Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES)
Module 5: Design Report (Sample Design and Data Collection Report)
September 14, 2016

Country: Belgium Flanders
Date of Election: May 26th, 2019

Prepared by: Prof. Marc Hooghe, Dr Martin Okolikj, Dr Dieter Stiers
Date of Preparation: December 2020

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: KU Leuven, Centre for Political Research
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Funding Organization(s):

Organization(s) that funded the data collection:

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Address: Egmontstraat 5, B-1000 Brussels

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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:

Please indicate the date when the study is expected to be available at this archive: January 15th, 2021

Study Design

1. Timing of the study that the CSES Module was included in:
    [X] Post-Election Study (with interviewing starting within 6 months after the election)
    [ ] Post-Election Study (with interviewing starting more than 6 months after the election)
    [ ] Pre-Election/Post-Election Panel Study
    [ ] Between Rounds

2a. Date Post-Election Interviewing Began: May 29th, 2019

2b. Date Post-Election Interviewing Ended: September 24th, 2019

3a. 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 - using a questionnaire on paper
        [ ] In person, face-to-face - using an electronic/computerized questionnaire
        [ ] Telephone
        [X] Mail or self-completion supplement
        [X] Internet

3b. Was there a mode change *within* interviews (e.g., selected self-completion elements within
the questionnaire)?
        [X] No
        [ ] Yes; please provide details:

4a. Was the survey part of a panel study?
        [ ] Yes
        [X] 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:

4c. If the survey was entirely or partly conducted via the Internet, please indicate whether it was
based on an access panel (i.e. respondents were selected from a group of pre-screened panelists):
        [ ] Yes
        [X] No
Respondents were given the option to self-complete pre-paid questionnaire or complete
questionnaire online.

4d. If the survey was based on an Internet access panel, please describe the access panel
(company, population [does it include persons without initial access to the Internet and how are
they interviewed], method of recruiting members, total size of access panel, method of selecting
survey respondents from the panel):

<u>Translation</u>
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?
       [X] Yes, translated by member(s) of research team
       [ ] Yes, by translation bureau
       [X] Yes, by specially trained translator(s)
       [ ] No, not translated

6. Please list all languages used for the fielded module:
Dutch for the questionnaire in Flanders and French for the questionnaire in Wallonia

7a. If the questionnaire was translated, was the translated questionnaire assessed/checked or evaluated?
       [X] Yes, by group discussion
       [ ] Yes, an expert checked it
       [X] Yes, by back translation
       [ ] Other; please specify: _____
       [ ] No
       [ ] Not applicable

7b. If the questionnaire was translated, was the questionnaire pre-tested?
       [X] Yes
       [ ] No
       [ ] Not applicable

7c. If the questionnaire was translated, were there any questions which caused problems when translating?
       [ ] Yes
       [X] 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 target population is all Belgian citizens with registered residence in Flanders between aged 18 and 85, who were eligible to vote in the Belgian federal elections on May 26th, 2019. This population excludes eligible voters living in foreign countries. Age between 18 and 85 was targeted. Voters above 85 were not approached.

Eligibility Requirements

9a. Must a person be a certain age to be interviewed?
  [X] Yes
  [ ] No

  If yes, what ages could be interviewed? Between 18 and 85.

9b. Must a person be a citizen to be interviewed?
  [X] Yes
  [ ] No

9c. Must a person be registered to vote to be interviewed?
  [X] Yes
  [ ] No
All Belgian citizens are automatically registered to vote.

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
    [X] 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
    [X] 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
    [X] No

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

    If yes, please explain:

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. If interviews were conducted via the Internet, what is the estimated percentage of households without access to the Internet? __For Belgium Flanders this is 8%, however each of the respondents had an option to fill in pre-paid questionnaire and post it back to our team.

10g. If interviews were conducted via the Internet, were provisions taken to include members of the population without access to the Internet? And if so, which?
>   [ ] Yes
>   [ ] No

>   If "Yes", please explain:

>   If "No", what percent of the total eligible population did this exclude from the sample
>   frame? _____ %

10h. Were other persons excluded from the sample frame?
>   [ ] Yes
>   [X] No

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

>   If yes, please explain:

10i. Please estimate the total percentage of the eligible population excluded from the sample frame: __oldest age group above 85 is ~2-3 %

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 and/or based on an Internet access panel, please also describe the original sample, from the beginning of the study.
A random selection of 4,000 voters in Flanders were selected by Belgian National Register and drown from their National Register of all voters in Flanders. The random selection was done by Belgian National Register, due to strict privacy regulations. Our team was not allowed to contact respondents and all addresses and names were handled by the Belgian National Register. The full sample of 4,000 voters was used in the initial approach to fill in the questionnaire.

12a. What were the primary sampling units?

None

12b. How were the primary sampling units selected?

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.

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?

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?

14b. Could more than one respondent be interviewed from a single household?
     [X] Yes
     [ ] No

     If yes, please explain: There is a small random chance that two people are randomly selected from the same household, however we do not have access to the household compositions or names to know the exact number of such cases.

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
    [X] No

If yes, please describe (please include the list of characteristics used for stratification, and in the case of multi-stage selection processes the stage[s] at which stratification occurred):

17. Was quota sampling used at any stage of selection?
    [ ] Yes
    [X] No

If yes, please describe:

18. Was substitution of individuals permitted at any stage of the selection process or during fieldwork?
    [ ] Yes
    [X] No

If yes, please describe:

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
    [X] Other (Please explain):

All approached 4,000 individuals from all households were included in the sample. Those that did not respond were marked as NA.

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
[X] No

Please describe:

23. For surveys conducted on the Internet, did respondents self-select into the survey, at any stage?
[ ] Yes
[X] No

Please explain:

Incentives

24a. Prior to the study, was a letter sent to the respondent?
    [ ] Yes
    [X] No

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

24b. Prior to the study, was a payment sent to the respondent?
    [ ] Yes
    [X] No

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

24c. Prior to the study, was a token gift sent to the respondent?
    [ ] Yes
    [X] 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
    [X] No

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

24e. Were any other incentives used?
    [ ] Yes
    [X] No

    If yes, please describe:

Interviewers

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

26. Please provide a description of interviewer training. If possible please differentiate between general interviewer training and study-specific components:

26a. Please provide a description of the content, structure and time used for general training of interviewers:

26b. Please provided a description of the content, structure and time used for training interviewers in the specifics of the study within which CSES was run:

Contacts

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

We had made 2 attempts in total to contact the respondents.

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

There were no contact attempts prior to the first contact.

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

    N/A

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

    N/A

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:

Refusal Conversion

29a. Were efforts made to persuade respondents who were reluctant to be interviewed?
[X] Yes
[ ] No

Please describe: There was open phone line for respondents to contact us if they had any questions or were reluctant to fill in the survey. Also, there was a letter accompanying the survey which described the academic importance of respondent's participation. This was also acknowledge in the final reminder.

29b. Were respondents who were reluctant to be interviewed sent a letter persuading them to take part?
[ ] Yes
[X] No
(If yes, please provide a copy of the letter or letters.)

If yes, please describe:

If respondents clearly stated that they would not to be approached, we respected their will.

29c. Was payment offered to respondents who were reluctant to take part?
[ ] Yes
[X] 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?

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
    [X] No

    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.)

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: 4000

      B. Number of valid households: 4000
      C. Number of invalid (non-sample) households: NA – we don't have a way to know this.

      D. Number of households of unknown validity:

      E. Number of completed interviews: 1084
      F. Number of partial interviews:
      G. Number of refusals and break-offs:
      H. Number non-contact (never contacted):
      I. Other non-response: 2916

      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 that 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.

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

Education	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 populated being studied?
[ ] Yes
[X] No

If yes, please explain:

38. Are weights included in the data file?
[X] Yes
[] No

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

The weights were created using the IPF-procedure in Stata (https://ideas.repec.org/c/boc/bocode/s457353.html). For creating these weights, the latest information available was used. For age and gender, this stemmed from beginning 2019; for educational level, this was beginning 2018. These three variables are accounted for in the demographic weight. The political weight includes the same variables, and the vote choice as reported by the respondents compared to the official results. Where necessary, we calculated distributions ourselves to make sure all information was correct for the specific geographical region for which we are correcting, and all information was subdivided by age so that the distributions are corrected for the population older than 18 (which should give a better estimate for educational level, for instance).

40a. If weights are included in the data file, are the weights designed to compensate for disproportionate probability of selection?
[ ] Yes
[X] 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?
[X] Yes
[ ] No

If yes, please describe: The IPF-procedure creates a weight to correct observed sample distributions to known population distributions. As per the documentation of the package:

"ipfweight performs a stepwise adjustment (known as iterative proportional fitting or raking) of survey sampling weights to achieve known population margins. The iterative process is repeated until the difference between the sample margins and the known population margins is smaller than a specified tolerance value or the specified maximum number of iterations is obtained." The maximum number of iterations was set at 25.

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

    [X] Yes
    [ ] No

    If yes, please describe:

The political weight uses the same procedure as described above to correct for the official election results.

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

Characteristic	Population Estimates	Completed Interviews Unweighted Distribution	Completed Interviews Weighted Distribution
Age			
18-64	74.92%	69.93%	74.90%
65 and over	25.08%	30.07%	25.10%
Education			
None/(incomplete) primary	5.50%	4.24%	5.51%
Lower Secondary	12.64%	12.64%	12.55%
Higher Secondary	40.03%	24.17%	40.07%
Post-Secondary Trade/ Vocational	2.54%	14.39%	2.54%
University: Bachelor	23.68%	21.49%	23.71%
University: Master/PhD	15.60%	20.87%	15.62%
Gender			
Male	49.07%	51.32%	49.01%
Female	50.93%	48.68%	50.99%

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.

The information was gathered from the official Belgian statistics office (https://statbel.fgov.be/en/themes/population/structure-population)