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

September 14, 2016

Country: Romania
Date of Election: December 11, 2016

Prepared by:
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Date of Preparation: September 20, 2021

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: CCSAS
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Funding Organization(s):

Organization(s) that funded the data collection:

Organization: Unitatea Executivă pentru Finanţarea Învăţământului Superior, a Cercetării Dezvoltării şi Inovării - UEFISCDI
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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: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Department of Sociology
Romanian Election Studies Project (RES)
Address: Bd. 21 Decembrie 1989, Nr. 128, 400604 – Cluj-Napoca, Jud. Cluj, România
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E-Mail: mircea.comsa@ubbcluj.ro
Website: https://resproject.wordpress.com/

Please indicate the date when the study is expected to be available at this archive:
2022

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:

December 13th 2016

2b. Date Post-Election Interviewing Ended:

February 20th 2017

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
[x] In person, face-to-face - using an electronic/computerized questionnaire
[ ] Telephone
[ ] Mail or self-completion supplement
[ ] 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
[ ] No

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):

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?

[x] 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:

Romanian

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

[x] Yes, by group discussion
[x] Yes, an expert checked it
[ ] Yes, by back translation
[x] Other; please specify: _____two independent translations
[ ] 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:

Adults (18+), Romanian citizens, non-institutionalized

Eligibility Requirements

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

If yes, what ages could be interviewed?
18+

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
Note: In Romania, all eligible voters (18+) are registered automatically.

9d. Please list any other interviewing requirements or filters used:
None

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?

[x] Yes
[ ] No

If yes, what percent of the total eligible population did this exclude from the sample frame? _____< 0.25%

If yes, please explain:

Some of the institutionalized persons (convicted) are excluded from sample frame (electoral register). Some (hospitalized persons) are included, but could not be interviewed.

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? _____ %

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
[ ] 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: _____<0.5%

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.

Stratified two-stage probability sampling, with stratification of the primary units (voting districts, namely areas comprising a number of streets allocated to a polling station) proportional to the number of secondary units (adults registered in the electoral register).
Regional stratification: voting districts are stratified with regard to 8 regions of development and 7 types of municipalities (rural under 2,000 inhabitants, rural 2-4,000, rural 4,000+, city under 30,000, city 30-100,000, city of 100-200,000, city 200,000+ inhabitants). Theoretically, the schema has 8*7=56 strata, practically 53 strata (one region has only four types of municipalities).
The number of primary sampling units (PSU) to be selected within a stratum is obtained by multiplying the sample size n with the share p_i of each stratum in the electorate. The number of voting districts used for selection is obtained by $n*p_i/10$.
Stage 1: Systematic selection of voting districts in each stratum proportional to their number of registered adults.
Stage 2: 10 respondents are selected by systematic sampling with equal probabilities from the electoral register of each voting district selected (the main sample). A reserve sample of 10 respondents is selected in order to compensate for refusals, etc. The reserve sample is only used to the degree of achieving 10 completed interviews per PSU.
Design effects due to clustering:
For rho / icc = 0.03: DEFFc = 1 + (10 - 1) * 0.03 = 1.27
For rho / icc = 0.05: DEFFc = 1 + (10 - 1) * 0.05 = 1.45

12a. What were the primary sampling units?

Voting districts used for 2016 local elections.

12b. How were the primary sampling units selected?

PPS systematic selection of voting districts in each stratum proportional to their number of registered adults

12c. Were the primary sampling units randomly selected?

[x] 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.

Units were selected using “Complex sample” in IBM SPSS Statistics. The resulted sample was checked for representativity against the official results of the 2016 local elections.

13. Were there further stages of selection?

[ ] Yes
[x] 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?

Systematic, from the electoral register.

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

[ ] Yes
[x] No

If yes, please explain:

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

[x] Yes
[ ] No

If yes, please describe:

In the first stage, 110 voting districts were selected (in the second stage, 10 respondents were selected within each voting district).

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.

[x] Yes
[ ] 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):

Regions of development (8 categories) x municipality type (7 categories) = 56 theoretical strata.

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?

[x] Yes
[ ] No

If yes, please describe:

In the case of ineligible individuals or refusals, substitution with an individual selected from the reserve sample was permitted.

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

[x] Non-residential sample point
[ ] All members of household are ineligible
[x] Housing unit is vacant
[x] No answer at housing unit after ___5____ callbacks
[ ] Other (Please explain):

20. Were non-sample replacement methods used?

[ ] Yes
[x] 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 respondents self-select into the survey, at any stage?

[ ] Yes
[ ] 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):

Freelance interviewers regularly working for the polling agency, all with significant experience in interviewing. Generally, were young people (20-30 years old), at least high school, who have participated in minimum 5 similar surveys at the same polling agency and at least 10 in total.

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

Training session of about 4 hours: interviewers were trained on selection procedures, reading and filling the questionnaire.

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?

1.58

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

-- no 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?**

1

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

5

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

5

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

[x] Yes
[ ] No

If yes, please describe:

Different days and different hours.
Monday to Friday (afternoon), Saturday to Sunday (all day).

Refusal Conversion

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

[ ] Yes
[x] No

Please describe:

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:

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
[x] No

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

1

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

[ ] Yes
[x] 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?

[x] Yes
[ ] No

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

In the field, face-to-face and by phone.
In the office, by listening the recordings with interview fragments.
Verification measure: recollecting data on sex, age, location and evaluating the time and timing of the interviews.

If yes, please indicate the percent of completed surveys that were verified: __100__ %

* The questionnaires with major problems were replaced.

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.)

No of contacts	No of respondents	Response rate
1754	1106	63.05

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: 1754

B. Number of valid households: 1712
C. Number of invalid (non-sample) households: 42
D. Number of households of unknown validity: 0

E. Number of completed interviews: 1106
F. Number of partial interviews: 2
G. Number of refusals and break-offs: 339
H. Number non-contact (never contacted): 248
I. Other non-response: 17

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:

The person was sick, drunk, deaf, not available for the period allocated to data collection, does not know the Romanian language, or other reason.

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?

[x] Yes
[ ] No

If yes, please explain:

Due to differential contact & response rates across socio-demographic categories, weights are necessary.

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:

weights = population structure / sample structure
The structure is defined by joint distribution of several variables:
- Gender (male/female)
- Age categories (18-34, 35-49, 50-64, 65+)
- Residence (urban/rural)
- Region (8 categories)

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

[x] Yes
[ ] No

If yes, please describe:

The weights correct for the variations in the probability of selection in the sample (as voting polls differ in size).

D1010_1 (Sample Weight)
The variable D1010_1 (SAMPLE WEIGHT) is designed to correct for the variations in the probability of selection in the sample (as voting polls differ in size). It is the so-called DESIGN WEIGHT. Please find below the SPSS syntax:

```
CSPLAN SAMPLE
  /PLAN FILE='sample.csplan'
  /PLANVARS SAMPLEWEIGHT=SampleWeight_Final_
  /PRINT PLAN MATRIX
  /DESIGN STRATA=strat_bop CLUSTER=ID
```

/METHOD TYPE=PPS_WOR ESTIMATION=DEFAULT
/MOS VARIABLE=TA
/SIZE MATRIX=strat_bop;111 3;112 2;113 1;114 2;115 1;116 2;121 2;122 1;125 1;127 3;131 2;132 1;135 1;136 1;211 1;212 2;213 3;214 1;215 1;216 1;217 1;222 1;223 1;226 1;227 1;231 1;232 1;233 2;234 1;235 2;311 1;312 2;313 1;314 1;315 1;317 2;322 1;323 1;324 1;326 1;413 1;414 1;415 1;417 1;513 1;514 1;515 1;523 1;524 1;526 1;527 2;531 1;532 1;533 1;534 1;535 1;536 1;537 2;543 1;544 1;545 1;552 1;553 1;555 1;612 1;613 1;614 1;616 1;622 1;623 1;624 1;626 1;627 1;711 1;712 1;713 1;714 1;715 1;717 2;803 1;807 11
/STAGEVARS INCLPROB(InclusionProbability_1_) CUMWEIGHT(SampleWeightCumulative_1_) POPSIZE(PopulationSize_1_) SAMPSIZE(SampleSize_1_) RATE(SamplingRate_1_) WEIGHT(SampleWeight_1_).

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:

weights = population structure / sample structure
The structure is defined by joint distribution of several variables:
- Gender (male/female)
- Age categories (18-34, 35-49, 50-64, 65+)
- Residence (urban/rural)
- Region (8 categories)

In addition, we used the proportion of Hungarians and three education categories, all at national level.

D1010_2 (Demographic Weight)
DEMOGRAPHIC WEIGHT was computed on the weighted databases after applying the SAMPLE WEIGHT. Thus, it includes/takes into account the SAMPLE WEIGHT.
DEMOGRAPHIC WEIGHT is designed to match known demographic characteristics of the population (according to last Census, 2011). DEMOGRAPHIC WEIGHT was computed by dividing the population structure to the sample structure. The structure was defined by the joint distribution of several variables: Gender (male/female), Age categories (18-34, 35-49, 50-64, 65+), Residence (urban/rural), Region (8 categories). Rake procedure in SPSS was used:
WEIGHT BY wdesx.
SPSSINC RAKE
DIM1 = ins 1111 2.743 1121 2.797 1211 1.796 1221 2.02 1112 2.029 1122 2.117 1212 2.174 1222 2.52 1113 1.17 1123 1.212 1213 1.335 1223 1.575 1114 1.485 1124 1.394 1214 0 1224 0 2111 4.563 2121 4.314 2211 2.883 2221 3.214 2112 4.12 2122 3.863 2212 3.81 2222 4.366 2113 2.128 2123 1.976 2213 2.122 2223 2.535 2114 2.261 2124 2.014 2214 0 2224 0 3111 3.059 3121 2.214 3211 2.55 3221 1.873 3112 2.565 3122 1.883 3212

3.895 3222 2.796 3113 1.386 3123 1.037 3213 2.097 3223 1.533 3114 1.556 3124 1.022 3214 0 3224 0
DIM2 = mag 0 93.5 1 6.5
DIM3 = edu 1 50 2 34 3 16
FINALWEIGHT=wins
/OPTIONS ITERATIONS=20 CONVERGENCE=.0001 DELTA=.5 SHOW=NO.
FORMATS wins (F10.8).
VARIABLE LABELS wins 'Weight INS' .
VARIABLE WIDTH wins (10).

RECODE wins (LOWEST thru 0.2=0.2) (5 thru HIGHEST=5).
EXECUTE.

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:

POLITICAL WEIGHT corrects the sample in order to match the official (Central Electoral Bureau) election results at national level for both rounds simultaneously. Rake procedure in SPSS was used.

D1010_3 (Political Weight)
POLITICAL WEIGHT was computed on the weighted databases after applying the DEMOGRAPHIC WEIGHT. Thus, it includes/takes into account the DEMOGRAPHIC WEIGHT, and consequently the SAMPLE WEIGHT.
POLITICAL WEIGHT corrects the sample in order to match the official (Central Electoral Bureau) election results at national level for both rounds simultaneously. Rake procedure in SPSS was used:

WEIGHT BY wins.
SPSSINC RAKE
DIM1 = votcd16 1 46.0 2 19.9 3 5.7 4 8.6 5 5.1 6 6.2 7 8.5
DIM2 = votse16 1 46.2 2 20.3 3 6.1 4 8.6 5 5.4 6 6.3 7 7.1
FINALWEIGHT=wvot
/OPTIONS ITERATIONS=20 CONVERGENCE=.0001 DELTA=.5 SHOW=NO.
FORMATS wvot (F10.8).

```
VARIABLE LABELS wvot 'Weight vot 2016' .
VARIABLE WIDTH wvot (10).
IF SYSMIS(wvot)=1 wvot=wins.
EXECUTE.
RECODE wvot (LOWEST thru 0.2=0.2) (5 thru HIGHEST=5).
EXECUTE.
```

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			
18-25	31.5	25.4	26.4
26-40	26.8	31.6	29.8
41-64	23.4	25.1	23.6
65 and over	18.3	17.8	20.2
Education			
No education	0.4	0.4	0.6
Primary School	7.2	5.5	9.1
Secondary School	17.9	7.1	9.1
Vocational School	20.0	16.7	20.6
High School (9-10)	5.5	9.7	10.6
High School (11-12)	30.7	34.0	27.5
Post High School	5.0	7.7	5.6
College	0.4	1.4	1.0
University	9.7	13.2	11.2
Master Studies	3.0	2.7	3.1
Doctoral	0.3	0.5	0.6
Gender			
Male	48.1	46.2	48.3
Female	51.9	53.8	51.7

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.

National Institute of Social and Economic Statistics (INS, www.insse.ro, CENSUS 2011)
Eurostat (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)