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für Sozialwissenschaften

German Longitudinal
Election Study GLES

Durchgeführt von der
Deutschen Gesellschaft für Wahlforschung und GESIS

GLES Panel

ZA6838

Wave Report
Wave 12, Sample A

Table of Content

Preliminary Notes

Please Note: Working with GLES Data

This publication and the corresponding data set are data of the German Longitudinal Election Study (GLES), which are released by GESIS in cooperation with the German Society of Electoral Research (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Wahlforschung, DGfW). Despite thorough inspection and statistical processing of the data, GESIS and the DGfW cannot guarantee that this release will satisfy all demands. Mistakes will immediately be announced via the GLES mailing list and are documented in the data catalog's errata list.

If you discover an error whilst working with GLES data, we would highly appreciate if you would inform us via e-mail (gles@gesis.org). Please send us a description of the error, the study number (ZA-number), as well as the version number of the data set you are using.

We recommend always using the latest version of GLES data. Information on data access can be found on the GLES website (https://www.gles.eu).

Announcement of publication with GLES data

To gain an overview of the use of the data, we kindly request users of GLES data to inform us about publications that utilize those data (bibliographic information, study no. of the data set).

Publications which are completely or partially based on GLES data will be listed in the official bibliography of GLES. In case of limited access to the publication (e.g., conference papers), we would highly appreciate it if you sent us a PDF-file or a print copy of your publication.

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Citation of GLES Data

Please refer to the study description.

1 Study Characteristics

1.1 GLES Panel

The GLES Panel is a longitudinal survey of the same individuals from currently two different main samples. Sample A, "2017 Election Campaign", consists of respondents from the Short-Term Campaign Panel of the GLES 2017. Sample A consists of three sub-samples: the main sample A1, the recontact sample A2, and the refreshment sample A3. In contrast, Sample B, "2017 Pre- and Post-Election Cross-Section", includes respondents from the 2017 Pre- and Post-Election Cross-Section of GLES (ZA6802) who agreed to be re-interviewed in the GLES Panel. While respondents from Sample A have been interviewed up to nine times since the beginning of the data collection in autumn 2016, Wave 10 of the GLES Panel has been the first re-interview for respondents from Sample B. In autumn 2020, a new refreshment sample was recruited for studying the "2021 Election Campaign".

This wave report refers to Sample A of the GLES Panel. This sample consists of a non-probabilistic selection of participants from the German opt-in online panel provided by respondi AG. This sample builds the base of the panel (formerly Short-Term Campaign Panel, now: Sample A).

The study description of the GLES Panel gives a general introduction, along with an overview, of all samples and waves and is part of the documentation, which is provided together with the data files. Please refer to the most recent version of the study description concerning the study's conception, data access, and structure, as well as the version history.

1.2 Wave 12, Sample A

1.2.1 Date of Collection

2019-11-05 – 2019-11-19

1.2.2 Study Coordination Group GLES

Prof. Dr. Marc Debus	(University of Mannheim)
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1.2.3 Contributors

Table 1:   Contributors

Role	Name	Affiliation
Project Leader	Schoen, Harald	(University of Mannheim)
Project Manager	Roßmann, Joss	(GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences)
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	Stroppe, Anne-Kathrin	(GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences)

1.2.4 Funding Agency

GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences

2   Sampling

Please note:

For further information on the sampling and selection method of Sample A, as well as a detailed description of the implementation of the waves 1 to 9, please refer to the study description of the 2017 Short-Term Campaign Panel (ZA6804). Please always refer to the most recent version.

2.1   Geographic Coverage

Germany (DE)

2.2   Universe

The target population of Sample A of the GLES Panel comprises citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany who were eligible to vote in the 2017 election to the German Bundestag, that is, German citizens who lived in private households and had reached the age of 18.

2.3   Sampling Frame

Since the data for Sample A of the GLES Panel were collected in computer-assisted web interviews (CAWI), not all eligible citizens had a non-zero chance to be selected for the panel survey. Thus, the sampling frame was chosen to only include panel members of the opt-in online panel provided by respondi AG and GapFish GmbH who were eligible to vote in the election to the Bundestag of the Federal Republic of Germany on September 24, 2017.

2.4   Recruitment of Panel Members

Sample A of the GLES Panel consists of three sub-samples, which relied on different selection methods.

2.4.1   A1 – 2016 Main Sample

The main sample, A1, consists of members of the opt-in online panels provided by respondi AG and GapFish GmbH who were selected for participation in the GLES Panel in autumn 2016 and who provided a complete interview in the profile wave. Sample members were selected using crossed quotas on gender (male, female), age (five groups: 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60 years and older), and education (three categories: low: leaving school without graduation, leaving school after 8 or 9 years of schooling; intermediate: secondary qualification, leaving school after 10 years of schooling; high: general qualification for university entrance, advanced technical college certificate). To obtain a heterogeneous sample, equal target sizes were assigned to each quota. Thus, the aim was that each quota would represent roughly 3.33 percent of the sample. Minor deviations from the quotas were accepted as the opt-in online panel provider could not guarantee a sufficient number of interviews for certain quotas, even by inviting respondents from the opt-in online panel provided by GapFish.

All in all, 15,802 respondents completed the interview of the profile wave in autumn 2016. Of those, a total of 1,257 GapFish panel respondents participated.

2.4.2 A2 –2013 Re-Contact Sample

The re-contact sample, A2, includes 4,608 respondents who had previously taken part in at least three waves of the 2013 Campaign Panel (ZA5704). In contrast to the main sample A1, respondents of the re-contact sample A2 were invited to subsequent waves of the GLES Panel even if they did not provide a complete interview in the profile wave.

2.4.3 A3 – 2017 Refreshment Sample

Between July and August 2017 3,960 members of the German opt-in online panel of respondi AG were selected for the refreshment sample A3. Quotas on gender, age, and education were used to select respondents who had similar characteristics to those respondents who had dropped out of the main sample A1 by that time. In a profile wave, information on socio-demographic and psychological characteristics was collected. Only those respondents who completed the interview of the profile wave were treated as eligible GLES Panel members and invited to further interviews from wave five onwards

It is important to note that, due to an inadequacy of the survey software used, several respondents were able to take part several times in the profile waves of the main sample A1 and the refreshment sample A3. As a remedy for this issue, only the first interview of every person was considered for the GLES Panel.

2.5 Selection Method for a Panel Wave

All active panel members of Sample A were selected for participation in a panel wave. Active members of Sample A are all respondents of the main sample A1, the re-contact sample A2, and the refreshment sample A3 who have not signed off or were removed from the opt-in online panels provided by respondi AG and GapFish GmbH by the time the panel wave was being conducted.

3   Data Collection

3.1   Mode of Data Collection

Computer-assisted web interviews (CAWI) with standardized questionnaire

3.2   Data Collector

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3.3   Survey Software

The programming of the questionnaire and the data collection were carried out using the QuestBack Enterprise Feedback Suite (EFS/Unipark) software.

3.4   Incentives

Respondents received panel points amounting to €1.50 for completing the interview.

3.5   Invitations and Reminders

Table 2 gives an overview of the timing and numbers of invitations and reminders. The layout and the exact wording of the invitations and reminders are included in the appendix of the wave report.

Table 2:   Invitations and Reminder

Type	Date	N
Invitation	2019-11-05	15,006
1st Reminder	2019-11-07	7,749
1st Reminder for breakoffs	2019-11-07	917
2nd Reminder	2019-11-11	5,733
2nd Reminder for breakoffs	2019-11-11	519
3rd Reminder	2019-11-14	5,387
3rd Reminder for breakoffs	2019-11-14	444

3.6 Participant Verification

When carrying out panel surveys, it is important to make sure that only the target person takes part in the survey. This is particularly challenging for web-based panel surveys, as the self-completion of the questionnaire permits direct participant verification. For instance, household members who have access to the e-mail account of the target person could participate instead. To prevent participation by non-target persons, the invitation e-mail and the homepage included a request to abstain from participating in the survey if one did not participate in the survey before.

Furthermore, the questionnaire of each wave starts with the verification of the target respondent. This includes requesting four basic features from every participant: gender, year of birth, month of birth, and the first letter of the place of birth. From the second wave on, the responses were checked to be correspondent to the information given in the profile wave (see Figure 1). The participants were only allowed to continue with the questionnaire when the responses were in full compliance with the information provided in the profile wave. If at least one response differed from the reference data, the participants were given the opportunity to enter their four features a second time. When the data did not correspond to the reference data again, the participants were screened out of the survey. They received the information that a problem occurred concerning their verification and that they would be re-invited at a later point in time. Before the participants were screened out, they were given the opportunity to provide a reason why their responses did not correspond to the reference data given in the profile wave (see "Reason for wrong verification code" in Figure 1).

Figure 1: Participant Verification Process
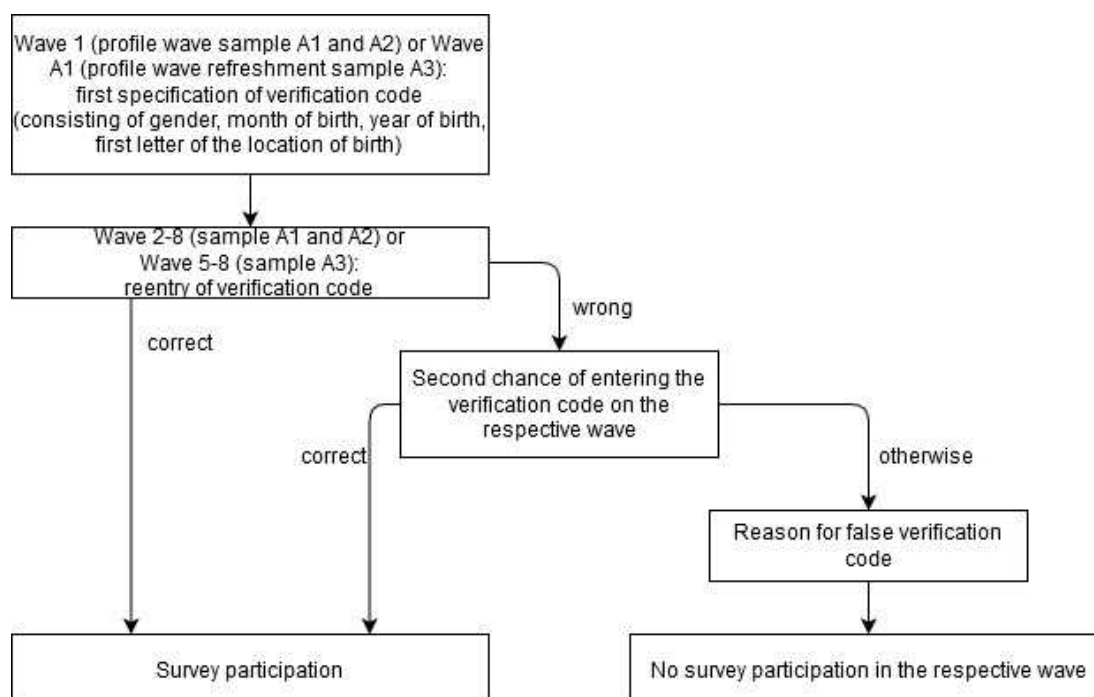
The target persons were re-invited to the survey in the course of reminder e-mails for breakoffs and could again enter their verification data. This possibility was only offered once to each participant with false verification information. Of those respondents who had already participated in the 2013 Campaign Panel, information on the four basic features was already available. For this reason, the

verification information of this group of participants was compared with their data from the profile wave of the 2013 Campaign Panel from the very first wave onwards.

3.7   Outcome Rates

Systematic unit non-response is a source of error in surveys that can substantially reduce the data's quality. If variables of interest are correlated with the panelists' response propensity, unit non-response results in biased estimates ("non-response bias"). The reporting of standardized case codes and outcome rates aims at providing an overview of patterns of survey (non-)response and ensures the comparability of these patterns with other studies.

The GLES Panel reports case codes based on the standard definitions of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR 2016), which were adapted to the German survey context (Stadtmüller et al. 2019). Outcome rates were calculated following recommendations by Callegaro and DiSogra (2008) and DiSogra and Callegaro (2016).

All cases in the sample that were invited to take part in a panel wave were classified as either complete interview (*I*), partial interview (*P*), refusal (*R*), break-off (*BO*), non-contact (*NC*), or unknown other (*UO*).[1] Table 3 gives an overview of the final disposition of all cases in the sample and the number of panel members who signed off or were removed from the panel.

Table 3:   Final Disposition of Case Codes

Final Disposition		Sample A1-A3
	Invited	15,006
I	Complete interview	9,511
P	Partial interview	22
R	Refusal	0
BO	Break-off	261
NC	Non-contact	5,057
UO	Other	155

Based on recommendations by AAPOR (2016), interviews were classified as complete if more than 80 percent of all applicable[2] questions were answered by a respondent. Interviews with between 50 and 80 percent of all applicable questions answered were denoted as partial, and interviews with less than 50 percent of all applicable questions answered were classified as break-off.

All outcome rates were computed based on the final disposition of cases in the sample. The *completion rate (COMR)* is the proportion of complete and partial interviews among all active panel members who were invited to the panel wave:

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1 It is usually impossible to determine with absolute confidence whether a failed verification is caused by erroneous entries by the target person or by an attempted participation of a non-target person. Thus, respondents who were screened out due to a failed participant verification process are classified as unknown others.

2 This includes all questions that respondents were asked. The number varies between respondents due to filter questions.

$$Completion\ Rate\ (COMR) = \frac{(I + P)}{(I + P) + (R + BO + NC + O)}$$

The *break-off rate (BOR)* is the proportion of those who answered less than 50 percent of all applicable questions over those who started the survey interview:

$$Breakoff\ rate\ (BOR) = \frac{BO}{(I + P) + (BO)}$$

Table 4: Outcome Rates

Rate		Sample A1-A3
COMR	Completion Rate	9,533 / 15,006 = 0.635
BOR	Breakoff Rate	261 / 9,794 = 0.027

4   Data Processing

4.1   Preliminary Note

The processing of the data follows the directive of minimal invasive editing. Data preparation was done individually for each wave and based on syntax files. It is therefore possible to reproduce all steps.

4.2   Data Checks and Editing

All data are carefully checked after data collection has been finished. This includes checking whether all of the variables are included in the data set, the correctness of variable names and labels, the completeness of value labels, the coding of missing values, and the marginal distributions. These data checks are supplemented by the use of the freely available Stata module *scandata* (Kaukal 2016), which examines the variables in a data set on the basis of given specifications regarding the use of capital letters or mutated vowels, length of variable names and labels, or odd distributions. It indicates deviations from these specifications and - if requested by the user - automatically corrects them. In addition, a technical check of the question routing is carried out.

All errors found during these checks are documented and corrected (see Section 5 "Errata"). If errors occurred which could not be corrected, the error code -92 "error in data" applies.

Besides the examination of the data, data errors are detected through respondents' comments. At the end of each survey, respondents were given the opportunity to give feedback. Comments occasionally included information on technical problems or incorrect answers. Incorrect answers were corrected if the mistake was clearly specified. If problems occurred with individual respondents when displaying the survey page in the web survey, this was indicated in the variable with the error code -92 "error in data". These few cases related almost exclusively to user-programmed survey questions (e.g., exemplified ballot, pictures of politicians, slider questions).

Response quality is monitored and can be evaluated with several additional indicators. These include instructed response items to check if respondents click or tick through answer categories randomly and the calculation of a *speederindex* to identify respondents who had exceptionally short item response times. Since the data processing follows the directive of minimal invasive editing, it is up to the data user to decide on how to proceed with this information. For a more detailed overview, please refer to the section on response quality indicators.

Despite a thorough examination of the data, errors in the data records might remain undetected. If these are discovered at a later point in time, they are documented in the errata and corrected as soon as possible.

4.3   Units in the Data Set

The data set of Sample A consists of 9,794 units.

4.4 Variables in the Data Set

The data set of the GLES Panel includes different types of variables:

Metadata describe the data set and its creation and include variables that are required for the archiving and distribution of the study, that is, the study number, the version and the field time of data collection.

Paradata are captured as a byproduct of the interview process. They include, for example, time and date of the data collection, interview duration, and information on the device used by a respondent (e.g., browser version, JavaScript version). For Sample A, these variables also provide information about previous survey participation behavior of the members of the opt-in online panel. This includes, for instance, the number of received invitations to take part in a survey and the frequency of actual participation in surveys. Administrative information such as identification numbers and information on the assignment to groups (e.g., recruitment, mode of participation) are also treated as paradata.

Contextual variables provide information about the regional contexts of the participants.

Response quality indicators are variables that can potentially be used to evaluate the participants' answer quality.

Weighting variables included in the data set are post-stratification weights.

Attitudinal and behavioral variables: The respondents' answers to the questions in the questionnaire.

Table 5 gives an overview of the total number of variables in the published data set. The following subchapters provide an overview of the specific variables.

Table 5:   Detailed Overview of Number of Variables

	Number of Variables
Metadata	6
Paradata	31
Contextual variables	1
Response quality indicators	4
Weights	4
Attitudinal and behavioural variables	135
Response time variables (published in an additional data set)	0
Total	181

4.4.1   Metadata

Metadata are included in all GLES data sets to describe the data set including variables that are required for the archiving and distribution of the study.

Table 6:   Metadata

Variable	Explanation
study	provides the (ZA) study number of the dataset in four-digit format and the study number and title as value label
version	Dataset version, starting with 1.0.0
doi	Digital Object Identifier
field_start	First day of data collection for the panel wave
field_end	Last day of data collection for the panel wave
sample	Allocation of respondents to survey groups (3 = Sample A1: 2016 Main Sample; 2 = Sample A2: 2013 Re-Contact Sample; 4 = Sample A3: 2017 Refreshment Sample)

4.4.2   Paradata

The published data set contains different kinds of paradata. Paradata are collected as a byproduct of the interview process or created during data processing including, for example, administrative information.

Table 7:   Paradata

Variable	Explanation
lfdn, lfdn09, lfdn13	Every survey participant receives a consecutive number. The *lfdn* corresponds with the *lfdn* of the 2017 Short-Term Campaign Panel, the *lfdn13* with the 2013 Short-Term Campaign Panel, and the *lfdn09* with the 2009 Short-Term Campaign Panel.
access_panel	Opt-in online panel membership of the respondents (0= respondi, 1=GapFish)
kp12_participation	Participation status of the panelist (0= "not participated", 1= "finished interview", 2 "interrupted interview (after verification)")
kp12_dispcode	Disposition code of the participants which shows their status in the field, that is e.g. whether the participant has already begun or finished the survey
kp12_interrupt	Interruption of the interview (0 = no interruption, 1 = with interruption)
kp12_intstatus	Share of completed interview questions (1 = complete (over 80 percent answered), 2 = partial (between 50 and 80 percent answered), 3 = break-off (less than 50 percent answered), 4 = screen-out)
kp12_group	Invitation of respondent (online or offline)
kp12_modus	Modus of participation (online or offline)
n_participation	Number of interviews which were finished by the GLES Panel participant
p_participation	Numeric code which indicates in which waves of the GLES Panel a participant has taken part (0 = no participation; 1 = participation).
kp12_device	Specifies the device used by the respondent, based on the information of the user agent.

kp12_smartphone	Indicates whether the survey was filled out using a smartphone, based on the information of the user agent (0 = other device; 1 = smartphone).
kp12_tablet	Indicates whether the survey was filled out using a tablet, based on the information of the user agent (0 = other device; 1 = tablet).
kp12_datetime	Date and time of the start of the survey, i.e. the access on the first page of the questionnaire. The information about time in the data set corresponds to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
kp12_date_of_last_access	Date and time of the last access to the survey. The information about time in the data set corresponds to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
kp12_lastpage	Indicates the last page submitted by the participant, i.e. if the participant dropped out of the survey.
kp12_duration	The duration of processing, i.e. the time which passes between the first and the last access of the participant to the questionnaire. When a participant interrupts filling out the questionnaire and continues at a later point in time (disposition codes 23, 32), it is assigned the value -99, as no reasonable calculation is possible.

The second group of paradata is additional information on the respondents' participation in (other) surveys as members of the opt-in online panels provided by respondi or GapFish. These paradata provide information about the panelists' entry into the panel, the way of recruitment, as well as the survey participation behavior of the panelists: a) during the last 12 months and b) during the last three months.

Table 8:   Paradata provided by the opt-in online panel provider

Variable	Explanation
p_numinv2 & p_numinv2_2	Number of survey participation invitations (in the last 12 months; key date respondents recruited in 2016: 11/16/2016 (p_numinv2), key date refreshment sample A2: 08/10/2017 (p_numinv2_2))
p_numcpl2 & p_numcpl2_2	Number of survey participations (in the last 12 months; key date respondents recruited in 2016: 11/16/2016 (p_numcpl2), key date refreshment sample A2: 08/10/2017 (p_numcpl2_2))
p_numstr2 & p_numstr2_2	Number of commenced surveys (in the last 12 months; key date respondents recruited in 2016: 11/16/2016 (p_numstr2), key date refreshment sample A2: 08/10/2017 (p_numstr2_2))
p_numinv3 & p_numinv3_2	Number of survey participation invitations (in the last 3 months; key date respondents recruited in 2016: 11/16/2016 (p_numinv3), key date refreshment sample A2: 08/10/2017 (p_numinv3_2))
p_numcpl3 & p_numcpl3_2	Number of survey participations (in the last 3 months; key date respondents recruited in 2016: 11/16/2016 (p_numcpl3), key date refreshment sample A2: 08/10/2017 (p_numcpl3_2))
p_numstr3 & p_numstr3_2	Number of commenced surveys (in the last 3 months; key date respondents recruited in 2016: 11/16/2016 (p_numstr3), key date refreshment sample A2: 08/10/2017 (p_numstr3_2))

4.4.3   Contextual Variables

East/West

The allocation to East and West Germany was made on the basis of the information on the federal state in which the respondents have their main residence. Since no differentiation between East and West Berlin was made in the survey, respondents living in Berlin are assigned to East Germany.

4.4.4   Response Quality Indicators

The published data set contains variables that can be used to assess response quality.

Index of the Average Response Speed

Due to the lack of control of the respondents by an interviewer in web surveys and the special reward structure by incentivizing the respondents, this panel survey is confronted with the challenge of exceptionally short item response times, which is also referred to as speeding. Speeding means that some respondents answer individual questions or the entire survey significantly faster than the majority of the respondents. Short response times to the questions in the survey are not a problem in themselves since respondents differ in their response speed due to differences in socio-structural and personal characteristics (e.g., education, age, intelligence, reaction speed). Nevertheless, it can be assumed that a very high average response speed is associated with lower levels of response quality since respondents presumably spend little effort answering the questions and therefore give superficial or arbitrary answers, make no statement, or provide "don't know" answers, although they could have given substantive answers (Krosnick 1991).

In this panel survey, speeding respondents are identified using a method, which is a further development of the approach developed by Roßmann (2010). For this purpose, the freely available Stata module *speedergles* (Roßmann 2015) is used to create an index of the average response speed (variable "*kp12_speederindex*").[3] The index includes both the respondents' response time on each page of the questionnaire and the interview duration per respondent. The index values can be interpreted as a measure of a respondent's average response speed. An index value of 1 corresponds to the mean value of the average response speed of the respondents in the sample examined. Index values against 0 indicated a very fast average response speed, while values against 2 correspond to a very slow average response speed.

Instructed Response Items

"Satisficing" in web- and paper-based surveys implies that people click or tick through answer categories randomly or - in the particular case of matrix questions - frequently select answer options of the same column ("straightlining") without having read the questions thoroughly. In order to identify inattentive or 'satisficing' respondents, instructed response items were included in matrix questions in some waves. In these items, the respondents were not asked to state their political opinion, but to click or tick a particular response category. If this category was not chosen, this does not necessarily imply poor data quality, as respondents might also have provided wrong information deliberately (e.g., to protest against the control measures). However, research has shown that instructed response items identify respondents who show an elevated use of straightlining, speeding, item nonresponse, inconsistent answers, and implausible statements throughout a survey (Gummer, Roßmann, & Silber, 2018). The instructed response items are marked in the data set by the suffix "q".

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[3] For respondents of the first wave, two speederindex variables were created because the questionnaire of the respondents recruited in 2013 differed from the questionnaire of the new respondents recruited in 2016. From Wave 2 onwards, only one speederindex was calculated, as the questionnaires of these two sample groups were identical.

Respondent Feedback

As explained above, two questions are included in the survey that ask the respondent to evaluate the survey and give them the opportunity to provide comments. Both indicators are an additional source to evaluate response quality.

Table 9: Response Quality Indicators

Variable	Explanation
kp12_speederindex	Index of the average response speed
kp12_4240	Evaluation of the survey
kp12_4270s	Comment field for respondents' remarks on the survey
kp12_050q	Instructed response item

4.4.5 Weights

Post-Stratification Weights: Profile Waves Sample A

With the help of post-stratification weights, the distribution of certain variables in the data set can be adjusted to known distributions of the population. The weighting procedure rests on the assumption that there is at least a weak correlation between adjustment variables, and the attitudinal and behavioral variables. Caution is advised when using weights: For each individual analysis, researchers must decide for themselves whether one of the provided weighting variables is adequate for the purpose of their analyses.

The post-stratification weights of Sample A were calculated based on the actual distribution of the first panel wave (Sample A1 and A2) and the profile wave of the refreshment sample, and adjusted to the marginal distributions to the (N)Onliner Atlas 2016, as well as to the distributions of the Mikrozensus 2016. Only persons entitled to vote in private households situated in their main residence were included in the calculation of the target distribution of Mikrozensus 2016.[4]

The weights were adjusted to demographic and regional structural features: Gender, age, education, and region (West Germany versus East Germany including Berlin).

Age was divided into four groups: "18 to under 30 years", "30 to under 45 years", "45 to under 60 years" and "60 years and older".

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[4] The values reported by Mikrozensus represent absolute numbers of people after bound extrapolation.

For *education* we distinguish between three groups:

- low education: School completed without graduation, Elementary School graduation, lowest formal qualification of Germany's tripartite school system, after 8 or 9 years of schooling ("Hauptschulabschluss", "Volksschulabschluss"), still attending school[5]

- intermediate education: Intermediary secondary qualification, after 10 years of schooling ("Mittlere Reife", "Realschulabschluss", or "Polytechnische Oberschule mit Abschluss 10. Klasse")

- high education: Certificate fulfilling entrance requirements to study at a polytechnic college ("Fachhochschulreife (Abschluss einer Fachoberschule etc.)") or higher qualification which entitles holders to study at a university ("Abitur" or "Erweiterte Oberschule mit Abschluss 12. Klasse" ("Hochschulreife"))

Table 10:   Actual and Target Distributions of the Variables Used for Weighting

Characteristic	Actual Distribution (in Percent)			Target Distribution (in Percent)	
	Sample A1 (Wave1) N=15,802	Sample A1 and A2 (Wave 1) N=18,127	Sample A3 (Wave a1) N=3,960	Micro-census 2016	(N)Onliner Atlas 2016
Gender					
Male	46.1	46.7	48.3	48.6	51.6
Female	53.9	53.3	51.7	51.4	48.4
Age group					
18 up to 30 years	20.0	18.2	21.4	15.9	21.0
30 up to 45 years	27.9	27.1	28.6	20.7	25.2
45 up to 60 years	31.9	32.8	30.0	29.0	33.8
60 years and older	20.3	22.0	20.0	34.4	20.0
Education					
Low	28.6	28.1	26.7	37.6	35.5
Intermediate	35.4	35.6	36.6	30.4	32.1
High	36.1	36.3	36.7	32.0	32.4
Region					
West Germany	76.4	76.5	77.7	79.1	80.7
East Germany (incl. Berlin)	23.6	23.6	22.3	20.9	19.3

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[5] For respondents who were recruited in 2013 and who did not participate in wave 1, the weights in wave 5 to 8 (*wei5_mz* and *wei5_on*) were constructed using information on education from the Short-Term Campaign Panel 2013.

These criteria were used to calculate all social and regional structural weights for the GLES Panel. Table 11 gives an overview of the weighting variables of the first panel wave of the GLES Panel (profile wave of Sample A1 and A2) and the profile wave of the refreshment sample 2017 (Sample A3).

Table 11: Overview of the Weighting Variable, Sample A

Post-Stratification Weights	Variable
Adjustment to Mikrozensus 2016, Sample A1 (Main Sample 2016), Completed Interviews Wave 1	wei_mz
Adjustment to (N)Onliner Atlas 2016, Sample A1 (Main Sample 2016), Completed Interviews Wave 1	wei_on
Adjustment to Mikrozensus 2016, Sample A1 (Main Sample 2016) and A2 (Re-contacted Panelist of the 2013 Campaign Panel) Completed Interviews Wave 1	wei2_mz
Adjustment to (N)Onliner Atlas 2016, Sample A1 (Main Sample 2016) and A2 (Re-contacted Panelist of the 2013 Campaign Panel) Completed Interviews Wave 1	wei2_on
Adjustment to Mikrozensus 2016, Sample A3 (Refreshment Sample), Completed Interviews Wave a1	wei3_mz
Adjustment (N)Onliner Atlas 2016, Sample A3 (Refreshment Sample), Completed Interviews Wave a1	wei3_on

When calculating the post-stratification weights, the iterative proportional fitting method (IPF) was used (Deming & Stephan 1940). When the IPF method is used, the actual distribution of the individual cells is gradually adjusted to the respective target distribution of the weighting variables. The process of adjustment is finished when the difference between the weighted marginal distribution of all factors and the target distribution undercuts the abort criterion of 0.05[6]. In order to prevent huge weighting factors, the factors are trimmed to the quadruple mean value of the weighting variable (thus five) after every step of the iteration process[7]. Table 12 provides descriptive statistics for the weighting factors.

Table 12: Descriptive Statistics for the Weighting Variables

	N	Mean	Std.Dev	Min	Max	1.Q	Median	3.Q	Max./Min.[8]
wei_mz	15,802	1	0.41	0.59	2.27	0.71	0.83	1.15	3.85
wei_on	15,802	1	0.22	0.62	1.55	0.83	0.96	1.13	2.50
wei2_mz	18,128	1	0.37	0.61	2.12	0.72	0.82	1.20	3.48
wei2_on	18,128	1	0.23	0.61	1.72	0.82	0.97	1.12	2.82
wei3_mz	3960	1	0.42	0.64	2.14	0.69	0.83	1.21	3.34
wei3_on	3960	1	0.23	0.68	1.58	0.81	0.90	1.14	2.32

---

[6] The weights were calculated with Stata using the ado "ipfweight" by Michael Bergmann (2011).

[7] This procedure is also applied in the calculation of the weights of ANES (American National Election Study; see: DeBell, Krosnick, Lupia and Roberts 2009).

[8] The value Max/Min indicates the relationship between the highest and the lowest weighting factor. Ideally, the weights do not become too big or too small, so a lower value is to be considered as positive.

Post-Stratification Weights: Wave 10, Sample A

In addition to the weights presented above, post-stratification weights were also calculated in the same way for respondents with regard to their participation behavior. For Sample A, weights are calculated for participants who completed all waves (Sample A1 and A2) and all waves from wave 5 onwards including the refreshment sample. The weights are adjusted for each additional wave.

Table 13:   Overview of Weighting Variables Newly Calculated for Each Additional Wave

Social and Regional Structural Weight	Variable
Adjustment to Mikrozensus 2016, Sample A1 (Main Sample 2016) and A2 (Re-contacted Panelist of the 2013 Campaign Panel), Completed Interviews in All Waves	wei4_mz
Adjustment to Onliner 2016, Sample A1 (Main Sample 2016) and A2 (Re-contacted Panelist of the 2013 Campaign Panel), Completed Interviews in All Waves	wei4_on
Adjustment to Mikrozensus 2016, Sample A (all), Completed Interviews Wave 5 Onwards	wei5_mz
Adjustment to (N)Onliner Atlas 2016, Sample A (all), Completed Interviews Wave 5 Onwards	wei5_on

For all previous waves, actual distributions of the weighting features are reported in the study description of the the 2017 Short-Term Campaign Panel ([ZA6804](#)).The distribution of this wave is presented in Table 14.

Table 14:   Actual Distribution of Weighting Characteristics in the Current Wave

Characteristic	Actual Distribution (of Completed Interviews)	
	Wave 1 to Current Wave, Sample A1 & A2 (in percent, N=4,851)	**Wave 5 to Current Wave, Sample A1, A2 & A3 (in percent, N=6,325)**
Gender		
Male	52.63	52.44
Female	47.37	47.56
Age Group		
18 up to 30 years	5.40	6.41
30 up to 45 years	21.85	22.74
45 up to 60 years	40.53	39.89
60 years and older	32.22	30.96
Education		
Low	21.07	21.13
Intermediate	37.09	36.32
High	41.85	42.55
Region		
West Germany	76.36	76.60
East Germany (incl. Berlin)	23.64	23.40

As introduced above the iterative proportional fitting method (IPF) was used to calculate the post-stratification weights (Deming & Stephan 1940). Table 15 provides descriptive statistics for the weighting factors including the current and all previous waves.

Table 15:   Descriptive Statistics for Weighting Variables Across Waves

	N	Mean	Std.Dev	Min	Max	1.Q	Median	3.Q	Max./Min.[9]	Trimmed Cases (N)[10]
wei4_mz	4,851	1	0.68	0.44	5.00	0.60	0.74	1.27	11.36	24
wei4_on	4,851	1	0.86	0.33	5.00	0.49	0.68	1.19	15.15	24
wei5_mz	6,325	1	0.63	0.45	5.00	0.62	0.76	1.27	11.11	36
wei5_on	6,325	1	0.78	0.34	5.00	0.52	0.71	1.22	14.76	36

4.4.6   Attitudinal and Behavioral Variables

A simple scheme was applied to name the individual variables. The first three digits of the variable name are reserved for the respective wave, i.e.: "*kp1*" for the first wave and "*kp2*" for the second wave[11]. Subsequently, the item number follows. For instance, the variable "Interest in politics" carries the item number "*010*". The variable "Interest in politics", which was collected in the first wave, can accordingly be found under the designation "*kp1_010*". Provided that an item was collected unaltered in the Campaign Panel 2017, as well as in the GLES Panel, the item number remains the same in both data sets. When the question wording or the answer scales were edited, the last digit of the item number was increased by one.

Since the first re-survey of Sample B takes place at the same time as the tenth wave of Sample A, the term "Wave 10" is used to clarify that the surveys are carried out at the same time with (almost) the same set of questions. Even for new samples (e.g., supplementary samples), the wave designation, therefore, does not contain any information about the number of waves already completed in these samples. The wave designation thus indicates all components of a panel wave collected at a specific time over the number of waves since the GLES Panel was established (including the former campaign panel in 2017).

A detailed overview of the different content variables in the different waves can be found in the study description.

4.4.7   Unpublished Variables

Whilst carrying out web-based surveys, variables that are relevant for the implementation of the survey but do not carry any textual meaning are collected. Those variables are not published but

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[9]   The value Max/Min indicates the relationship between the highest and the lowest weighting factor. Ideally, the weights do not become too big or too small, so a lower value is to be considered as positive.

[10]   Number of cases which were trimmed because the weighting factor exceeded the quadruple mean value of the weighting variable (thus five).

[11]   Exceptions to this rule are the socio-structural characteristics of the respondents. As those are expected to be stable beyond the field time, variable names start with the abbreviation "*kpx*", no matter in which waves the variables were initially collected.

can be requested. Some collected data cannot be provided due to data protection regulations (e.g., postal codes). These variables can be obtained under specific conditions. For any additional data request, please contact the [GLES team](#).

Table 16:   Overview of Unpublished Variables

Variable	Explanation
kp12_ats, kp12_page_history, kp12_browser, kp12_device_type, (…)	Additional paradata
kp12_2293s	First letter of the place of birth
kp12_xxxx_org bzw. _c1-2	Several original variables and request variables which were created whilst summarizing the request variables, party versions and dependent interviewing variables in order to back up the original data; or are not needed any longer
kp12_2280_c1-2	Gender (as stated during the verification process)
kp12_2291_c1-2	Month of birth (as stated during the verification process)
kp12_2290_c1-2	Year of birth (as stated during the verification process)
kp12_2293s_c1-2	Place of birth (as stated during the verification process)
kp12_4280	Reason for not passing the verification process
kp12_2602	Postal code
elecdist17_*	constituency (as assigned based on postal code)

4.4.8 Encoding of Missing Values

Missing values were assigned conforming to the uniform encoding scheme of GLES in all cases. The scheme uses negative values ranging from -71 to -99. For both SPSS and Stata, an additional syntax file is provided to define the negative values as system missings while keeping this differentiation (e.g., Stata codes from .a to .q).

4.4.9 Encoding of Political Parties

To enhance comparability between GLES studies, the encoding of political parties was done according to a uniform encoding scheme. This approach was applied to all questions which included closed or open-ended answers concerning political parties. The encoding scheme is included in the supplementary documentation material.

All information concerning political parties is presented in two variables which are marked Version A and Version B. Version A always contains the parties listed on the sample ballot used for party questions, as well as a category for "other" parties. Version B differs from Version A only by the detailed identification of the "other" parties named by respondents.

4.4.10 Encoding of Open-Ended Questions

Open-ended questions asking for the most and second most important problem in Germany have not yet been encoded.

5 Errata

Programming Errors

"**kp12_1490i**": Due to a programming error, participants who chose the value "11" when assessing the AfD on a left-right scale (*"kp12_1490i"*) were indistinguishable from "no answer". The error was fixed at 10:58am on the first day of field time. All "no answers" before the fix were recoded as -92 "Error in data".

"**kp12_1500**": Due to a programming error, the wrong question was asked for is variable was not collected for a short period of time. The error was fixed at 11:54am on the first day of field time. All answers before the fix were recoded as -92 "Error in data".

Response time variables: Due to an unknown error, the export and processing of the response time measurements resulted in negative values for some cases. We have decided not to publish response time variables for the time being until we fix the problem. If you have a specific interest in the response time variables, please contact the GLES team.

Filter Errors

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7 Appendix

7.1 Invitation and Reminders

7.1.1 Invitation

Sample A1 and A2 (Respondi)

Betreff: mingle – GLES-Studie Teil 12

Hallo Vorname Nachname,

heute laden wir Sie zum **zwölften Teil** der GLES-Studie ein. Das Ausfüllen dieses Fragebogens wird etwa **15 Minuten** Ihrer Zeit in Anspruch nehmen. Sie erhalten **150 mingle-Punkte**.

Bitte beachten Sie: Es ist absolut notwendig, dass alle Umfragen im Rahmen der Untersuchung jeweils von derselben Person beantwortet werden.

Das Design unserer Umfrage ist für die Beantwortung auf **allen Geräten** optimiert.

Die Beantwortung des Fragebogens dauert ca. 15 Minuten

Gehören Sie zu den gesuchten Teilnehmern, erhalten Sie für die Beantwortung 150 mingle-Punkte*

Sample A1 and A2 (GapFish)

Betreff: GLES-Studie Teil 12

Bitte beachten Sie: Es ist absolut notwendig, dass alle Umfragen im Rahmen der Untersuchung jeweils von derselben Person beantwortet werden.

Das Design unserer Umfrage ist für die Beantwortung auf **allen Geräten** optimiert.

Dauer: 15 Minuten
Name: X

Vergütung: 1,50 €
Aktueller Kontostand: X,XX €

Sie finden diese Umfrage, sofern sie noch nicht geschlossen wurde, in Ihrem Login-Bereich unter: Übersicht/Teilnahmen/Einladungen

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Sample A3 (Respondi)

Betreff: mingle – GLES-Studie Teil 9

Hallo Vorname Nachname,

heute laden wir Sie zum **neunten Teil** der GLES-Studie ein. Das Ausfüllen dieses Fragebogens wird etwa **15 Minuten** Ihrer Zeit in Anspruch nehmen. Sie erhalten **150 mingle-Punkte**.

Bitte beachten Sie: Es ist absolut notwendig, dass alle Umfragen im Rahmen der Untersuchung jeweils von derselben Person beantwortet werden.

Das Design unserer Umfrage ist für die Beantwortung auf **allen Geräten** optimiert.

Die Beantwortung des Fragebogens dauert ca. 15 Minuten

Gehören Sie zu den gesuchten Teilnehmern, erhalten Sie für die Beantwortung 150 mingle-Punkte*

7.1.2 Reminder I

Sample A1 and A2 (Respondi)

Betreff: mingle – Erinnerung GLES-Studie Teil 12

Hallo Vorname Nachname,

wir haben Sie vor wenigen Tagen zum zwölften Teil der GLES-Studie eingeladen. Die Umfrage ist noch nicht beendet – **Sie können noch teilnehmen!**

Bitte beachten Sie: Es ist absolut notwendig, dass alle Umfragen im Rahmen der Untersuchung jeweils von derselben Person beantwortet werden.

Das Design unserer Umfrage ist für die Beantwortung auf **allen Geräten** optimiert.

Die Beantwortung des Fragebogens dauert ca. 15 Minuten

Gehören Sie zu den gesuchten Teilnehmern, erhalten Sie für die Beantwortung 150 mingle-Punkte*

Sample A1 and A2 (GapFish)

Betreff: Erinnerung GLES-Studie Teil 12

Das Design unserer Umfrage ist für die Beantwortung auf **allen Geräten** optimiert.

Dauer: 15 Minuten
Name: X

Vergütung: 1,50 €
Aktueller Kontostand: X,XX €

Sie finden diese Umfrage, sofern sie noch nicht geschlossen wurde, in Ihrem
Login-Bereich unter: Übersicht/Teilnahmen/Einladungen

„Jetzt die Produkte
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Sample A3 (Respondi)

Betreff: mingle – Erinnerung GLES-Studie Teil 9

Hallo Vorname Nachname,

wir haben Sie vor wenigen Tagen zum neunten Teil der GLES-Studie eingeladen. Die Umfrage ist noch nicht beendet – **Sie können noch teilnehmen!**

Bitte beachten Sie: Es ist absolut notwendig, dass alle Umfragen im Rahmen der Untersuchung jeweils von derselben Person beantwortet werden.

Das Design unserer Umfrage ist für die Beantwortung auf **allen Geräten** optimiert.

Die Beantwortung des Fragebogens dauert ca. 15 Minuten

Gehören Sie zu den gesuchten Teilnehmern, erhalten Sie für die Beantwortung 150 mingle-Punkte*

7.1.3 Reminder II

Sample A1 and A2 (Respondi)

Betreff: mingle – Erinnerung GLES-Studie Teil 12

Hallo Vorname Nachname,

wir möchten Sie erneut an unsere GLES-Studie erinnern, zu der wir Sie vor wenigen Tagen eingeladen haben. **Die Umfrage endet bald!**

Bitte beachten Sie: Es ist absolut notwendig, dass alle Umfragen im Rahmen der Untersuchung jeweils von derselben Person beantwortet werden.

Das Design unserer Umfrage ist für die Beantwortung auf **allen Geräten** optimiert.

Die Beantwortung des Fragebogens dauert ca. 15 Minuten

Gehören Sie zu den gesuchten Teilnehmern, erhalten Sie für die Beantwortung 150 mingle-Punkte*

Sample A1 and A2 (GapFish)

Betreff: Erinnerung GLES-Studie Teil 12

Entscheider
CLUB

GLES

Wir haben Sie für eine neue Umfrage ausgewählt.

Jetzt Umfrage starten

Sehr geehrte Frau X,

wir möchten Sie erneut an unsere GLES-Studie erinnern, zu der wir Sie vor wenigen Tagen eingeladen haben. **Die Umfrage endet bald!**

Das Ausfüllen dieses Fragebogens wird etwa **15 Minuten** Ihrer Zeit in Anspruch nehmen. Sie erhalten **1,50€**.

Bitte beachten Sie: Es ist absolut notwendig, dass alle Umfragen im Rahmen der Untersuchung jeweils von derselben Person beantwortet werden.

Das Design unserer Umfrage ist für die Beantwortung auf **allen Geräten** optimiert.

Dauer: 15 Minuten
Name: X

Vergütung: 1,50 €
Aktueller Kontostand: X,XX €

Sie finden diese Umfrage, sofern sie noch nicht geschlossen wurde, in Ihrem Login-Bereich unter: Übersicht/Teilnahmen/Einladungen
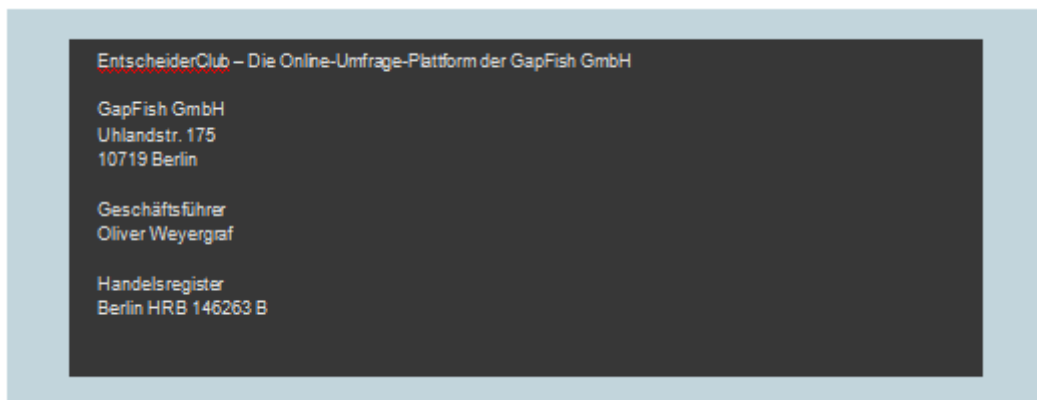

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Sample A3 (Respondi)

Betreff: mingle – Erinnerung GLES-Studie Teil 9

Hallo Vorname Nachname,

wir möchten Sie erneut an unsere GLES-Studie erinnern, zu der wir Sie vor wenigen Tagen eingeladen haben. **Die Umfrage endet bald!**

Bitte beachten Sie: Es ist absolut notwendig, dass alle Umfragen im Rahmen der Untersuchung jeweils von derselben Person beantwortet werden.

Das Design unserer Umfrage ist für die Beantwortung auf **allen Geräten** optimiert.

Die Beantwortung des Fragebogens dauert ca. 15 Minuten

Gehören Sie zu den gesuchten Teilnehmern, erhalten Sie für die Beantwortung 150 mingle-Punkte*

7.1.4 Reminder: Survey was not completed

Sample A1 and A2 (Respondi)

Betreff: mingle – Erinnerung GLES-Studie Teil 12

Hallo Vorname Nachname,

wir haben Sie vor wenigen Tagen zum zwölften Teil der GLES-Studie eingeladen. Sie haben bereits teilgenommen, jedoch die Befragung noch nicht zu Ende geführt. **Sie haben nur noch wenige Tage Zeit, die Umfrage abzuschließen!**

Bitte beachten Sie: Es ist absolut notwendig, dass alle Umfragen im Rahmen der Untersuchung jeweils von derselben Person beantwortet werden.

Die Beantwortung des Fragebogens dauert ca. 15 Minuten

Gehören Sie zu den gesuchten Teilnehmern, erhalten Sie für die Beantwortung 150 mingle-Punkte*

Sample A1 and A2 (GapFish)

Betreff: Erinnerung GLES-Studie Teil 12

Wir haben Sie für eine neue Umfrage
ausgewählt.

Jetzt Umfrage starten

Sehr geehrte Frau X,

wir haben Sie vor wenigen Tagen zum zwölften Teil der GLES-Studie eingeladen. Sie
haben bereits teilgenommen, jedoch die Befragung noch nicht zu Ende geführt. **Sie
haben nur noch wenige Tage Zeit, die Umfrage abzuschließen!**

Das Ausfüllen dieses Fragebogens wird etwa **15 Minuten** Ihrer Zeit in Anspruch
nehmen. Sie erhalten **1,50€**.

Bitte beachten Sie: Es ist absolut notwendig, dass alle Umfragen im Rahmen der Untersuchung jeweils von derselben Person beantwortet werden.

Dauer: 15 Minuten
Name: X

Vergütung: 1,50€
Aktueller Kontostand: X,XX €

Sie finden diese Umfrage, sofern sie noch nicht geschlossen wurde, in Ihrem Login-Bereich unter: Übersicht/Teilnahmen/Einladungen

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Sample A3 (Respondi)

Betreff: mingle – Erinnerung GLES-Studie Teil 9

Hallo Vorname Nachname,

wir haben Sie vor wenigen Tagen zum neunten Teil der GLES-Studie eingeladen. Sie haben bereits teilgenommen, jedoch die Befragung noch nicht zu Ende geführt. **Sie haben nur noch wenige Tage Zeit, die Umfrage abzuschließen!**

Bitte beachten Sie: Es ist absolut notwendig, dass alle Umfragen im Rahmen der Untersuchung jeweils von derselben Person beantwortet werden.

|	
Die Beantwortung des Fragebogens dauert ca. 15 Minuten	Gehören Sie zu den gesuchten Teilnehmern, erhalten Sie für die Beantwortung 150 mingle-Punkte*

7.2 Last Page

Herzlichen Dank für die Beantwortung unserer Fragen!

Mit ihren Antworten können wir die Meinungen der deutschen Bevölkerung zu wichtigen Themen untersuchen.

Ein Beispiel: In den GLES-Umfragen im Wahljahr 2017 haben wir Sie jedes Mal gefragt, was sie wählen werden. Darüber kann man ermitteln, wann sich Wähler endgültig auf eine Partei festgelegt haben. Die Ergebnisse sehen Sie hier:
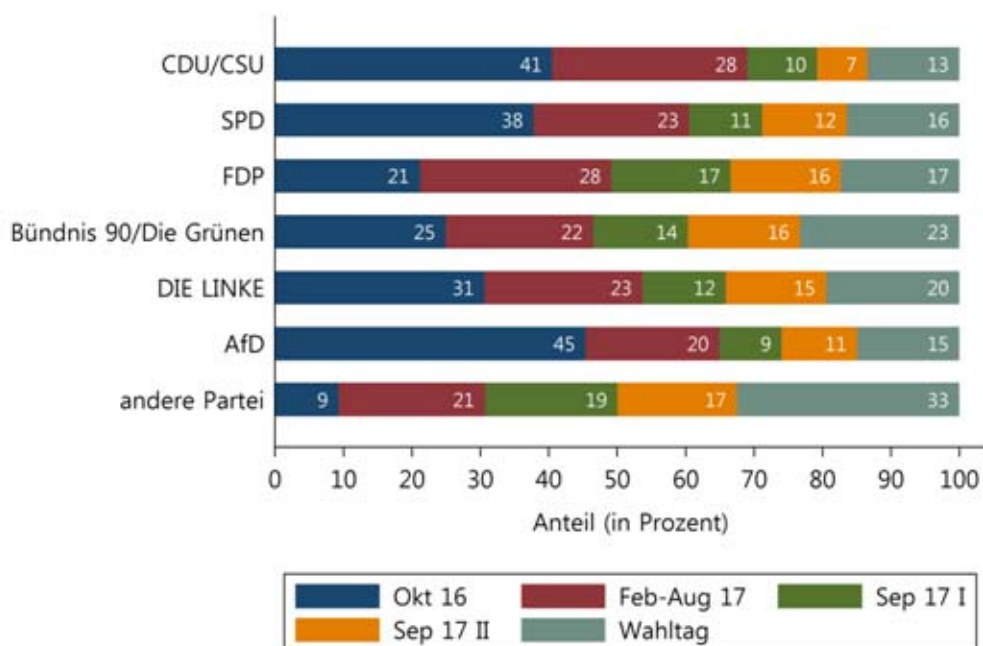
Hier finden Sie eine Erläuterung dieser Grafik und allgemeine Informationen über die GLES-Wahlkampfstudie.

Wir nehmen uns die Fragen und Verbesserungsvorschläge aus Ihren Kommentaren nach jeder Umfrage sehr zu Herzen. Hier finden Sie Antworten auf die häufigsten Fragen, die uns durch Ihre Kommentare bisher erreicht haben.