

## Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES) Module 3: Sample Design and Data Collection Report

June 05, 2006

Country: *Belarus*  
Date of Election: *September, 28 2008*  
  
Prepared by:  
Date of Preparation: *March, 20 2009*

### NOTES TO COLLABORATORS:

- Where brackets [ ] appear, answer by placing an “X” within the appropriate bracket or brackets.
- If more space is needed to answer any question, please lengthen the document as necessary.

### Collaborator(s):

Collaborators are the contact persons for election studies that appear in the CSES dataset - they are not necessarily the parties who collected the data. These collaborators and their contact information will be listed on the CSES website.

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**Data Collection Organization:**

Organization that conducted the survey field work/data collection:

Organization: <i>the Centre for Social and Political Research at the Belarussian State University</i> Address: <i>K. Marx Str, 31 Room 103 Minsk Belarus</i>  Telephone: <i>(8-017) 2272521, 2272789</i> Fax: <i>(8-017) 2202879</i> E-Mail: <i>rotman@bsu.by</i> Website:
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**Funding Organization(s):**

Organization(s) that funded the data collection:

Organization: Address:  Telephone: Fax: E-Mail: Website:
Organization: Address:  Telephone: Fax: E-Mail: Website:
Organization: Address:  Telephone: Fax: E-Mail: Website:

### **Archiving Organization**

If appropriate, please indicate the primary location where the full, original election study dataset (not just the CSES portion) will be archived:

Organization: Address:  Telephone: Fax: E-Mail: Website:
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Please indicate the date when the study is expected to be available at this archive:

### **Study Design**

1. Timing of the study that the CSES Module was included in:

Post-Election Study ***Post-Election Study***

Pre-Election/Post-Election Panel Study

2a. Date Post-Election Interviewing Began: **02.02.2009**

2b. Date Post-Election Interviewing Ended: **24.02.2009**

3. Mode of (post-election) interview:

In person, face-to-face

Telephone

Mail or self-completion supplement

Internet

4a. Was the survey part of a panel study?

Yes

No

4b. If the survey was part of a panel study, please describe the design of the panel study, including the date at which interviewing for each prior wave began and ended:

### **Translation**

Please provide copies of questionnaires in all languages used as part of the election study deposit. For questionnaires in a language other than English, please also provide a version of each translated back into English. Note: Questions are based on those developed for the ISSP.

5. Was the questionnaire translated?

- Yes, translated by member(s) of research team
- Yes, by translation bureau
- Yes, by specially trained translator(s)
- No, not translated

6. Please list all languages used for the fielded module:

***The Russian Language***

7a. If the questionnaire was translated, was the translated questionnaire assessed/checked or evaluated?

- Yes, by group discussion
- Yes, an expert checked it
- Yes, by back translation
- Other; please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- No
- Not applicable

7b. If the questionnaire was translated, was the questionnaire pre-tested?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

7c. If the questionnaire was translated, were there any questions which caused problems when translating?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

7d. If the questionnaire was translated, please provide a list of all questions which caused problems when translating. For each question listed, describe what problems were encountered and how they were solved:

**Sample Design and Sampling Procedures**

8. Please describe the population that your sample is meant to be representative of:

*The general totality comprised the population of the Republic of Belarus aged 18 and older*

**Eligibility Requirements**

9a. Must a person be a certain age to be interviewed?

Yes

No

If yes, what ages could be interviewed? *18 and older*

9b. Must a person be a citizen to be interviewed?

Yes

No

9c. Must a person be registered to vote to be interviewed?

Yes

No

9d. Please list any other interviewing requirements or filters used:

*No other requirements*

## Sample Frame

10a. Were any regions of the country excluded from the sample frame?

Yes

No

If yes, what percent of the total eligible population did this exclude from the sample frame? \_\_\_\_\_ %

If yes, please explain:

10b. Were institutionalized persons excluded from the sample?

Yes

No

If yes, what percent of the total eligible population did this exclude from the sample frame? \_\_\_\_\_ %

If yes, please explain:

10c. Were military personnel excluded from the sample?

Yes

No

If yes, what percent of the total eligible population did this exclude from the sample frame? \_\_\_\_\_ %

If yes, please explain:

***Interviews were not conducted by telephone,  
that is why questions 10d. – 10g. are not applicable.***

10d. If interviews were conducted by telephone, what is the estimated percentage of households without a phone? \_\_\_\_\_ %

Please explain:

10e. If interviews were conducted by telephone, were unlisted telephone numbers included in the population sampled?

Yes

No

If no, what percent of the total eligible population did this exclude from the sample frame? \_\_\_\_\_ %

10f. Were other persons excluded from the sample frame?

Yes

No

If yes, what percent of the total eligible population did this exclude from the sample frame? \_\_\_\_\_ %

If yes, please explain:

10g. Please estimate the total percentage of the eligible population excluded from the sample frame: \_\_\_\_\_ %

## Sample Selection Procedures

11. Please describe, in your own words, how the sample for the study was selected. If the survey is part of a panel study, please also describe the original sample, from the beginning of the study.

**Sample type.** Multi-stage stratified sampling was used in the research.

**The method of the survey places choice.** The territorial principle of the sample design underlies the choice, in accordance with which the selection is realized through a number of stages (steps). At every stage different territorial units are used: larger ones – at the initial stage; the observation unit corresponds to the selection unit.

At **the first stage** the stratification of the primary selection units was realized across all the six administrative territorial district of the Republic of Belarus. Urban settlements are grouped according to the number of dwellers, 4 strata were formed. Rural settlements are grouped according to the regions of each administrative district of the country. Settlements for the survey were selected with the probability, proportional to the number of people residing there.

In total 60 settlements were included into the sample.

At **the second stage** while selecting the streets in the settlements a method of random sampling without replacement was applied.

At **further stages** the route modelling method was used to perform the selection.

At **the final stage** of the respondent selection the method of the «closest birth date» was applied.

12a. What were the primary sampling units?

*Urban settlements and rural administrative districts were used as primary sampling units (PSU)*

12b. How were the primary sampling units selected?

*By means of the random sampling without replacement.*

12c. Were the primary sampling units randomly selected?

Yes

No

Please explain how the units were randomly selected. If the units were not randomly selected, please provide a justification for why the units were not randomly selected.

The stratification of the primary selection units was realized in all 6 administrative territorial regions of Belarus. Urban settlements are grouped according to the number of dwellers:

- the capital;
- a city with a population of more than 200 000 people;
- a city with a population 50 – 199 900 people;
- a town with a population of less than 50 000 people.

First, the cities to be included in the research are defined, such as the capital and regional centres. Further, in each stratum one or several cities from the total number of the cities of the given stratum are selected randomly with the probability proportionate to the number of the population residing in these settlements. Cities are randomly chosen. The selection step is calculated based on the number of the population to be questioned in the given region and the number of the survey places.

Rural settlements are grouped in the regions of each administrative district of the country. While selecting rural settlements, regions of each administrative district are defined by random sampling method from the number of all the regions of the given stratum. Villages are selected randomly from the alphabetical list of the selected region of the definite district.

13. Were there further stages of selection?

Yes

No

13a. If there were further stages of selection, what were the sampling units at each of the additional stages?

**The second stage. The unit of selection is a street.** The survey is conducted in all the districts of the cities selected. In each district the necessary number of streets is selected randomly with the probability proportionate to the district size. In rural settlements the survey is conducted in one (central/the largest) street. In case of the village's conventional division into the old and the new parts, the survey is conducted in both the streets (in each part of the settlement).

At the following stages the selection is done by means of the route method.

**The third stage. The unit of selection is a house.** Before the beginning of the interview, the interviewer makes a list of the dwelling units (any institutions, such as hospitals, polyclinics, shops, buildings under construction or with work in progress, abandoned houses, etc were not included into the list). The interviewer also includes the dwelling units with additional letter symbols in numbers or the buildings which possess the numeration of their own (for example, 27-a, Building 2). The list is standardized: from the first till the last one houses are numbered in increasing order and further this numbering is used for the step-by-step selection. The step of the house selection is calculated. The total number of the houses in the list is divided by the number of respondents, who are planned for interviewing in this particular street. If the number obtained in the process of division is not whole, it is rounded down (for example: there are 43 houses on the list, the interviewer must question 10 people in this street, it means  $43:10=4,3$ ; we round it down and obtain the step which equals to 4). In order to define the initial point of the movement along the street, we divide the step by 2. If the step is an odd number, we add 1 to it and the obtained sum is divided by 2. In order to define the following step of the route, the interviewer calculates the step, starting from the following house on the list.

If it was not possible to conduct the interview in the house (privately owned or one-flat houses), the interviewer moves to the next house. If it was not possible to get the necessary number of the houses, the interviewer moves to the house on the adjacent street. The scheme of the house selection in both the cases is retained the same.

**The fourth stage. The unit of selection is a household.** In blocks of flats the survey is conducted in the flats according to the previously formulated numeration scheme. Only one person is questioned in one apartment (one-flat house).

13b. If there were further stages of selection, how were the sampling units selected at each of the additional stages?

*Further stages of the selection did not take place*

13c. If there were further stages of selection, were units at each of these stages randomly selected?

Yes

No

Please explain how the units were randomly selected. If the units were not randomly selected, please provide a justification for why the units were not randomly selected.

14a. How were individual respondents identified and selected in the final stage?

**The fifth stage. The selection of the respondents within the household** is realized according to the principle of the closest birth date. In order to select the respondent, a list with all the people resident in the household is made, irrespectible of the degree of kinship, the presence of official registration, their status as house proprietors or temporary renters. Guests, people who are officially registered but not residing in the household for more than half a year, citizens of other countries are not included into the list. A person whose birth day is closest to the date of the interview is selected as a respondent.

14b. Could more than one respondent be interviewed from a single household?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain:

15. Did the sample design include clustering at any stage?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

16. Did the sample design include stratification?

Definition: Stratification involves the division of the population of interest according to certain characteristics (for instance: geographic, political, or demographic). Random selection then occurs within each of the groups that result.

Yes

No

If yes, please describe (please include the list of characteristics used for stratification):

The stratification of the primary selection units was realized in all 6 administrative territorial regions of Belarus. Urban settlements are grouped according to the number of dwellers:

- the capital;
- a city with a population of more than 200 000 people;
- a city with a population 50 – 199 900 people;
- a town with a population of less than 50 000 people.

Rural settlements are grouped in terms of the regions of each administrative district of the country.

17. Was quota sampling used at any stage of selection?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

18. Was substitution of individuals permitted at any stage of the selection process or during fieldwork?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

***1. The substitution of the respondent is permitted, if the respondent who got into the sample refused to take part in the interview.***

***2. The substitution of the respondent is permitted, if after three visits the respondent was not reached.***

19. Under what circumstances was a household designated non-sample? Please check all that apply:

Non-residential sample point

All members of household are ineligible

Housing unit is vacant

No answer at housing unit after \_\_\_\_\_ callbacks

Other (Please explain):

20. Were non-sample replacement methods used?

Yes

No

Please describe:

***Interviews were not conducted by telephone, mail, Internet  
that is why questions 21a. – 23 are not applicable.***

21a. For surveys conducted by telephone, was the sample a random digit dial (RDD) sample?

Yes

No

21b. For surveys conducted by telephone, was the sample a listed sample?

Yes

No

21c. For surveys conducted by telephone, was the sample a dual frame sample?

Yes

No

If yes, what % list frame \_\_\_\_\_ and what % RDD \_\_\_\_\_

22. For surveys conducted by mail, was the sample a listed sample?

Yes

No

Please describe:

23. For surveys conducted on the Internet, did any respondents self-select into the survey?

Yes

No

Please explain:

## Incentives

24a. Prior to the study, was a letter sent to the respondent?

Yes

No

(If yes, please provide a copy of the letter.)

24b. Prior to the study, was a payment sent to the respondent?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe (including amount of payment):

24c. Prior to the study, was a token gift sent to the respondent?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

24d. Did respondent receive an additional payment after their participation? (Do not include any payment made prior to the study.)

Yes

No

If yes, please describe (including amount of payment):

24e. Were any other incentives used?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

## Interviewers

25. Please describe the interviewers (e.g., age, level of education, years of experience):

*100 interviewers were involved into the present research all over the country. The interviewers on the Centre's polling net have a rich experience of conducting research of different kinds. Their experience ranges from 2 to 10 years, the interviewers' age – from 20 to 60 years. The interviewers of the polling net have incomplete and complete higher education, all of them have had a special interviewer's training.*

26. Please provide a description of interviewer training:

*Before the beginning of the field works all the interviewers attended a training by the leaders of the regional polling nets, aimed at the explanation of the survey's tasks and procedures. In the course of the training each interviewer received a personal assignment, in which the rules of the documents compilation, the principle of the respondents selection, the terms of the field works, the amount of the payment, etc. were listed.*

## Contacts

27a. What was the average number of contact attempts made per household, for the entire sample?

**≈ 2,5**

27b. For households where contact was made, what was the average number of contact attempts prior to first contact?

**≈ 1,3**

27c. During the field period, how many contacts were made with the household before declaring it a **non-sample**?

**3 contacts**

28d. During the field period, how many contacts were made with the household before declaring it a **non-interview**?

**3 contacts**

28e. During the field period, what were the maximum number of days over which a household was contacted?

**7 days**

28f. During the field period, did interviewers vary the time of day at which they re-contacted the household?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

*According to the instructions on weekdays the survey was conducted from 4 pm to 8 pm, and at the weekend from 10 am to 8 pm. If after 2 contacts at the time mentioned above the respondent was not at home, he/she was tried to be contacted from 10 am to 4 pm on weekdays.*

### **Refusal Conversion**

29a. Were efforts made to persuade respondents who were reluctant to be interviewed?

- Yes  
 No

Please describe:

29b. Were respondents who were reluctant to be interviewed sent a letter persuading them to take part?

- Yes  
 No  
(If yes, please provide a copy of the letter or letters.)

If yes, please describe:

29c. Was payment offered to respondents who were reluctant to take part?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, how much?

29d. Were respondents who were reluctant to take part turned over to a more experienced interviewer?

- Yes  
 No

29e. What was the maximum number of re-contacts used to persuade respondents to be interviewed?

*There were no contacts*

29f. Were any other methods used to persuade respondents reluctant to be interviewed to take part?

- Yes  
 No  
If yes, please describe:

### **Interview/Survey Verification**

Definition: Interview/survey verification is the process of verifying that an interview was conducted and that the survey was administered to the correct respondent, for quality control purposes.

30. Was interview/survey verification used?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe the method(s) used:

***The method of repeated contact (visit or call)***

If yes, please indicate the percent of completed surveys that were verified: **12 %**

## Response Rate

31. What was the response rate of the survey that the CSES Module appeared in? Please show your calculations. (If the CSES Module appeared in a panel study, please report the response rate of the first wave of the study, even if the CSES Module did not appear in that wave.)

**50,5%**

32. Please provide the following statistics for the survey that the CSES Module appeared in. Note: If the CSES Module appeared in a panel study, please report the statistics for the first wave of the study, even if the CSES Module did not appear in that wave.)

A. Total number of households in sample:	2494
B. Number of valid households:	2494
C. Number of invalid (non-sample) households:	0
D. Number of households of unknown validity:	0
E. Number of completed interviews:	1000
F. Number of partial interviews:	0
G. Number of refusals and break-offs:	982
H. Number non-contact (never contacted):	512
I. Other non-response:	0

The sum of B+C+D should equal the value of A. If not, please describe why:

If statistic D (number of households of unknown validity) has a value greater than zero (0), please estimate the proportion of households of unknown validity that are valid:

The sum of E+F+G+H+I should equal the value of B. If not, please describe why:

If statistic I has a value greater than zero (0), please describe what cases fall into this category:

***Module CSES was not used in the panel research.***

33. If the CSES Module appeared in a panel study, how many waves were conducted prior to the wave that included the CSES Module?

34. If the CSES Module appeared in a panel study, what was the total panel attrition between the first wave of the study and the wave that included the CSES Module? Please show your calculations.

35. If the CSES Module appeared in a panel study, please provide the number of completed interviews for the wave that included the CSES Module:

36. If the CSES Module appeared in a panel study, please provide the following statistics for panel attrition by age and education. In each cell, indicate the percent of all completed interviews in each category for the indicated wave.

<b>Age</b>	<b>First wave of study</b>	<b>Wave that included CSES</b>
18-25	%	%
26-40	%	%
41-64	%	%
65 and over	%	%

<b>Education</b>	<b>First wave of study</b>	<b>Wave that included CSES</b>
None	%	%
Incomplete primary	%	%
Primary completed	%	%
Incomplete secondary	%	%
Secondary completed	%	%
Post-Secondary Trade/Vocational	%	%
University incomplete	%	%
University degree	%	%

### Post-Survey Adjustment Weights

37. Are weights necessary to make the sample representative of the population being studied?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain:

38. Are weights included in the data file?

Yes

No

39. If weights are included in the data file, please describe in detail how the weights were constructed:

40a. If weights are included in the data file, are the weights designed to compensate for disproportionate probability of selection?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

40b. If weights are included in the data file, are the weights designed to match known demographic characteristics of the population?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

40c. If weights are included in the data file, are the weights designed to correct for non-response?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

40d. If weights are included in the data file, are the weights designed to correct to the official election results?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

41. Comparison of Completed Interviews to Population (please provide as percentages of the total):

Characteristic	Population Estimates	Completed Interviews	
		Unweighted Distribution	Weighted Distribution
<u>Age</u>			
18-25	16,7 %	<b>18,7</b> %	%
26-40	26,6 %	<b>28,4</b> %	%
41-64	38,9 %	<b>38,5</b> %	%
65 and over	17,8 %	<b>14,4</b> %	%
<u>Education*</u>			
None, incomplete primary or primary completed	14,1 %	<b>0,8</b> %	%
Incomplete Secondary	11,3 %	<b>4,2</b> %	%
Secondary Completed	26,3 %	<b>31,7</b> %	%
Post-Secondary Trade/ Vocational	33,2 %	<b>37,5</b> %	%
University Incomplete	- %	<b>2,9</b> %	%
University Degree	15,1 %	<b>22,9</b> %	%
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	45,6 %	<b>44,3</b> %	%
Female	54,4 %	<b>55,7</b> %	%

\*The evaluation of the educational level of the population is presented by the materials of 1999 national census, since the given index is measured by means of the official statistics only in the course of census.

42. Please indicate the source of the population estimates in the prior question. English language sources are especially helpful. Include website links or contact information if applicable.

(<http://www.belstat.gov.by>)

**1. The Republic of Belarus. The Statistical Annuary. 2008, – Minsk, 2008**

**2. The Regions of the Republic of Belarus. The Statistical Reports. 2008, – Minsk, 2008**

