

**Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES)**  
**Module 4: Design Report (Sample Design and Data Collection Report)**

September 10, 2012

Country: Ireland  
Date of Election: 25 February 2011

Prepared by: Carolina Plescia  
Date of Preparation: 3 July 2013

**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: RED C Research & Marketing Ltd Address: 7 The Seapoint Building, 44-45 Clontarf Road, Dublin 3, Ireland. Telephone: +353 1 818 6316 Fax: E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@redcresearch.ie">info@redcresearch.ie</a> Website: <a href="http://redcresearch.ie/">http://redcresearch.ie/</a>
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**Funding Organization(s):**

Organization(s) that funded the data collection: There was no central funding organisation. Most of the money was supplied by the PI and by Political Science Association of Ireland, with additional funds provided by TCD, Richard Sinnott (UCD), Google, and the Electoral Reform Society

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

Organization: Address:  Telephone: Fax: E-Mail: Website:
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**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: ISSDA Address: University College Dublin (UCD)  Telephone: +353 (0)1 716 7356 Fax: E-Mail: <a href="mailto:issda@ucd.ie">issda@ucd.ie</a> Website: <a href="http://www.ucd.ie/issda/">http://www.ucd.ie/issda/</a>
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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
- Pre-Election/Post-Election Panel Study
- Between Rounds

2a. Date Post-Election Interviewing Began:

6<sup>th</sup> March 2011

2b. Date Post-Election Interviewing Ended:

10<sup>th</sup> April 2011

3. Mode of interviewing for the post-election survey in which the CSES Module appeared:  
(If multiple modes were used, please mark all that apply.)

- 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:

English

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 survey is meant to be a nationally representative sample of the population eligible to vote.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

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

Yes

No

If yes, what ages could be interviewed?

18

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:

### 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? \_\_\_\_\_ % ( very small)

If yes, please explain:

See sampling method below

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:

yes, but only if based on a military facility

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: 3%



### 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.

A sample of 1853 people of voting age from across the country was interviewed after the 2011 election. Households were chosen at random and then a respondent was selected randomly from within each household. Interviews were carried out in all 43 constituencies, resulting in between 18 and 66 respondents per constituency.

12a. What were the primary sampling units?

320 geographical locations, district electoral divisions (DEDs)

12b. How were the primary sampling units selected?

selected at random by selecting every nth point or DED from the Census list

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.  
see above

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?

An non-business address from within the area is chosen at random from a geo-directory. This is the starting point for a random walk. The interviewer is asked to call into every fifth house rather than one consecutive house after another. At this household the interviewer is asked to interview the person with the next birthday who fits into an unfilled quota. This approach is continued until all sampling point specific quotas (gender, age, social class) are achieved. If an interviewer gets to the end of a road, there will have to cross the road and go to the next available house and continue the random route there. An interviewer is not allowed to leave the area specified by the sampling point/DED.

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

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?

see above

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

Effectively the cluster is the selected DED

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):

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

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

Quotas for each DED were set, defined by age, class and gender to match the population of that DED.

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

Yes

No

If yes, please describe:

Effectively yes

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 0 callbacks

Other (Please explain):

20. Were non-sample replacement methods used?

Yes

No

Please describe:

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):

These were professional interviewers, employed on a regular basis by REDC

26. Please provide a description of interviewer training:

### Contacts

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

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

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

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

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

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:

Each interviewer was given a time window for interviews, so day of the week and time of the day would have varied across the sample.

### 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?

N/A

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:

These were conducted by the survey company. I don't know what % were verified.

If yes, please indicate the percent of completed surveys that were verified: \_\_\_\_\_ %



## Response Rate

Note: If multiple modes of interviewing were used for the post-election survey in which the CSES Module appeared, please repeat the following questions as appropriate for each of the modes used.

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.)

It is not possible to construct a response rate for the main survey. Of those who participated in the survey, however, 91% also completed the drop-off. Interviewers were asked to collect it by calling back as soon as possible, and some interviews would have included both main and drop-off at the same time. CSES questions were spread through both questionnaires.

32. Please provide the following statistics for the survey that the CSES Module appeared in. (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: .....
- B. Number of valid households: .....
- C. Number of invalid (non-sample) households: .....
- D. Number of households of unknown validity: .....
- E. Number of completed interviews: .....
- F. Number of partial interviews: .....
- G. Number of refusals and break-offs: .....
- H. Number non-contact (never contacted): .....
- I. Other non-response: .....

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:



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

<b>Education</b>	First wave of study	Wave that included CSES
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:

Sampling produced a sample with parameters that did not match the population

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:

The demographic weights match the sample to the over 18 population in terms of combined distributions of age, gender and class. The political weights further ensure that the sample matches the distribution of votes in the 2011 election.

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:

As above

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:

As above, but no weighting was used to replicate the proportion on non-voters

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	10.4%	12.7%	14.1%
26-40	24.5%	31.9%	31.9%
41-64	28.4%	40.7%	38.4%
65 and over	11.7%	14.7%	15.5%
<u>Education</u>			
None	%	%	%
Incomplete Primary	%	%	%
Primary Completed	9.0%	7.9%	8.2%
Incomplete Secondary (Junior Certificate or equivalent)	10.9%	16.7%	16.4%
Secondary Completed (Leaving Certificate or equivalent)	13.1%	32.9%	32.9%
Post-Secondary Trade/ Vocational (Diploma or certificate)	5.6%	19.5%	19.4%
University Incomplete	2.9%	2.9%	3.1%
University Degree	16.13%	20.0%	20.1%
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	49.5%	49.9%	49.0%
Female	50.5%	50.1%	50.9%

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.cso.ie/>

