Party. The importance of the socio-economic left-right cleavage appeared with the birth of the socialist movement, which led to the opposition between the Liberal and the Socialist parties. This three-party system lasted until 1965.

In the Sixties and the Seventies the number of parties represented in Parliament rose dramatically. First there was the breakthrough of the Federalist - communitarian and regional - parties as a direct result of the increasing linguistic-cultural cleavage between the Flemish and the French-speaking Belgians: the Volksunie (VU) in Flanders, the Rassemblement Wallon (RW) in Wallonia, and the Front Démocratique des Francophones (FDF) in the Brussels Region. The saliency of this last cleavage produced splits within the traditional parties. Each traditional party split into two branches, a Flemish and a French-speaking one, which are organisationally and programmatically independent. At the end of the Seventies, the Belgian multi-party system expanded again with the emergence of the ultra-Flemish nationalist and anti-immigrant party, the "Vlaams Blok" (VB); the Francophone extreme right-wing party "Front National"; the Poujadist party, Union Démocratique pour le Respect du Travail (UDRT)/Respekt voor de Arbeid and Democratie (RAD); and the Green parties, AGALEV in Flanders and ECOLO in the French-speaking part of Belgium.

By 1981, fourteen parties were represented in Parliament. A small reduction in the number of parties occurred during the 1980's when the Communists, the RW and the UDRT lost their representatives. However, the 1991 election introduced some newcomers in Parliament, the Francophone extreme right parties, the Front National (FN) and AGIR, and the populist libertarian ROSSEM party. From the beginning of the 2003 there are a few kartels between parties, namely CD&V and N-VA as well as SP.A and Spirit. During the last regional elections of 2009 those parties present themselves however separately again.

Today, there are no longer national parties in Belgium, except for some small unionist parties. All parties are homogeneous Flemish or Francophone and present themselves either in the Flemish or in the French-speaking constituencies, or else in the undivided bilingual electoral district of Brussels-Halle- Vilvoorde.

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## Study Description

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The political parties determine the character of the political landscape. They play a powerful role. They stand between the electorate and their representatives. They decide who will occupy the seats assigned to them in the constituencies by use of a priority list which is put on each ballot sheet. They have a firm grip on Belgian politics. Belgium is an advanced example of party government. The Belgian multi-party system usually leads to a coalition government. In fact, since 1919, except for the period between 1950 and 1954, there has never been a single-party majority government. No one party has succeeded in forming a homogeneous executive at the national level. The political cost of such a fragmented party system is seen in recurrent governmental crises and, since the 1970's, delays in the formation of government.

## Other documentation: Belgium

### Representativity

#### Age \* gender: Country & Regional level

area	BE		BE1		BE2		BE3	
gender	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-19	1.252.956	1.199.814	129.072	124.216	695.020	665.209	428.864	410.389
20-64	3.210.419	3.183.951	318.296	324.862	1.870.201	1.830.976	1.021.922	1.028.113
64+	760.934	1.058.792	58.595	93.450	474.735	625.459	227.604	339.883
total	5.224.309	5.442.557	505.963	542.528	3.039.956	3.121.644	1.678.390	1.778.385

#### Educational distribution: Country & Regional level

degree	BE	BE1	BE2	BE3
1	667.960	98.102	410.669	159.190
2	1.322.652	89.237	737.692	495.723
3-5	1.827.659	149.974	1.043.663	634.022
6-8	2.811.260	220.303	1.702.368	888.589
9	1.154.243	97.291	693.383	363.568
10	227.048	29.579	143.265	54.203
11-13	670.618	141.575	333.966	195.077

#### Age \* Gender \* Education: Country level

(Gender 1 = Male; Gender 2 = Female)

	Total	15-24	25-49	50-n	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-n
General total														
Total	8681439	1264288	3736725	3680426	625494	638794	661181	712115	768760	817002	777667	708725	666836	2304865
Gender 1	4209455	640962	1885827	1682666	319650	321312	332341	359658	389655	412905	391268	355667	332752	994247
Gender 2	4471984	623326	1850899	1997760	305844	317481	328840	352458	379105	404097	386400	353058	334084	1310617
Education 1														
Total	667960	32423	161664	473873	15845	16578	19664	29028	29078	40311	43583	45340	51371	377162
Gender 1	273091	18806	79139	175145	9551	9256	10074	14890	15103	17745	21328	20567	21777	132801
Gender 2	394870	13616	82525	298728	6294	7322	9590	14138	13976	22566	22255	24774	29594	244361
Education 2														
Total	1322652	115835	218312	988505	97195	18641	19473	26149	37970	56232	78489	99811	123275	765419
Gender 1	568655	63659	106404	398592	51371	12288	10160	13356	18961	27168	36760	44658	53523	300411
Gender 2	753997	52176	111907	589913	45824	6353	9313	12793	19009	29063	41729	55153	69752	465008
Education 3-5														
Total	1827659	448109	615086	764464	367119	80990	70991	96435	123234	160071	164355	157862	151614	454988
Gender 1	931697	238179	343791	349727	190319	47859	40864	55412	71525	90764	85226	80322	75742	193664
Gender 2	895961	209930	271294	414737	176799	33131	30126	41023	51709	69307	79129	77540	75872	261324
Education 6-8														

Total	2811260	540972	1431810	838477	144973	395999	272808	281110	305816	303227	268850	228777	187436	422264
Gender 1	1448435	273823	746640	427972	68223	205600	150007	149831	157058	154853	134891	117115	97847	213010
Gender 2	1362825	267149	685171	410505	76751	190399	122801	131279	148758	148374	133959	111662	89590	209254
Education 9														
Total	1154243	80045	724624	349574	184	79861	146608	148189	155030	149279	125519	96539	88700	164334
Gender 1	458925	27206	287187	144531	34	27172	58622	56445	62806	58259	51055	41498	38912	64121
Gender 2	695318	52839	437437	205042	150	52689	87986	91743	92224	91020	74463	55041	49788	100213
Education 10														
Total	227048	14378	144015	68655	0	14378	30220	34227	27816	26975	24778	19101	16957	32597
Gender 1	135991	6804	83927	45260	0	6804	15910	19949	15796	16974	15299	11727	10776	22758
Gender 2	91057	7574	60088	23395	0	7574	14310	14278	12020	10001	9478	7374	6182	9839
Education 11-13														
Total	670618	32526	441215	196878	179	32347	101419	96979	89815	80908	72095	61295	47482	88101
Gender 1	392662	12486	238738	141438	153	12333	46705	49775	48407	47142	46709	39780	34175	67483
Gender 2	277957	20040	202477	55440	26	20014	54714	47203	41409	33765	25386	21515	13307	20618

## Age \* Gender \* Education: Regional level

### BE1

	Total	15-24	25-49	50-n	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-n
General total														
Total	826061	123610	392414	310038	56040	67571	86794	87726	80052	72642	65200	59076	54067	196895
Gender 1	391388	60192	197736	133460	28267	31926	41908	44833	41659	37181	32155	28706	25818	78936
Gender 2	434673	63418	194678	176577	27773	35645	44886	42893	38393	35462	33045	30370	28249	117959
Education 1														
Total	98102	5834	35357	56911	2484	3350	4732	6220	7887	8035	8484	6679	5927	44305
Gender 1	40113	2741	16510	20862	1374	1367	1898	2722	4344	3923	3624	3053	2442	15368
Gender 2	57989	3093	18847	36049	1110	1983	2834	3498	3543	4112	4860	3626	3485	28937
Education 2														
Total	89237	15288	25317	48632	12545	2743	3206	4203	5400	5865	6642	6702	7959	33971
Gender 1	40825	8304	12027	20494	6766	1538	1124	1457	2806	3112	3528	2928	3916	13649
Gender 2	48412	6984	13289	28139	5779	1205	2082	2746	2594	2753	3114	3774	4043	20322
Education 3-5														
Total	149974	43797	53624	52553	31334	12463	10742	12476	10575	9908	9923	7880	10157	34516
Gender 1	72109	21774	28790	21546	15544	6229	5876	6885	5648	5454	4926	4288	4618	12640
Gender 2	77865	22023	24834	31008	15789	6234	4865	5591	4927	4454	4997	3592	5540	21876
Education 6-8														
Total	220303	47663	105643	66997	9677	37987	28740	21131	20249	20046	15476	13779	11994	41224
Gender 1	109877	23468	56877	29532	4582	18886	15118	11755	11447	10184	8373	6477	5629	17426
Gender 2	110426	24195	48766	37465	5095	19101	13622	9376	8803	9863	7102	7302	6365	23798
Education 9														
Total	97291	5219	61237	30835	0	5219	13730	14628	12968	10893	9018	7807	6045	16983
Gender 1	38970	1788	27417	9765	0	1788	6247	6752	6272	4418	3727	2637	2242	4887
Gender 2	58321	3432	33820	21069	0	3432	7483	7875	6696	6476	5290	5170	3803	12096

Education 10														
Total	29579	1228	17983	10369	0	1228	4553	4000	3244	3801	2384	2475	1800	6093
Gender 1	14040	634	8545	4861	0	634	2021	1982	1427	2224	891	1156	838	2867
Gender 2	15539	593	9439	5507	0	593	2532	2018	1818	1577	1493	1319	963	3226
Education 11-13														
Total	141575	4581	93253	43741	0	4581	21091	25067	19728	14093	13274	13754	10185	19803
Gender 1	75454	1484	47570	26400	0	1484	9624	13278	9716	7866	7085	8168	6134	12098
Gender 2	66121	3097	45683	17341	0	3097	11467	11789	10012	6227	6189	5586	4051	7704

## BE2

	Total	15-24	25-49	50-n	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-n
General total														
Total	5065006	713734	2161261	2190010	350132	363602	371254	394894	447340	486818	460955	414710	387833	1387468
Gender 1	2479873	363477	1094777	1021619	179317	184161	187593	199407	226988	246967	233822	210339	195723	615558
Gender 2	2585133	350257	1066485	1168391	170815	179442	183662	195487	220353	239851	227132	204371	192110	771910
Education 1														
Total	410669	18811	85171	306687	8950	9861	11480	15647	13877	21949	22219	26251	32258	248178
Gender 1	169885	11916	41165	116803	5547	6370	5545	8357	7407	9219	10637	12330	13072	91401
Gender 2	240784	6894	44006	189883	3403	3491	5935	7290	6470	12730	11582	13921	19186	156776
Education 2														
Total	737692	37172	103373	597147	30111	7061	7412	8747	17566	28673	40975	54672	72213	470262
Gender 1	309853	19670	48613	241569	14717	4953	3662	5068	8036	13010	18837	22965	30347	188257
Gender 2	427839	17502	54760	355578	15394	2107	3750	3679	9530	15662	22138	31707	41866	282005
Education 3-5														
Total	1043663	257206	335286	451170	220000	37206	32311	44098	69094	91045	98738	94187	89787	267197
Gender 1	549885	137324	196993	215569	114610	22713	19652	28146	42230	52294	54671	47490	45871	122208
Gender 2	493778	119882	138294	235602	105390	14493	12659	15952	26865	38751	44068	46697	43916	144989
Education 6-8														
Total	1702368	318271	875326	508771	90877	227395	154643	168437	190397	191784	170064	140716	111554	256502
Gender 1	877949	164025	449448	264476	44341	119684	85649	87030	95987	98545	82236	73582	59402	131493
Gender 2	824419	154247	425878	244295	46536	107711	68994	81407	94410	93239	87828	67134	52152	125009
Education 9														
Total	693383	51684	442429	199270	92	51592	89012	86309	95881	94266	76962	58133	49851	91286
Gender 1	277581	17933	173768	85880	0	17933	34818	31764	38414	36840	31932	26079	22377	37425
Gender 2	415802	33752	268661	113389	92	33660	54195	54544	57467	57425	45030	32054	27474	53861
Education 10														
Total	143265	10711	93935	38619	0	10711	19276	24061	18267	16915	15417	11567	10234	16818
Gender 1	93123	5344	58691	29088	0	5344	10602	14806	11139	11510	10635	7929	7417	13742
Gender 2	50142	5367	35244	9531	0	5367	8674	9255	7129	5405	4782	3639	2817	3075
Education 11-13														
Total	333966	19880	225740	88346	102	19777	57119	47596	42257	42187	36581	29184	21936	37226
Gender 1	201598	7266	126098	68233	102	7164	27665	24236	23774	25548	24875	19964	17237	31032
Gender 2	132369	12613	99642	20113	0	12613	29455	23361	18483	16639	11705	9220	4699	6194

### BE3

	Total	15-24	25-49	50-n	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-n
General total														
Total	2790372	426943	1183051	1180378	219322	207621	203133	229496	241367	257542	251513	234940	224936	720502
Gender 1	1338193	217292	593315	527586	112067	105225	102840	115418	121009	128758	125291	116622	111211	299753
Gender 2	1452178	209651	589736	652791	107256	102395	100292	114078	120359	128784	126223	118318	113725	420749
Education 1														
Total	159190	7779	41136	110276	4411	3368	3452	7161	7314	10327	12881	12410	13186	84679
Gender 1	63093	4149	21464	37479	2630	1520	2631	3811	3352	4603	7067	5184	6263	26032
Gender 2	96097	3629	19671	72796	1781	1849	821	3351	3963	5724	5813	7226	6923	58647
Education 2														
Total	495723	63375	89622	342726	54538	8837	8854	13198	15004	21694	30872	38436	43103	261186
Gender 1	217977	35684	45764	136529	29888	5796	5373	6830	8119	11046	14395	18764	19260	98505
Gender 2	277746	27691	43858	206197	24650	3041	3481	6368	6884	10647	16477	19672	23844	162681
Education 3-5														
Total	634022	147106	226175	260740	115785	31321	27938	39861	43565	59118	55694	55795	51670	153275
Gender 1	309703	79081	118009	112613	60165	18917	15336	20380	23648	33016	25629	28544	25253	58816
Gender 2	324318	68024	108167	148127	55620	12404	12602	19481	19917	26102	30065	27251	26417	94460
Education 6-8														
Total	888589	175037	450842	262709	44420	130617	89424	91542	95169	91397	83310	74283	63889	124538
Gender 1	460609	86330	240315	133964	19300	67030	49240	51046	49624	46125	44281	37057	32816	64091
Gender 2	427980	88707	210527	128745	25120	63587	40185	40496	45545	45273	39028	37226	31073	60447
Education 9														
Total	363568	23142	220958	119469	92	23049	43865	47252	46181	44120	39540	30599	32804	56066
Gender 1	142374	7486	86002	48886	34	7452	17557	17929	18119	17001	15396	12782	14294	21810
Gender 2	221194	15656	134956	70583	58	15597	26308	29323	28061	27119	24143	17817	18510	34257
Education 10														
Total	54203	2439	32096	19668	0	2439	6391	6166	6305	6259	6977	5059	4923	9686
Gender 1	28827	825	16691	11311	0	825	3287	3161	3231	3240	3773	2642	2521	6148
Gender 2	25376	1614	15405	8357	0	1614	3104	3005	3074	3019	3203	2417	2402	3538
Education 11-13														
Total	195077	8065	122221	64790	77	7989	23209	24315	27830	24627	22240	18358	15361	31071
Gender 1	115610	3736	65070	46805	50	3685	9416	12261	14916	13728	14748	11648	10804	24352
Gender 2	79467	4329	57152	17986	26	4303	13792	12054	12914	10899	7492	6710	4557	6719

# European Values Study 2009 Belgium Process evaluation of the data collection

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Objective of this report

The aim of this document is to record the data collection activities undertaken within the context of the fourth wave of the European Values Study (EVS) implemented in Belgium in 2008-2009. It provides documentation about the daily activities and decisions taken, and constitutes an evaluation of the entire implementation process including sampling, fieldwork activities, and the resulting final dataset.

## 1.2 Background information on the EVS

The European Values Study is a large-scale, cross-national, and longitudinal survey research program on basic human values. It provides insights into the ideas, beliefs, preferences, attitudes, values and opinions of citizens all over Europe. It is a unique research project on how Europeans think about life, family, work, religion, politics and society.

The European Values Study started in 1981, when a thousand citizens in the European Member States of that time were interviewed using standardized questionnaires. Every ten years, the survey is repeated in an increasing number of countries. The fourth wave, of which this report is part, covers no less than 45 European countries, from Iceland to Azerbaijan and from Portugal to Norway. In total, about 70,000 people in Europe have been interviewed. For an overview of the participating countries in the four waves, see the appendix.

The EVS questionnaire is divided in three parts: besides a common question program for all countries there is a voluntary supplement program and further country-specific questions. In Belgium only the common question program is included in the questionnaire. The common question program consists of various items concerning leisure time, working world, politics, religion, family and marriage, society, morals and sexuality and demography.

## 1.3 Structure of the report

In this report you will find a general description of the implementation of EVS Wave 4 in Belgium, followed by an exploration of sampling and non-sampling errors. A detailed draw up of the timing of the implementation is given in the third part and in the last chapter you will find the contact procedure and the use of contact forms, back-checks and refusal conversion activities.

## 2 General description of the EVS–implementation

In this second chapter we document the decisions taken regarding the funding agencies, the selection of the survey organization, the sampling method, the data collection methods, the fieldwork period, the interviewers as well as the timing of implementation.

### 2.1 Budget and funding agencies

The costs of both the national survey and the national research EVS research team are borne by each country. In Belgium, the funding comes largely from the *Koning Boudewijnstichting* or *Fondation Roi Baudouin* and to a lesser degree from the *Center for Sociological Research*, Catholic University of Leuven.

### 2.2 Selection of survey organisation

As prescribed by European competition rules, a call for tender was published by the K.U.Leuven procurement office. The call was published on 07/01/2009. To meet the requirements in the call for tender, the subscribers had to show proof of the concordance with the legal requirements, the dispose of sufficient funds and the technical competency.

The criteria on which applicants were judged: the conformity with technical requirements and quality of service (40%); the roadmap for the project (30%); and the price for the project and the transparency of the costs (30%).

Two survey organizations reacted to the call for tender: TNS Dimarso and Significant. The bids submitted by these two organisations were evaluated and discussed internally. Since the first two criteria were scored almost equally for both companies in the evaluation, the tender with the lowest price was selected. On this basis, the survey implementation was awarded to TNS Dimarso.

### 2.3 Sampling procedure

In this chapter the sampling procedure of the EVS in Belgium is documented. The sampling design is more or less identical with what has been used in the Belgian Election Surveys (ISPO) and in the European Social Survey. This section is derived from the description provided by prof. Jaak Billiet. A detailed description of the sampling design is included in the appendix.

### 2.3.1 Sample method

The samples are so called PPR samples. These are two-step samples that after a stratification stage (number of sets of equal size (e.g. 20 cases) proportional to region and province), result in equal selection probabilities for the secondary units (sampled persons). We will describe the steps required to achieve this sampling design.

In principle, the number of sets (PSU's depending of planned sample size) are first proportionally divided over provinces (and thus regions), it is randomly chosen how much sets will fall in each geographical administrative unit (a city or village). This is anyway proportional to size of the population in the cities/villages.

In the second step, it was the intention that the sample persons (secondary cases) of each set are completely randomly selected from the National Population Register (NPR). Since the NPR data was however not available because the permission of the privacy commission was not obtained in time, we had to use the Orgassim data, that is a register of all un-named individuals (with address, age and gender) for every address in Belgium.

Because of the small sample size (1600 effective interviews expected), the stratification step will be disproportional since we plan a sample of equal size in the Flemish region (mostly Dutch speaking) and in Wallonia-Brussels (mostly French speaking). The proportions are normally 58% Flemish and 42% French speaking. We plan thus 50% in both subpopulations. This means that the samples must always be weighted before using the EVS integrated sample.

We thus plan 800 Flemish and 800 French speaking at the end. The gross sample sizes are then 1600 plus 1600. The reason for this sample size is that we expect 8% ineligibles and a response of 58% minimum. The number of Flemish cases in Brussels will be more or less in balance with the number of French speaking in the communities in Flemish regions near Brussels.

#### Population and planned sample in the stratification stage

Since we will take two samples, one for Flemish and one for French speaking, we apply two sets of population statistics. These population statistics are described in this section.

The Flemish or Dutch-speaking population consists of the respondents of the Flemish region and the Dutch-speaking respondents in Brussels. Working with sets (PSU's) of size 20 and given the population distribution in Flanders (see table 2.2, the sampling design results in a proportional distribution of the 75 sets selected per province. This distribution is described in table 2.3.

The French-speaking population consists of the respondents of the Walloon region and the French speaking respondents in Brussels. Working with sets (PSU's) of size 20 and given the population distribution in Wallonia and Brussels (see table 2.4), this results in the proportional distribution of the 75 sets selected per province in the French-speaking region, as presented in table 2.5.

The reason of selecting 1600 sampled persons for obtaining 800 respondents by region is that we expect 8% ineligibles (permanent ill, deceased, moved outside of to other

Table 2.1: Population Belgium per province

Province	Frequency	Percent	C. frequency	C. percent
Antwerpen (FL)	1372541	16.20	1372541	16.20
Brussel hoofdstad (FR <sup>a</sup> )	819071	9.67	2191612	25.87
Henegouwen (FR)	1021198	12.05	3212810	37.92
Limburg (FL)	666144	7.86	3878954	45.78
Luik (FR)	832453	9.83	4711407	55.61
Luxemburg (FR)	202136	2.39	4913543	57.99
Namen (FR)	363561	4.29	5277104	62.29
Oost-Vlaanderen (FL)	1131978	13.36	6409082	75.65
Vl. Brabant (FL <sup>a</sup> )	842865	9.95	7251947	85.60
Wl. Brabant (FR)	289131	3.41	7541078	89.01
West-Vlaanderen (FL)	931281	10.99	8472359	100.00
Total <sup>b</sup>			8472359	100

<sup>a</sup> About 8% Dutch-speaking in Brussels (capital) and about 2% French-speaking in Vlaams Brabant (estimations).

<sup>b</sup> Included are those 18 years or older in 2008.

region, unable) and we expect a response rate of 58%. The gross sample size was this fixed at 3000 cases, namely  $1600 / (0.92 \cdot 0.58) = 2.999$ . This means 1500 units in each gross subsample, namely 75 sets (PSU's) of 20 persons each.

The reason for selecting 1600 sampled persons is to compensate for the expected ineligibles, etc. We expect 8% ineligibles (permanent ill, deceased, moved outside of to other region, unable) and we want to work with response rate of 58%. In the European Social Survey, it is about 60%, but to be sure we take somewhat more. This means:  $1600/0.92/0.58 = 2998.5$ , take 3000. A complete sample of 3000 means 1500 units in each gross subsample. This is 75 sets (PSU's) of 20 persons in each subsample.

### Selection of PSU's

Each administrative unit (villages, cities, towns) is identified by an unique NIS-number. Sets<sup>1</sup> are selected proportional to size of NIS-units within each province of Flanders, and each province of Wallonia (and Brussels).

We randomly assign sets (the primary units) to NIS-units (villages, towns, cities) with a probability proportional to the size of population in each NIS-unit. These primary

<sup>1</sup>We use the term "sets" instead of "clusters" since the latter is appropriate for cluster samples in which all secondary elements of a cluster are included in the sample, and this is not the case in our sampling design. The secondary units are here random selection from the NIS-units to which the sets are allocated.

Table 2.2: Population Flemish region per province, +18 in 2008

Province	Frequency	Percent	C. frequency	C. percent
Antwerpen	1372541	27.76	1372541	27.76
Limburg	666144	13.47	2038685	41.23
Oost-Vlaanderen	1131978	22.89	3170663	64.12
Vl-Brabant	842865	17.05	4013528	81.17
West-Vlaanderen	931281	18.83	4944809	100.00

Table 2.3: Number of sets selected per provincie in the Flemish region

Province	Frequency	Percent	C. frequency	C. percent
Antwerpen	21	28.00	21	28.00
Limburg	10	13.33	31	41.33
Oost-Vlaanderen	17	22.67	48	64.00
Vl-Brabant	13	17.33	61	81.33
West-Vlaanderen	14	18.67	75	100.00

sampling units contain the secondary sampling units, the individual respondents. We follow strictly the PPR-procedure, within both subsamples, resulting in equal selection probability for the secondary units.

A possible misunderstanding is that the sets vary in the number of secondary units according to population size of selected geographical NIS-units. This is *not* the case in a PPR-sample design. All sets are equally sized, independent of the size of the NIS-unit to which they are randomly allocated: small, medium, large, . . . it plays no role with regards to the number of secondary units per set. *But* the likelihood of allocating a set to a NIS-unit depends on the size of the NIS-unit. The probability of assigning a set to a NIS-unit is proportional to the population size of that NIS-unit.

The combination of an equal number of randomly assigned secondary units in a set and the selection of NIS-units with a selection probability proportional to size of the NIS-units, results in *equal selection probabilities* for each secondary unit. This is demonstrated below in formula 2.4, which is applied within each province (and within each subsample since provinces in each subsample have numbers of sets are proportional to size of population).

We will demonstrate how this formula is derived. First, a cumulative distribution of population +18 of all NIS (villages, cities) within the province is made. The larger a NIS size the larger the interval of numbers in that NIS.  $M_i$  sets must be selected in province  $i$  ( $M$  is number of sets). The cumulative distribution is very important since it indicates

Table 2.4: Population French region per province, +18 in 2008

Province	Frequency	Percent	C. frequency	C. percent
Brussel hoofdstad	819071	23.22	819071	23.22
Henegouwen	1021198	28.95	1840269	52.17
Luik	832453	23.60	2672722	75.77
Luxemburg	202136	5.73	2874858	81.50
Namen	363561	10.31	3238419	91.80
Waals Brabant	289131	8.20	3527550	100.00

Table 2.5: Number of sets selected per provincie in the French region

Province	Frequency	Percent	C. frequency	C. percent
Brussel hoofdstad	17	22.67	17	22.67
Henegouwen	22	29.33	39	52.00
Luik	18	24.00	57	76.00
Luxemburg	4	5.33	61	81.33
Namen	8	10.67	69	92.00
Waals Brabant	6	8.00	75	100.00

the lower border and the higher border of each each NIS-unit to which the  $M_i$  random selected numbers between 1 and  $P_i$  are assigned.

Let  $M_i$  be the number of sets in a province  $i$ ,  $P_i$  the size of population in a province  $i$  and  $G_j$  the size of NIS-unit  $j$  (city, town, village).

The probability that a set is selected in NIS-unit  $j$  is given by the following equation:

$$G_j/P_i \tag{2.1}$$

The larger  $G_j$ , the higher the probability that a selected set will be assigned to that NIS unit. It is thus clear that at this first stage, citizens within larger NIS units are more likely to be selected (proportional to size).

### Final computation of PPR-probability of secondary units

Remember that the number of individuals  $n$  within each set is equal. Therefore once one set is assigned to a NIS-code (city, village, town), the probability for a secondary unit (individual sampint unit) within that NIS-unit is:

$$n/G_j \tag{2.2}$$

(the number of sets in an NIS-unit is  $G_i/n$ . The probability of one set in a unit, once a set is assigned to a NIS-unit, is thus  $1/G_i/n = n/G_i$  ).

The combined probability of step 1 and step 2 in PPR, given that there are  $M_i$  sets to be selected in the province, is thus:

$$\frac{G_j}{P_i} * \frac{n}{G_i} * m_i \quad (2.3)$$

more simple because  $G_i$  disappears:

$$\frac{M_i * n}{P_i} \quad (2.4)$$

This probability is equal for every unit of the population in province  $P_i$  (in a province with for example 14 sets of each 20 cases per set is this thus  $280/P_i$ )

The formula holds for every province, and since provinces are proportional in region, the probabilities in each region are equal (normally for the whole of Belgium, but we have disproportional samples). The selection probabilities of the secondary units are already given before.

This is the combination of the probability of having a set in a NIS-code in case of  $m_i$  sets and the probability of having an individual sampling unit within a NIS-code once a set is assigned. This combined probability is the probability of having a secondary unit (individuals) in a province.

After this procedure is applied to all provinces in Flanders and French subsample the selection probability for a Flemish person is 0.000303 and for a French speaking is 0.00042).

### 2.3.2 Re-adjustment of sample frame

The initial objective was to use as sample frame the Belgian National Register. This aim had to be adjusted, because the use of the Belgian national register for sampling purposes is subject to approval by a privacy committee (“Commissie voor de bescherming van de persoonlijke levenssfeer”). At the end of March, the committee did not approve the use of the Belgian National Register as a sample frame for the EVS 2009 study.

This rejection resulted in the need for an adequate, alternative sample frame. In the end, there were two possible alternative sampling frames: a database called *Wegner* and another called *Orgassim*. In previous surveys at CeSO–K.U.Leuven, the quality (coverage, corresponding variables, application of sampling method, etc.) was already carefully evaluated. On the one hand, *Wegner* is a commercial, individual-based database containing information on age, gender and name. The database is regularly updated. Its population coverage rate is low. People aged below 15 and over 60 are best covered.

On the other hand, *Orgassim* is a database based on some information of the National Register and contains information on the age and gender of all persons residing at each address. For people aged 75 and over, the exact age is not known. The database does not contain individual names. The population coverage is rather high. However, the database is updated just once a year, at the beginning of each year.

In the end, *Orgassim* was chosen as the sample frame. The reason was its high population coverage rate, the population coverage rate being considered the most critical quality feature. To make up for one of *Orgassim*'s main weaknesses, however, the lack of individual names, *Orgassim* was matched with *Wegner*. Having access to the individual name was considered important to facilitate the contact procedure: the introduction letter can be addressed personally and the interviewer can more easily search for and find the respondent when having information on age, gender and individual name. In general, it is comparatively more difficult to obtain individual names for the 15–34 categories (the more mobile categories) and for people living in apartments.

### 2.3.3 Re-adjustment of sample size and additional addresses

After evaluating the tender of the selected survey organization TNS–Dimarso, the national EVS research team decided to change the net sample size because the budget does not allow to realize a net sample of 1.600. Therefore, the net sample size is reduced to 1.500, in particular 750 realised interviews for the Dutch-speaking population as well as 750 realised interviews for the French-speaking population.

Since the survey organization objected that the initial sample frame was not used and the noncontacts and ineligibles would be higher in the case of the sample obtained from *Orgassim*, the national EVS research team decided nevertheless to maintain the original sample design, namely a gross sample size of 3.000 as well as 150 sets of 20 persons.

A second remark of the survey organization was to sample the selected sets in the largest cities at the level of postal codes. The solution of the national EVS research team was using the initial sample design to start and to re-select the assigned number of sets in the large selected cities at the level of postal codes. However, the assumption was that at least two sets had to be selected in those cities.

A two-step approach was followed. On the one hand the procedure in case of cities with more than two sets is as follows: the originally assigned number of sets of 20 persons were re-sampled at the level of postal code. This procedure is used in the case of Antwerpen, Brugge, Doornik, Namen, and Braine L'Alleud. On the other hand the procedure in case of cities with only two sets is as follows: the two originally selected sets of 20 persons are split up in three sets, namely one set of 14 persons and two sets of 13 persons, whereby those three smaller sets are selected at the level of postal code. This situation arises in the case of the municipalities of Mechelen, Charleroi, Gent and Aalst. See the appendix for the resulting, final sample and the selected sets.

Finally, during the fieldwork, an additional 21 addresses were sampled for the Brussels region. The reason was the low response rate observed during the fieldwork. Following this rationale, an extra 21 addresses have been sampled randomly distributed over the different sampled municipalities in the regio of Brussels.

### 2.3.4 Obtaining information from *Orgassim*

The actual information was requested from *Orgassim*. In accordance to the described sample design, for each set, twenty addresses are drawn. The sample, containing infor-

mation on address, age and gender was received the 5<sup>th</sup> of April.

## **2.4 Data collection methods and tools**

The interviews were face-to-face. To assist the interviewers Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) questionnaires and contact forms were used. To help the interviewer obtaining cooperation, introduction letters were prepared.

### **2.4.1 Introduction letter**

An introduction letter was written based on the introduction letters of previous surveys. The letter contains info about: EVS (e.g. survey objective, countries participating, institutions involved); the sampling process; how the respondent would be contacted; the expected duration of an interview; the confidentiality of results; and the processing of results

The sample unit received first hand information prior to the first direct contact with the interviewer since an introduction letter was sent out in advance. If the individual's name was known, the letter was addressed to that name. If the individual's name was not known, the letter was addressed to the resident(s) of the address. See the appendix for the introduction letter.

Envelopes with university logos were used, so the respondent would be able to discern the letter from advertisements.

### **2.4.2 Contact forms**

Dutch and French versions were prepared based on the standard EVS contact forms. The contact form consists of four sections: general overview of contact attempt; result of contact; questions concerning refusals; and questions on sample units.

Based on the PAPI version of the contact form, a CAPI version was designed by the survey organisation. Both versions were filled out, but only the last version was considered.

### **2.4.3 CAPI questionnaire and show cards**

The EVS questionnaire is made up by the EVS–University of Tilburg. In Belgium, changes in the translation of previously asked questions is performed by *WEBTRANS*, which has been used fully. The process of translating the questionnaire is entirely done by the national EVS research team.

The questionnaire was pre-tested before finalization. The pretest period in Belgium ranged from 11/03/2009 to 20/03/2009. A total of eight pretest interviews were conducted and evaluated.

The final PAPI version was handed to the survey organisation for programming into CAPI, while extra attention to possible language-related issues. The CAPI questionnaire was checked by three persons independently by screening all the possible routings in the

CAPI format. On the one hand the field manager of the survey organisation and on the other hand two job students—supervised by the national EVS research team—have tried out all possible routings. Besides this procedure, the CAPI questionnaire was also tested by doing different interviews with persons with various social–economic status.

The Dutch and French versions of the CAPI questionnaire were completed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, 2009. Together with the questionnaire, show cards were prepared in relation to each corresponding question.

## 2.5 Study period

In Belgium the fieldwork activities started on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2009 and were completed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2009. The main reason for the late start of the fieldwork was the unexpected change of the national Programme Director during the preparation of the fieldwork, from prof. Koen Van Eijck to prof. Marc Swyngedouw.

## 2.6 Interviewers

The fieldwork was preformed by a total of 104 interviewers. The majority ( $n = 87$ ) of the interviewers, selected by the field agency, had previous experience with scientific survey research. Interviewers were classified as experienced if they had participated in at least one academic social survey in the past three years. The inexperienced interviewers ( $n = 17$ ) were trained by the field agency and have already worked on non–academic market research. They also participated in the EVS–briefing, as did all interviewers.

The interviewers had an average age of 54 years, ranging from 25 years to 90 years. A crosstabulation of educational level by gender is provided in table 2.6.

Table 2.6: Crosstabulation of education and gender of interviewers

	Man	Women
Primary educ.	7	2
Secondary educ.	13	23
Higher educ. (non–univ.)	25	19
Higher educ. (univ.)	12	3

### 2.6.1 Training

Most of the interviewers involved in the EVS face-to-face survey have already participated in scientific survey research. A general introduction into survey research was thus not necessary. Basic training concerning contact procedures, response maximization and the use of CAPI in interviews was only reiterated shortly in the project specific instructions. Specific briefings in regard to the EVS study were developed and organized by the

national EVS research team. The project specific instructions in this briefing contained the following topics.

- *EVS background information*: introduction to EVS; funding source and the organizing partners, general information about the topics in the EVS questionnaire; and an overview of the target population and sampling procedure.
- *Contact procedure*: overview of the ESS rules on contact procedure (e.g. direct and personal visits; minimum four contact attempts; and minimum one evening and one weekend contact attempt); explanation of the use of the contact forms; and explanation of different contact strategies to avoid definitive refusal.
- *Interviewing*: how to conduct interviews (e.g. setting, speed, interview behavior, dealing with item–nonresponse; and handling difficult questions).
- *Questionnaire*: overview of the questionnaire; structure of the questionnaire; specific instructions concerning specific questions which may raise possible problems.
- *Interview control*: overview of the procedure of interviewer and interview control.
- *Practical organization*: overview of the used material and the time schedule of the field work by interviewer.

All interviewers followed the same training module in Brussels. In total, eight training sessions were organized by the national EVS research team.

### **2.6.2 Number of interviews by interviewer**

According to the instructions of EVS interviewers could, in principle, not interview more than two sets of 20 persons. At the start, interviewers received one cluster of 20 respondents. After approval more sets could be assigned to an interviewer. Since TNS–Dimarso had problems to cover some municipalities, the national EVS research team decided to assign the most successful interviewers one or two clusters extra after an evaluation of the overall performance of these interviewers (number of interviews, nonresponse rate, duration and punctuality).

There are 16 interviewers who achieved five interviews or less, two who achieved 44 interviews, one with 48 and one with 56 interviews.

## **2.7 Timing of implementation**

In this section the time planning and actual implementation timing of the EVS survey in Belgium are discussed. There are three broad stages in the survey implementation: the preparatory work prior to the actual fieldwork, the follow-up during the fieldwork and the finalization of the survey data.

The preparatory work prior to the actual fieldwork started at the end of December 2008. The preparation of the call for tender was finished at the beginning of January

Table 2.7: Number of completed interviews by interviewer

Interviews	Frequency
1–5	16
6–10	29
11–15	23
16–20	10
21–25	15
26–30	5
31–60	6

2009; while the selection of the survey organisation was done at the end of January 2009. The validation and translation of the questionnaire using WEBTRANS was executed during the period of January 2009 to March 2009.

The co-ordination of the translation of the Dutch and French questionnaire took a lot of time. The sample design was sent to EVS at 13th February 2009. The PAPI–CAPI transformation process started at the beginning of March 2009 and finished at the beginning of April 2009. In every stage of the programming process, checks were made by the national EVS research team. Often mistakes were found, so that adjustments and additional checks had to be made, which resulted in a time-consuming process.

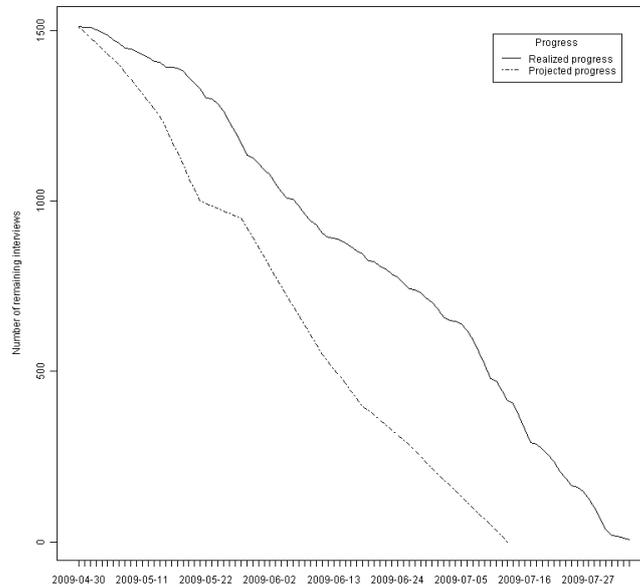
The preparation and translation of the PAPI and CAPI contact forms was finished at the beginning of the beginning of April, while the EVS trainings of the interviewers was also prepared during the same period. At the end of April 2009, eight interviewer trainings were organized by the national EVS research team.

The follow-up during the fieldwork started at the end of April 2009 until the beginning of August 2009. This stage consists of the control of contact procedures and data quality as well as the telephone control. The activity “control of contact procedure” refers to control of the first three completed interviews by interviewer. Especially, as far as the evaluation of the first three completed interviewers by each interviewer were concerned, the request was to spend a maximum of four days on each batch, this during the start up of the fieldwork in May 2009.

In another section the whole procedure of the control of contact procedures is explained. Besides, during the period of May 2009 until August 2009 there were regularly meetings of the national EVS research team with the survey organisation TNS-Dimarso in regard to the progress of the fieldwork. Every week TNS–Dimarso was giving the most recent and detailed information about the progress of the fieldwork: the detailed breakdown of response and non–response categories by gender, age, province and region as well as the progress of each interviewer and its response rate.

At the same time the national EVS research team was generating a so-called progress report to evaluate the status of the fieldwork at every stage in the data collection process. At last, the daily supervision and interaction with TNS–Dimarso was doing by phone

Figure 2.1: Projected versus realized progress



and e-mail. Almost every day there were contacts between the national EVS research team and TNS–Dimarso to solve specific problems or to answer questions and remarks.

Problems that received additional attention from both parties, were especially the high proportion of non–contacts during the whole process of data collection and the low response rate in Brussels, the slow start up of the fieldwork in French–speaking Belgium and the tendency that the planning of the fieldwork overruns its time schedule. These problems were the most important and recurring topics in the discussions with the survey organisation TNS–Dimarso. The mismatch between the projected schedule and the realized schedule is visualized in figure 2.1. The slow fieldwork was compensated by extending the deadline from the 13<sup>th</sup> of July to early August.

The finalization of the survey data started at the beginning of September 2009 until the end October 2009. This phase consists of implementation of the data protocol and the data cleaning programmes; the check of the data coding; the data deposit to the EVS archive; the data checking and weighting; and the technical reporting.

## 3 Sampling and non-sampling errors

In this chapter non-sampling and sampling errors are documented. This information is needed to be able to evaluate the accuracy of the data. First coverage errors will be discussed, followed by interviewer errors, non-response errors, measurement errors and finally processing errors.

### 3.1 Coverage errors and sampling validity

The error that appears when the sample frame diverges from the actual population is called the coverage error. The National Register is the best sample frame available. The coverage error is assumed to be relatively small and of no significant effect.

The outcome of a sampling procedure depends on probability. To avoid a sample with a biased distribution compared to the population distribution, the population distribution of age\*gender was compared with the age\*gender distribution obtained in the drawn sample.

To statistically test whether the sample population significantly deviates from the population, a contingency table was used. Based on the contingency table containing the age and gender for the sample and the population, the  $\chi^2$  was calculated (Welkenhuysen-Gybels and Loosveldt, 2002).

The sample was recoded along the same categories as the available statistics for Belgium (FOD Economie, 2005). Twelve age groups were constructed for each gender. The  $\chi^2$  value for each category was calculated. All obtained values were summed and compared with the  $\chi^2$  value for 23 degrees of freedom.

Neither the cell  $\chi^2$  values, nor the summed  $\chi^2$  values are beyond the boundaries of significance. The highest cell  $\chi^2$  value is 2.786 ( $p = 0.06$ ,  $df = 1$ ). The summed  $\chi^2$  value is not significant either because using 23 degrees of freedom and a  $\chi^2$  value of 12.54, the p-value equals 0.9612.

We can conclude, based on the  $\chi^2$  comparison, that the sample and the population distribution in terms of age and gender do not differ significantly.

### 3.2 Interviewer errors

Interviewers can have an important influence on the survey. Trying to minimize this type of error can be done by controlling for: falsified data, influenced responses, incorrect recorded responses, deviation from survey procedures and differential performance for sample units (non-standardized behaviour).

To control for these interviewer effects, controls were implemented after the first 3 interviews. These first 3 interviews were evaluated during the fieldwork. After interviewers had accomplished their packages of 3 interviews and their complete sets, they had to wait for approval before they could obtain new addresses. The indicators to evaluate the interviewers were: respondent identity; timing and deadline; interviewer quality; item non-response; duration of the interview; completeness of the open questions on job situation; and other remarks.

Based on the evaluation of these indicators, recommendations were made by the national EVS research to the survey organization. Three interviewers were taken of the research because the low quality of their interviews and significantly low response rates compared to the other interviewers. A lot of interviewers got a warning and performed better in their subsequent interviews, while only the best interviewers received more than 2 clusters after evaluation.

There is neither a significant relation between the average response rate per interviewer and his or her years of experience ( $t = -0.16, df = 102, p = 0.87$ ), nor his or her age ( $t = 0.3056, df = 102, p = 0.76$ ). The average duration of the interviews was 66 minutes.

Table 3.1: Number of interviews by duration

Duration of interview	Frequency
25 to 50 min.	166
51 to 75 min.	1038
76 to 100 min.	238
101 to 125 min.	44
126 to 150 min.	12
150 to 175 min.	6
175 to 250 min.	2

### 3.3 Response rate

Outcomes of all approaches to individuals in the sample were defined and recorded according to a pre-specified set of categories that distinguish non-eligibility, non-contacts and refusals. Model “contact forms,” were produced by the EVS, for translation and use by national teams.

$$\text{RESPONSE RATE} = \frac{\text{NUMBER OF ACHIEVED INTERVIEWS}}{\text{NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SELECTED - INELIGIBLES}}$$

When calculating the response rate, the number of ineligible was subtracted from the number of selected individuals. Respondents were deemed ineligible if they were a member of one of the following categories:

- Respondent deceased

Figure 3.1: Average duration interviews and years of experience interviewer

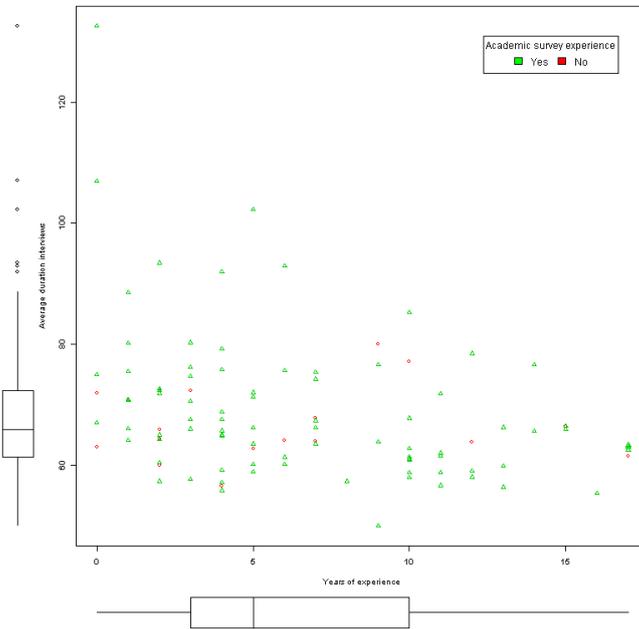
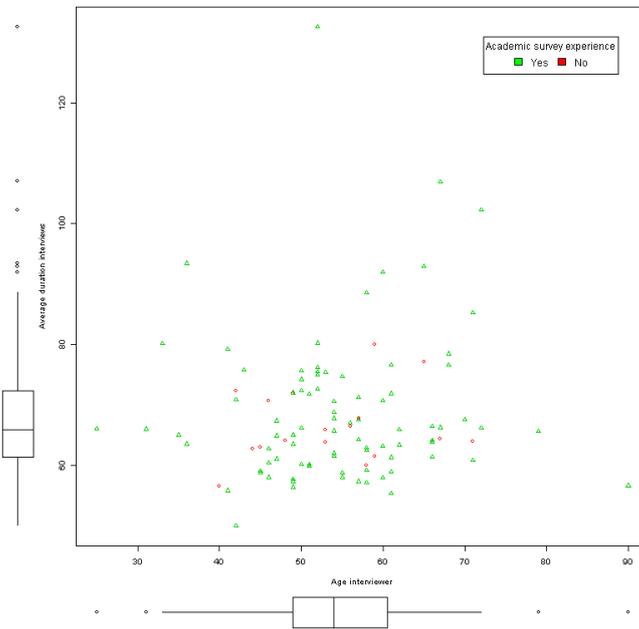


Figure 3.2: Average duration interviews and age interviewer



- Address not occupied by respondent (unoccupied/demolished / not yet built)
- Respondent emigrated/left the country long term
- Respondent resides in an institution

A detailed breakdown by (non)reponse categories is provided in table 3.3 on page 18. The same information is summarized in table 3.2. The response rate for Belgium can be calculated on the basis of that data as  $1509/(3021-509) = 60.0\%$ .

Table 3.2: Aggregated breakdown of (non)reponse categories

Outcome	Frequency	Percentage
Achieved	1509	50.0
No contact	293	9.7
Refusal	646	21.4
Ineligible	509	16.8
Revisit	4	0.1
Other	60	2.0
Total	3021	100

### 3.3.1 Unit non-response

As the overall responserate is 60%, we further explore the unit non-response in this section. The unit non-response is calculated using the information in the contact forms.

In figure 3.3 we visualize the “raw response rate” (the mean proportion of completed interviews), conditional on region, age and gender. The distribution of the persons in the sampling design over the different (non)response categories by gender, province and age is tabulated in table 3.5 on page 26.

Finally we calculated the average response rate the interviewers achieve: forty-two percent of the interviewers achieve a response rate of 0.61 or better. The percentages in table 3.6 (page 27) are based on the number of interviewers who completed at least 5 interviews.

### 3.3.2 Item non-response

Some questions are more vulnerable to item-non response than others. The proportion item non-response (i.e. questionnaire only partially being completed, some items which should have been answered, skipped/left blank) was evaluated for the variables in the questionnaire. The item non-response for both the main socio-demographic variables, as well the variables with a high item non-response is visualized in figure 3.4.

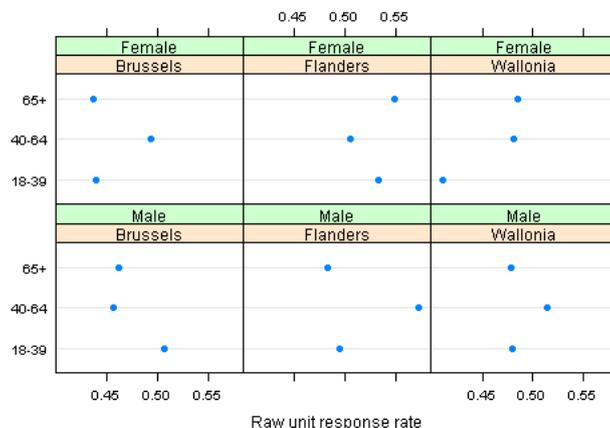
Table 3.3: Breakdown of by (non)reponse categories

Code	Outcome category	Frequency	Proportion
Refusal			
32	Household refusal	22	0.0073
42	Resp. refused	624	0.2066
No contact			
21	Not at home	282	0.0933
22	At home, did not open door	8	0.0026
23	Unable to reach house	3	0.0010
Ineligible			
11	Adress not valid	93	0.0308
31	Proxy language barrier	21	0.0070
33	Proxy not capable	58	0.0192
34	Proxy unavailable (until end fieldwork)	169	0.0559
41	Resp. language barrier	71	0.0235
43	Resp. not capable	65	0.0215
44	Resp. unavailable (until end fieldwork)	32	0.0106
Revisit			
35	Proxy unavailable (temporary)	1	0.0003
36	Proxy not able	1	0.0003
37	Appointment with proxy	0	0.000
45	Resp. unavailable (temporary)	1	0.0003
46	Appointment with resp.	1	0.0003
Other			
38	Proxy, other	56	0.0185
47	Resp., other	3	0.0010
52	Partial interview	1	0.0003
Achieved/completed			
51	Completed interview	1509	0.4995
Total		3021	100

The item non-response for the socio-demographic variables is very low. The survey-items on household income, the educational level of the respondents parent, the Left-Right orientation and party-preference show a noticeable item non-response, ranging from 4% (party preference) to 11% (household income).

To examine the item non-response on the identified variables, we calculated the mean item non-response by different categories: employment status, sex, region, educational

Figure 3.3: Socio-demographic distribution of the raw responderate



level and age. The means are mutually unconditional. The most noticeable difference is between regions, with respondents from Wallonia demonstrating a high item non-response.

### 3.3.3 Follow-up reports

The fieldwork was monitored weekly. To have an insight in what was happening in the field, follow-up reports were generated based on the intermediate data produced by the fieldwork organization. In total 13 fieldwork reports were generated. Each of the 13 fieldwork reports contained information about the fieldwork progress, the distribution of obtained interviews of fundamental sociological characteristics: age, province, region and gender as well as a ranking of interviewers by progress (number of achieved, ineligible, refusal or no contact per interviewer).

As an example a part of one of the last follow-up reports is included in the appendix. These results are based on intermediate data, provided by the field agency, and do not completely reflect the final outcome results of EVS Wave 4. No fieldwork report was compiled after the fieldwork ended.

### 3.3.4 Measurement and processing errors

Before a questionnaire is submitted to the fieldwork agency, several steps are taken to avoid measurement errors stemming from the questionnaire (ambiguous questions, confusing instructions, etc. ) influencing the survey. For instance, the CAPI questionnaire

Figure 3.4: Proportion item nonresponse per variable

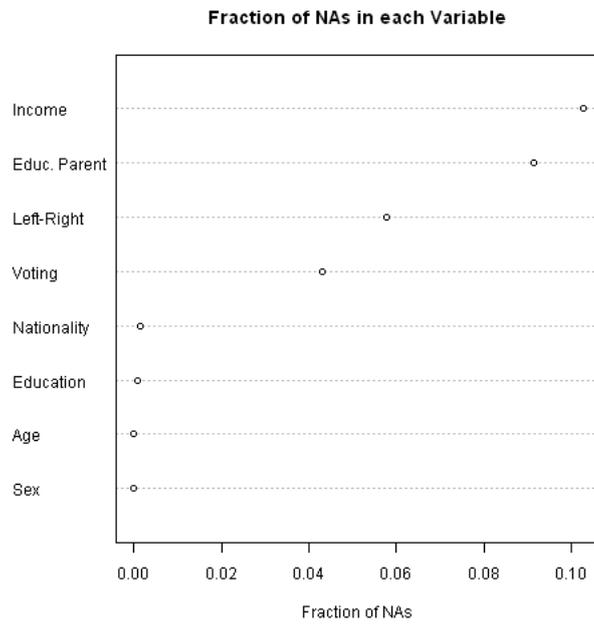


Figure 3.5: Proportion item nonresponse on income-variable

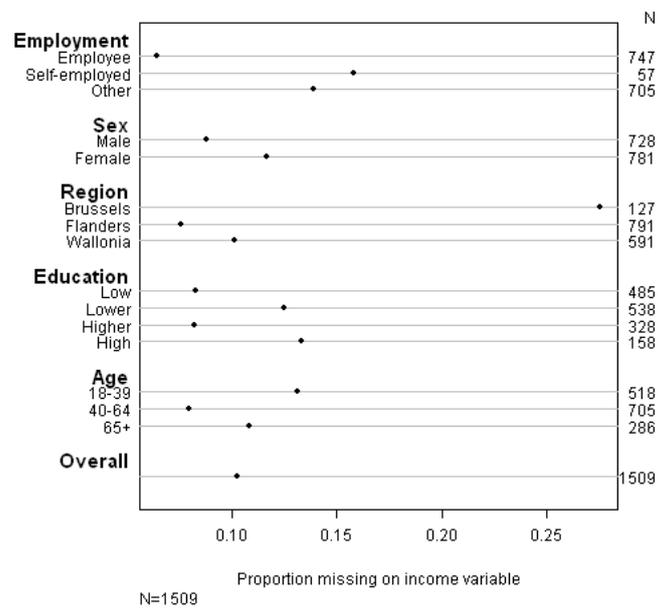


Figure 3.6: Proportion item nonresponse on voting variable

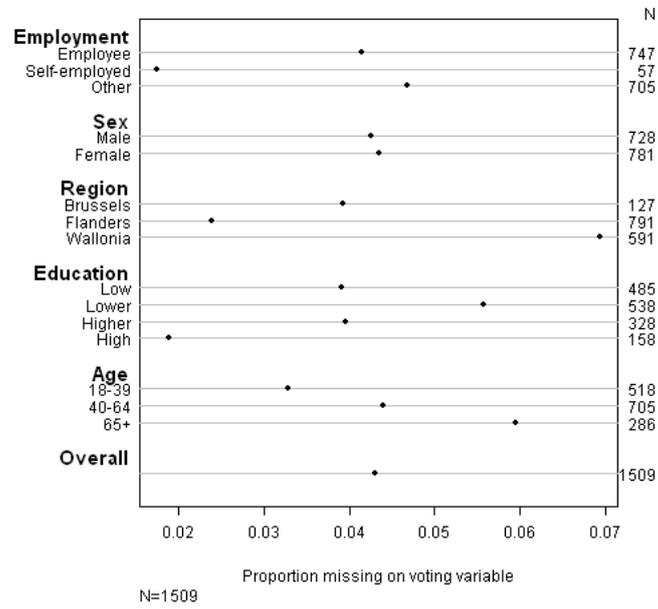
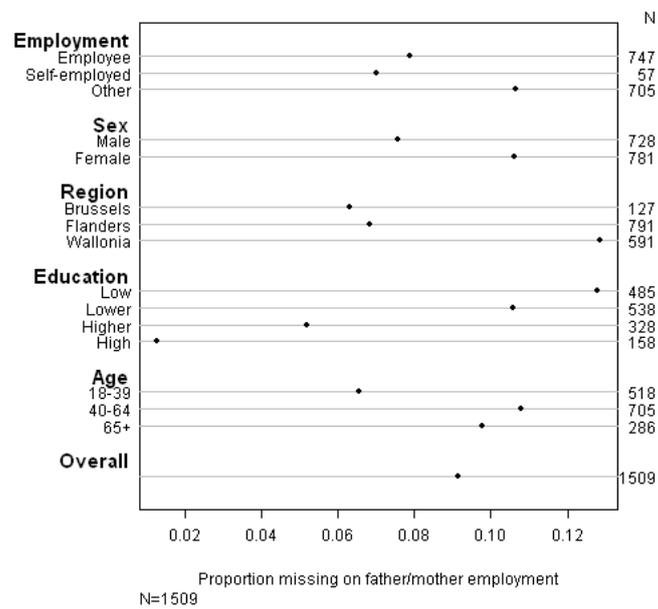


Figure 3.7: Proportion item nonresponse on parent education



was tested by doing different pretest interviews in quasi-real situations, namely a test interview with persons with various social-economic status.

Several problems can be described as processing errors. We will focus on the transformation of PAPI into CAPI questionnaire, the coding of specific variables and data cleaning. In a first step, the (paper) questionnaire was checked manually for inconsistencies, both internal and between the Dutch and French version.

The field agency converted this PAPI version to CAPI and provided the final CAPI-datafile, together with the software, used for administrating the CAPI-questionnaire. The CAPI questionnaire was checked by three persons independently by screening all the possible routings in the CAPI format. On the one hand the field manager of the fieldwork agency did it, on the other hand two job students has tried out the possible routings.

The bulk of the coding into standardized nomenclatura (ISCO88, NUTS, ...) was done by the field agency according to the official classification-files provided by the EVS. Certain labeling-errors where discovered and corrected. The answers on open questions where normalized and translated to English. All the corrections were made using SPSS and the (annotated) SPSS-syntax file was uploaded to the EVS.

When data processing had produced some flaws, data was edited to rectify the errors. This editing-step was preformed according to the steps prescribed by the EVS (GESIS, 2008). First of all, the data structure was checked. The variables were checked for order and incorrect variable and value labels, with the SPSS-syntax file, provided by the EVS as reference. A comparison between the answer categories of the variables in the data protocol and those in the final data file was done.

The answers on different questions were not checked for logical consistency, but the data was examined for errors in routing and filtering between questions. Some issues were discovered (e.g. redirect not reflected in the allowed labels) and corrected in the uploaded SPSS-syntax.

### **3.3.5 Remedial measures**

#### **Contact procedure and contact forms**

Dutch and French versions of the contact forms were prepared based on the standard EVS contact forms. The contact forms consists of four sections: general overview of contact attempt; result of contact; questions regarding refusals; and questions on sample units.

#### **Back-checks**

Quality control back-checks had to be carried out on at least 10% of respondents, 5% of refusals and 5% of cases where no contact with the sampled person was made including ineligibles (non contacts). All cases selected for control purposes had to be randomly selected. All back-checks were conducted by the field organisation. Quality control back-checks of respondents involved a short interview with the respondent by telephone. This included checks on whether an interview was indeed conducted

## Re-contact and refusal conversion

The sample points with the lowest response rates were recontacted, primarily in Brussels and the Walloon region of Belgium.

This is reflected in the contact file, which contains 3021 observations (3000 + 21). Originally 3000 addresses were selected to achieve the number of interviews needed. In Brussels however, due to low response, 21 addresses were replaced by a new address. The replaced addresses were marked “invalid addresses”.

In Wallonia, non contacts and soft refusals were re-contacted, this happened for 429 addresses. As there was no specific instruction on how to fit this into the contact file, the contacts made by the second interviewer can be found in the loops 11-20 (the contacts made by the first interviewer are in loops 1-10).

Only interviewers that had previously (not only for EVS, but taking previous academic assignments into account) achieved high response rates worked on re-issued addresses.

### 3.3.6 Construction of weights

In a first step, we compared the educational distribution in the realized sample with the population. As generally expected in surveys, lower-educated respondents are under-represented. This was also tested formally by comparing the two distributions using a chi-squared test ( $\chi^2 = 99.32, df = 3; p < 0.001$ ).

For the remaining socio-demographic variables (age, gender and region), it was not immediately clear whether there was a need for weighing. Introducing additional variables for which the realized sample does not differ from the population will unnecessarily increase the variance of the resulting weight-variable and reduce the average number of respondents in the different cells. We therefore aim for an as parsimonious as possible weighting design.

To arrive at this design, we used a loglinear model (Poisson regression analysis with a log link function).<sup>1</sup> We model the distribution of respondents in the realized sample over the different categories of the three socio-demographic variables. This approach allows us to evaluate for which variables—and their interaction effects—the realized sample significantly differs from the population.

Additionally, we evaluated different intervals for dividing the age-variable by looking at the variance of the resulting weight-variable and settled on a trichotomous categorization. One of the final models is presented in table 3.7 on page 27. The realized sample only significantly differs for age (using three categories) and region. The significant effect of region is in line with the expectations, as French-speaking respondents were oversampled on purpose. Gender and the different interaction-terms do not have a significant effect.

Based on these results we retain three variables for weighing: education, age (three categories) and region.

For the construction of the weight-variable itself we need the joint population distribution of education, age and region. The population statistics for this joint distribution are not available. Estimations of these population statistics are available, using data

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<sup>1</sup>Thanks to Koen Beullens for his input on this section.

from the Labour Force Survey (FOD Economie, 2005). However, constructing survey-weights on the basis of survey-data is generally not recommended, as the non-response mechanisms will likely be the same.

To minimize our reliance on survey-data for generating weights, we only use the estimation of the educational distribution and constructed the joint population-distribution using the census-data for age and region (FOD Economie, 2008). The distribution is obtained using Iterative Proportional Fitting (IPF, see for instance Agresti, 2002, pp. 343–344), implemented in WEIGHT 2.1 (Hajnal, 1995). IPF uses an iterative algorithm to obtain maximum likelihood estimations of the unknown or incomplete cell values using the known marginal values of a table.

Using this derived joint population-distribution we calculate the weights using the general formula

$$g_i = P_i/p_i \tag{3.1}$$

where  $P_i$  denotes the proportion of category  $i$  in the population and  $p_i$  the proportion of category  $i$  in the realized sample. This resulting weight thus combines the design weight (overrepresentation of French-speaking respondents) with weights correcting for differential response.

Table 3.4: Breakdown of (non)reponse categories per province

	Achieved	No contact	Refusal	Ineligible	Revisit	Other	Response rate
Antwerpen	225	30	90	64	0	11	0.63
Vlaams-Brabant	123	26	47	58	0	6	0.61
Brussel	127	70	64	91	0	9	0.47
West-Vlaanderen	164	24	57	27	1	7	0.65
Oost-Vlaanderen	165	34	90	43	2	6	0.56
Limburg	114	13	44	25	1	3	0.65
Waals-Brabant	58	12	38	12	0	0	0.54
Henegouwen	218	41	98	75	0	8	0.60
Namen	107	2	38	12	0	1	0.72
Luxemburg	42	8	13	16	0	1	0.66
Luik	166	33	67	86	0	8	0.61
Brussel	127	70	64	91	0	9	0.47
Vlaanderen	791	127	328	217	4	33	0.62
Wallonië	591	96	254	201	0	18	0.62
Total	1509	293	646	509	4	60	0.60

Table 3.5: Breakdown of by (non)reponse categories

Category	Achieved	Total	Inel.	Refusal	Non-contact	Resp. rate
<hr/> Age						
15-24	189	344	46	52	57	0,63
25-34	227	498	98	87	86	0,57
35-44	269	553	74	130	80	0,56
45-54	299	543	58	114	72	0,62
55-64	266	478	54	106	52	0,63
65-74	157	308	43	79	29	0,59
75-99	102	297	97	80	18	0,51
Bxl1	127	361	84	65	85	0,46
<hr/>						
Vla	791	1500	203	329	177	0,61
<hr/>						
Antwerp	225	420	54	90	51	0,61
Fr. Brabant	123	260	53	47	37	0,59
Brussels	127	361	84	65	85	0,46
W-Flanders	164	280	29	57	30	0,65
E-Flanders	165	340	42	90	43	0,55
Limburg	114	200	25	45	16	0,65
Wal	591	1160	183	254	132	0,6
<hr/>						
Fr. Brabant	58	120	9	38	15	0,52
Hainaut	218	440	69	98	55	0,59
Namur	107	160	11	38	4	0,72
Luxembourg	42	80	15	13	10	0,65
Liège	166	360	79	67	48	0,59
<hr/> Gender						
Male	728	1466	231	312	195	0,59
Fem	781	1555	239	336	199	0,59
<hr/>						
Total	1509	3021	470	648	394	0,59
<hr/>						

Table 3.6: Average response rate interviewers

Responserate	Percentage
< 0.15	0
0.16-0.30	2.27
0.31-0.45	18.18
0.46-0.60	37.50
0.61-0.75	21.59
0.76-0.99	17.05
1	3.41

Table 3.7: Loglinear model of nonresponse pattern by age, region & gender

	Estimate	Std. Error	$\chi^2$ value	$\text{Pr}( > \chi^2 )$
(Intercept)	-8.7035	0.0470	34226.0	0.0001
40-65	0.1914	0.0579	10.94	0.0009
65+	-0.1968	0.0834	5.56	0.0183
Flanders	-0.0903	0.0547	2.73	0.0985
Wallonia	0.1372	0.0592	6.38	0.0204
Female	-0.0662	0.0470	1.98	0.1594
F1*Female	0.0000	0.0001	0.30	0.7366
W1*Female	-0.0670	0.0360	-1.86	0.7746
40-65*F1	0.0070	0.0668	0.01	0.9167
40-65*W1	-0.0140	0.0718	0.04	0.8450
65+*F1	0.0022	0.0972	0.00	0.9819
65+*W1	-0.1654	0.1061	2.43	0.1188
lftcl*Female	0.1129	0.0579	3.81	0.0511
65+*Female	-0.1613	0.0834	3.74	0.0532
40-65*F1*Female	-0.0779	0.0668	1.36	0.2440
40-65*W1*Female	-0.0318	0.0718	0.20	0.6575
65+*F1*Female	0.0257	0.0972	0.07	0.7913
65+*W1*Female	-0.0868	0.1061	0.67	0.4134

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## 4 Appendix

1. EVS: participating countries, wave 1–4
2. Detailed sample design
3. Example progress report

**Table: Overview participating countries per wave**

1981	1990	1999	2008
			Albania
			Armenia
	Austria	Austria	Austria
			Azerbaijan
	Belarus	Belarus	Belarus
Belgium	Belgium	Belgium	Belgium
	Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Bulgaria
			Bosnia-Herzegovina
		Croatia	Croatia
			Cyprus
	Czech Republic	Czech Republic	Czech Republic
Denmark	Denmark	Denmark	Denmark
	Estonia	Estonia	Estonia
	Finland	Finland	Finland
France	France	France	France
			Georgia
Germany	Germany		Germany
	Germany East		
Great Britain	Great Britain	Great Britain	Great Britain
		Greece	Greece
	Hungary	Hungary	Hungary
Iceland	Iceland	Iceland	Iceland
Ireland	Ireland	Ireland	Ireland
Italy	Italy	Italy	Italy
			Kosovo
	Latvia	Latvia	Latvia
	Lithuania	Lithuania	Lithuania
		Luxembourg	Luxembourg
			Macedonia Republic
Malta	Malta	Malta	Malta
			Moldova
			Montenegro
The Netherlands	The Netherlands	The Netherlands	The Netherlands
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland
Norway	Norway		Norway
	Poland	Poland	Poland
	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal
	Romania	Romania	Romania
	Russia	Russia	Russia
			Serbia

	Slovak Republic	Slovak Republic	Slovak Republic
	Slovenia	Slovenia	Slovenia
Spain	Spain	Spain	Spain
Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden
	Switzerland		Switzerland
		Turkey	Turkey
		Ukraine	Ukraine

## Detailed sample design

### Flemish sample

number of sets and number of cases to be select per province and commune (city) **Flemish part**

----- prov=Antwerpen -----

Obs	Gemeente	Number Hits	samp_ cases
1	ANTWERPEN	3	60
2	BOECHOUT	1	20
3	BRASSCHAAT	1	20
4	KAPellen	1	20
5	RANST	1	20
6	WUUSTWEZEL	2	40
7	MECHELEN	2	40
8	ARENDONK	1	20
9	GEEL	1	20
10	HERENTALS	3	60
11	KASTERLEE	1	20
12	MEERHOUT	1	20
13	RAVELS	1	20
14	WESTERLO	2	40
----		----	----
prov		21	420

----- prov=Limburg -----

Obs	Gemeente	Number Hits	samp_ cases
15	BERINGEN	1	20
16	DIEPENBEEK	2	40
17	OPGLABBEEK	1	20
18	SINT-TRUIDEN	1	20
19	BILZEN	2	40
20	LANAKEN	1	20
21	MAASMECHELEN	2	40
----		----	----
prov		10	200

----- prov=Oost-Vlaanderen -----

Number	samp_	Gemeente	Hits	cases
22		AALST	2	40
23		NINOVE	1	20
24		ZOTTEGEM	1	20
25		DENDERMONDE	1	20
26		LEBBEKE	1	20
27		WETTEREN	1	20
28		ASSENEDE	1	20
29		MALDEGEM	1	20
30		DESTELBERGEN	1	20
31		EVERGEM	1	20
32		GENT	2	40
33		ZULTE	1	20
34		ZINGEM	1	20
35		SINT-NIKLAAS	2	40
----			----	----
prov			17	340

----- prov=Vl-Brabant -----

Obs	Gemeente	Number Hits	samp_ cases
-----	----------	----------------	----------------

36	BEERSEL	1	20
37	DILBEEK	1	20
38	GALMAARDEN	1	20
39	HALLE	1	20
40	LIEDEKERKE	1	20
41	MACHELEN	1	20
42	PEPINGEN	1	20
43	VILVOORDE	1	20
44	SINT-GENESIUS-RODE	1	20
45	HULDENBERG	1	20
46	KEERBERGEN	2	40
47	LINTER	1	20
----		----	----
prov		13	260

----- prov=West-Vlaanderen -----

Obs	Gemeente	Number Hits	samp_ cases
48	BRUGGE	4	80
49	OOSTKAMP	1	20
50	TORHOUT	1	20
51	ZONNEBEKE	1	20
52	KORTRIJK	1	20
53	MENEN	1	20
54	WAREGEM	1	20
55	IZEGEM	2	40
56	DE PANNE	1	20
57	VEURNE	1	20
----		----	----
prov		14	280
		=====	=====
		75	1500

----- prov=Brussel hoofdstad & Walloon-----

Obs	Gemeente	Number Hits	samp_ cases
1	ANDERLECHT	1	20
2	AUDERGHEM	1	20
3	BRUXELLES	1	20
4	ETTERBEEK	2	40
5	FOREST	1	20
6	IXELLES	1	20
7	JETTE	1	20
8	SAINT-GILLES	2	40
9	SCHAERBEEK	1	20
10	UCCLE	4	80
11	WOLUWE-SAINT-LAMBERT	1	20
12	WOLUWE-SAINT-PIERRE	1	20
----		----	----
prov		17	340

----- prov=Henegouwen -----

Obs	Gemeente	Number Hits	samp_ cases
13	ATH	1	20
14	BERNISSART	1	20
15	CHAPELLE-LEZ-HERLAIMONT	1	20
16	CHARLEROI	2	40
17	COURCELLES	1	20
18	MANAGE	2	40
19	PONT-A-CELLES	1	20
20	MONS	1	20
21	QUAREGNON	1	20
22	SILLY	1	20
23	SOIGNIES	1	20
24	ANDERLUES	1	20
25	BEAUMONT	1	20
26	BINCHE	1	20
27	ERQUELINNES	1	20
28	MORLANWELZ	1	20
29	TOURNAI	3	60
30	LEUZE-EN-HAINAUT	1	20
----		----	----
prov		22	440

number of sets and number of cases to be select per province and commune (city) French

----- prov=Luik -----

Obs	Gemeente	Number Hits	samp_ cases
31	FERRIERES	1	20
32	VERLAINE	1	20
33	ENGIS	1	20
34	CHAUDFONTAINE	1	20
35	FLERON	1	20
36	HERSTAL	2	40
37	LIEGE	6	120
38	SAINT-NICOLAS	1	20
39	FLEMALLE	1	20
40	DISON	1	20
41	FEXHE-LE-HAUT-CLOCHER	1	20
42	HANNUT	1	20
----		----	----
prov		18	360

----- prov=Luxemburg -----

Obs	Gemeente	Number Hits	samp_ cases
-----	----------	----------------	----------------

43	ARLON	1	20
44	AUBANGE	1	20
45	NEUFCHATEAU	2	40
----		----	----
prov		4	80

----- prov=Namen -----

Obs	Gemeente	Number Hits	samp_ cases
46	ROCHEFORT	1	20
47	SOMME-LEUZE	1	20
48	FOSSES-LA-VILLE	1	20
49	NAMUR	3	60
50	JEMEPPE-SUR-SAMBRE	1	20
51	WALCOURT	1	20
----		----	----
prov		8	160

number of sets and number of cases to be select per province and commune (city) French

----- prov=Waals Brabant -----

Obs	Gemeente	Number Hits	samp_ cases
52	BRAINE-L'ALLEUD	4	80
53	CHASTRE	1	20
54	WALHAIN	1	20
----		----	----
prov		6	120
		=====	=====
		75	1500

The cases are in last step randomly selected from the National Register.

## Voortgangsrapport week 11 (04-08-2009)

Binnengekomen interviews lopen van 18/07 t.e.m. 25/07, aantal: 30 (groep 11). Groep 11 heeft brief één gekregen (30 stuks), groep 9 de tweede brief (29 stuks), groep 8 de 3<sup>e</sup> brief (42 stuks).

### Voortgangsrapport algemeen

Week	Datum	Aantal	Totaal	Projectie	Projectie VI/W/B
	29/04/2009		0		
	30/04/2009		0		
	01/05/2009		0		
<b>Week 19</b>	04/05/2009		0		
	05/05/2009	23	23		
	06/05/2009	30	53		
	07/05/2009	33	86		
	08/05/2009	30	116		
<b>Week 20</b>	11/05/2009	34	150		
	12/05/2009	24	174		
	13/05/2009	10	184		
	14/05/2009	22	206		
	15/05/2009	19	225		
<b>Week 21</b>	18/05/2009	48	273	300	
	19/05/2009	36	309		
	20/05/2009	20	329		
	21/05/2009		329		
	22/05/2009		329		
<b>Week 22</b>	25/05/2009	123	452	400	
	26/05/2009	29	481		
	27/05/2009	22	503		
	28/05/2009	49	552		
	29/05/2009	27	579		
<b>Week 23</b>	01/06/2009		579	550	
	02/06/2009	60	639		
	03/06/2009	23	662		
	04/06/2009	25	687		
	05/06/2009	13	700	(heziening)	
<b>Week 24</b>	08/06/2009	27	727	750	550/225/50
	09/06/2009	15	742		
	10/06/2009	20	762		
	11/06/2009	9	771		
	12/06/2009		771		
<b>Week 25</b>	15/06/2009	36	807	825	600/300/60
	16/06/2009	26	833		
	17/06/2009	10	843		
	18/06/2009	14	857		
	19/06/2009	5	862		
<b>Week 26</b>	22/06/2009	13	875	960	650/450/70
	23/06/2009	25	900		

	24/06/2009	17	917		
	25/06/2009	8	925		
	26/06/2009	19	944		
<b>Week 27</b>	29/06/2009	52	996	1170	725/550/120
	30/06/2009	20	1016		
	01/07/2009	29	1045		
	02/07/2009	24	1069		
	03/07/2009	6	1075		
<b>Week 28</b>	06/07/2009	40	1115	1395	750/580/140
	07/07/2009	47	1162		
	08/07/2009	30	1191		
	09/07/2009	22	1213		
	10/07/2009	43	1256		
<b>Week 29</b>	13/07/2009	47	1303	1470	
	14/07/2009	16	1319		
	15/07/2009	20	1339		
	16/07/2009	20	1359		
	17/07/2009	18	1377		
	22/07/2009	25	1402		
	23/07/2009	12	1414		
	24/07/2009	12	1426		
	27/07/2009	21	1447		
	28/07/2009	4	1451		
	29/07/2009	12	1463		
	30/07/2009	8	1471		

### *Response naar categorieën*

		Achieved	Total	Inelegeble	Refusal	No contact	Responsrate
<b>Geslacht</b>	Man	693	1353	210	298	152	0,61
	Vrouw	741	1447	227	332	147	0,61
<b>Leeftijd</b>	15-24	182	319	43	48	46	0,66
	25-34	209	454	89	87	69	0,57
	35-44	254	502	67	125	56	0,58
	45-54	285	503	55	111	52	0,64
	55-64	257	446	50	103	36	0,65
	65-74	150	293	37	79	27	0,59
	75-99	97	283	96	77	13	0,52

<b>Brussel</b>	Brussel	105	284	70	70	39	0,49
<b>Vlaanderen</b>							
	Antwerpen	224	415	53	89	49	0,62
	Vlaams-Brabant	103	215	46	42	24	0,61
	West-Vlaanderen	164	280	29	57	30	0,65
	Oost-Vlaanderen	165	334	40	89	40	0,56
	Limburg	114	200	25	45	16	0,65
		770	1444	193	322	159	0,62
<b>Wallonië</b>							
	Waals-Brabant	50	103	7	38	8	0,52
	Henegouwen	203	407	67	97	40	0,6
	Namen	101	158	12	42	3	0,69
	Luxemburg	40	80	14	13	13	0,61
	Luik	165	324	74	48	37	0,66
		559	1072	174	238	101	0,62
<b>Totaal</b>		1434	2800	437	630	299	0,61

### *Response naar interviewers*

intr	total	achieved	inel	refusal	nocontact	resprate
<b>Total</b>	2800	1433	437	630	300	0,61
<b>00009</b>	1	1	0	0	0	1
<b>00009</b>	12	6	4	1	1	0,75
<b>00009</b>	16	5	5	0	6	0,45
<b>00043</b>	4	0	0	1	3	0
<b>00043</b>	7	0	2	1	4	0
<b>00043</b>	10	5	2	0	3	0,63
<b>00043</b>	7	1	2	1	3	0,2
<b>00043</b>	7	1	1	5	0	0,17
<b>00043</b>	20	10	1	3	6	0,53
<b>00043</b>	13	8	1	4	0	0,67
<b>00043</b>	9	2	2	2	3	0,29
<b>00043</b>	15	10	5	0	0	1
<b>00043</b>	5	1	0	4	0	0,2
<b>00043</b>	7	1	2	3	1	0,2
<b>00043</b>	11	8	0	1	2	0,73