

Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES) Module 6 Design Report

Version: December 2022

Country/territory: **Republic of North Macedonia**
Date of election: **24 April 2024 (First round presidential elections) and 8 May 2024 (Parliamentary elections and Second round presidential elections)**
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Date of preparation: **19.03.2025**

The answers provided in this Design Report are used to create variables in the CSES dataset, enable the CSES Secretariat to evaluate the eligibility of election studies for inclusion in the cross-national dataset, and provide users with important information for their analyses.

Notes to collaborators...

- All sections of the Design Report must be filled in for an election study deposit to be considered complete. The CSES Secretariat is available to provide clarification and support.
- Where brackets [] appear, answer by placing an “X” within the appropriate bracket(s).
- If more space or iterations are required to answer any question, please lengthen the document and duplicate items as necessary.
- In your deposited dataset, please be sure to include any weight variables, as well a variable that indicates the mode of interview for each observation (respondent) that is included.
- If you have an existing methodology report for your study, we would appreciate receiving an electronic copy of it, to supplement the information in your completed Design Report. We will make both your Design Report and any supplemental methodological report available for download from the CSES website. We encourage you to cut-and-paste information from your existing methodology report into your answers below, as appropriate.

Section A1. Collaborator(s)

Collaborators are the contact persons for election studies that appear in CSES. Collaborators are not necessarily who collected the data. This collaborators list will appear on the CSES website.

Collaborator name: **Jovan Bliznakovski, PhD, Assistant Professor**

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Collaborator name: **Aneta Cekikj, PhD, Professor**

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Section A2. Data Collection Organization

Organization that conducted the survey field work/data collection...

Organization name: **“Indago” – Skopje, North Macedonia**

Website: <https://indago.mk/>

Section A3. Funding Organization(s)

Organization(s) that funded the data collection...

Organization name: **U.S. National Science Foundation, CSES Seed Grant program**

Website: <https://www.nsf.gov/>

Organization name: **Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” Skopje (IDSCS)**

Website: <https://idscs.org.mk/mk/>

Organization name: **Swiss Electoral Support Programme in North Macedonia, implemented by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)**

Website: <https://electoralsupportprogramme.mk/en/>

Organization name: **Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje**

Website: <https://isppi.ukim.edu.mk/>

Section A4. 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 name:

Website:

Section B. 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

Other, please specify: _____

2. For the post-election survey in which the CSES Module appeared, please provide the following three pieces of information...

The date that interviewing began: **25 October 2024**

The date that interviewing ended: **4 December 2024**

The number of days between the date of the election and when interviewing began: **171 days (taken from the day of parliamentary elections and presidential elections second round).**

3. Was the survey that included the CSES Module part of a panel study?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe the design of the panel study, including the date at which interviewing for each prior wave began and ended:

4. How many respondents answered the post-election survey in which the CSES Module appeared? That is, how many records/observations are there in the CSES portion of your study?

1056 respondents.

5. Did respondents give their consent to share their responses as part of the CSES dataset, in accordance with local human rights regulations and data protection laws?

Yes

No

Section C. Sample frame, selection, and eligibility

6. Please describe the population that your study is meant to be representative of.

The study is representative of the adult residential population of North Macedonia, specifically individuals aged 18 or older at the time of sampling (September 2024).

7. What steps were taken as part of the sampling and/or data collection process to ensure that the sample is representative of the target population? In what ways were those steps successful, and in what ways were they not (please provide evidence wherever possible)?

The sampling was based on the most recent available frame, incorporating data from the 2021 Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings in the Republic of North Macedonia, as well as internal documents from the State Statistical Office detailing the distribution of dwellings across enumeration areas.

A three-stage randomized procedure was implemented, with stratification by NUTS-3 regions and type of residence (urban vs. rural). The sample was address-based, and interviewers made at least three contact attempts at selected dwellings when no clear acceptance or refusal was initially obtained.

By implementing randomization across three stages, utilizing the best available sampling frame, and applying a structured respondent recruitment approach, the final dataset

closely reflects the population composition in terms of regional distribution and urban-rural structure, ensuring representativeness at these levels.

Additionally, the dataset includes weights (see Section H.) designed to correct for any discrepancies between the collected data and the country's demographic composition.

8. Please list the criteria for an individual to be eligible to be interviewed in your study. For example minimum age, citizenship, voter registration, etc.

Eligible respondents were residents and nationals of North Macedonia, aged 18 or older at the time of sampling (September 2024). This includes the entire vote-eligible population for the April/May elections, as voter registration in the country is passive—citizens automatically gain the right to vote upon turning 18 (the only exception applies to individuals who have been legally deprived of their legal capacity). Additionally, the sample includes citizens who became eligible to vote between the elections and the start of the interviewing process.

9. Please describe the sample frame, its type and source, and its coverage of the population.

Sample frame document: (1) Census of Population, Households, and Dwellings in the Republic of North Macedonia, 2021 – residential population; (2) Internal data document of the State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia – detailing the distribution of dwellings across enumeration areas.

Type: General census data.

Source: State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia.

Coverage of the population: Full coverage of the resident population of North Macedonia, including all demographic and geographic groups as recorded in the 2021 Census.

10. Were any of the following excluded from the sample frame? Mark all that apply.

Specific regions of the country

Institutionalized persons

Military personnel

Other, please specify: **Persons deprived of legal capacity.**

For each group that was excluded, please provide additional details about the exclusion (for instance, the regions excluded), why the exclusion, and what percent of the total eligible population was excluded from the sample frame in each instance. Please also indicate the total percentage of the eligible population excluded from the sample frame.

Institutionalized persons: Since sampling was conducted exclusively in private dwellings, individuals residing in institutions (e.g., nursing homes, hospitals, correctional facilities) were automatically excluded from the sample frame. Based on available data, at least 0.14% of the population was excluded due to institutionalization, considering only the prison population (Prison Studies, 2024). The total percentage may be higher when accounting for other institutionalized individuals, but precise data is unavailable.

Persons deprived of legal capacity: These individuals were excluded at the third stage of sampling, as they are not eligible to participate in the survey based on legal voting rights criteria. There is no official data available on the exact number of individuals deprived of legal capacity in North Macedonia.

11. Please describe in detail how the sample for the study was selected from the sampling frame. For multi-stage samples, please sure to list all sampling stages, and describe the sampling units and selection methods at each stage. Furthermore, please describe how individual respondents were identified and selected in the final stage. If the survey is part of a panel study, please describe not just the current wave but also the original sample. For telephone samples, please indicate whether the sample was a random digit dial (RDD) sample, listed sample, or dual frame sample. For surveys conducted by mail, indicate whether a listed sample.

A three-stage stratified randomized procedure was implemented:

First stage: A total of 188 enumeration areas were randomly selected, ensuring proportional representation of the population across NUTS-3 regions and the urban-rural divide.

Second stage: A total of 1,880 addresses (dwelling units) were randomly selected (10 per enumeration area).

Third stage: In each selected dwelling unit, one eligible respondent was chosen using the 'next birthday' method to ensure random selection within the household.

The first two stages were conducted by the State Statistical Office, which provided the final list of selected addresses. The final-stage respondent selection was carried out by interviewers during fieldwork.

12. Were probability-based methods used for all stages of the selection process? That is, units were randomly selected throughout the process, including at initial recruitment (if a panel).

Yes

No

If no, please describe all instances where non-probability methods were used and provide a justification for each as to why random selection was not used.

13. Did your sampling design make use of one or more of the following techniques? Please mark all that apply.

Stratification

Cluster sampling

Quota sampling

Interviewing more than one respondent from a single household

Respondent or household substitution

Non-sample replacement methods

Definitions:

- Stratification involves the division of the population into groups according to certain characteristics (for instance by demographic characteristics). Random selection then occurs within each of the groups that result to ensure their adequate inclusion.
- Cluster sampling divides the population into groups and then uses random selection to include some of the groups but not others. For example, a cluster sample might divide a large country into geographic areas and then select only some of the areas while excluding others, to avoid the need (and cost) of interviewer travel to all areas.
- In quota sampling, a respondent is sometimes selected based on demographic characteristics, rather than randomly, to ensure certain target distributions are met.
- Substitution is replacing one sampling unit with another when the first sampled unit is difficult to reach and/or interview.

Section D1. Interviewing Mode(s)

14. Please indicate the mode(s) of interviewing for the post-election survey in which the CSES Module appeared. Mark all that apply.

- Interviewer-administered: In person (sometimes called face-to-face)
- Interviewer-administered: Video
- Interviewer-administered: Telephone
- Self-completion: Paper (by mail, supplement, etc.)
- Self-completion: Internet
- Other, please specify: _____

Section D2. Interviewing Mode(s): Mixed-Mode

15. If the survey in which the CSES Module appeared was mixed-mode (that is, made use of more than one mode type)...

Was the mixed-mode design intended to address a particular problem or problems?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please elaborate:

Were all modes available to respondents from the beginning, or was there a mode progression (that is, if the respondent did not respond by one mode, another mode was subsequently offered to them)? If the latter, please describe the mode progression.

Were individuals assigned a mode after recruitment or was this part of the recruitment?

- Assigned a mode after recruitment
- Assigned a mode as part of the recruitment

Did respondents self-select the mode by which they would respond?

- Yes
- No

Did the design include a mode change *within* interviews (e.g., selected self-completion elements within the same questionnaire)?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

If there were substantial differences in the distribution of key demographics across modes, please note them here.

Section D3. Interviewing Mode(s): Telephone

16. If the post-election survey in which the CSES Module appeared was entirely or partly conducted by telephone...

What is the estimated percentage of households without a phone? _____ %

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? _____ %

Section D4. Interviewing Mode(s): Internet

17. If the post-election survey in which the CSES Module appeared was entirely or partly conducted via the Internet...

What is the estimated percentage of households without access to the Internet (that is, the percent of the eligible population excluded due to lack of Internet access)? _____ %

Were provisions taken to include members of the population without access to the Internet?

Yes

No

If "Yes", please explain:

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

Did the survey make use of an access panel (i.e. respondents were selected from a group of pre-screened panelists)?

Yes

No

If yes, 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):

Did respondents self-select into the survey, at any stage?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain:

Section E. Respondent Persuasion

18. What was the average number of contact attempts made per household, for the entire sample (not just for survey completions)?

The average number of contact attempts per household across the entire sample was 1.6.

19. What was the maximum number of contact attempts made per household, for the entire sample (not just for survey completions)?

The maximum number of contact attempts per household was 3.

20. Did respondents receive incentive payments? Please mark all that apply.

Yes, during the screening process

Yes, in advance of their interview

Yes, after their interview

No

21. Were special efforts made to persuade respondents who were reluctant to be interviewed?

Yes

No

Section F: Interview/Survey Verification

22. Was interview/survey verification used?

Yes

No

If yes, please indicate the percent of completed surveys that were verified: **19.9%**.

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

Verification was conducted through follow-up contacts with respondents to monitor interviewer behavior and assess the quality of fieldwork.

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.

23. What steps, if any, were taken to ensure that respondents were providing truthful answers to the questions? Were any respondents removed from the final dataset (e.g. due to speeding, satisficing, completing multiple surveys, etc.)? Please provide details.

Following verification, 61 interviews were excluded from the final dataset, primarily due to interviewer misconduct. The identified issues included unverifiable interviews, response speeding, multiple surveys conducted within unusually short time spans, and interviews conducted at atypical hours. These cases are categorized under “Other” in Section G1 below.

Section G1. Response Rate

Notes to collaborators:

- 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 mode used.
- Standard definitions for the below items, as well as a helpful response rate calculator, can be accessed on the website of the American Association for Public Opinion Research at: <https://www.aapor.org/Communications/AAPOR-Journals/Standard-Definitions.aspx>

24. For each of the following categories, please indicate the number of cases/records from the sample that fall into each. (If the CSES Module appeared in a panel study, please report the numbers for the first wave of the study, even if the CSES Module did not appear in that wave.)

Interviews

I. Completed interviews	I = 1056
P. Partial interviews	P = 0

Non-interviews

R. Refusals and break-offs	R = 444
NC. Non-Contact	NC = 209
O. Other*	O = 104

Unknown Eligibility

UH. Unknown if household/occupied household unit	UH = 67
UO. Unknown, other	UO = 0

O. "Other" includes interviews excluded from the final dataset due to verified interviewer misconduct (N=61) and addresses confirmed to be non-residential dwellings (e.g., commercial buildings, abandoned structures) (N=43).

25. Please calculate the response rate (RR2) by inserting the answers from Question 24 into the following formula.

$$RR2 = \frac{(I + P)}{(I + P) + (R + NC + O) + (UH + UO)}$$

$$RR2 = \frac{(1056 + 0)}{(1056 + 0) + (444 + 209 + 104) + (67 + 0)}$$

$$RR2 = \frac{1056}{1880}$$

$$RR2 = 0.56$$

26. If the number of cases with unknown eligibility (UH and/or UO in Question 24) is greater than zero, please estimate what proportion of cases of unknown eligibility is actually eligible. Please indicate the basis, evidence, and any scientific justification for this estimate.

The classification of unknown eligibility UH includes cases where interviewers were unable to reach the designated address due to incomplete or faulty records in the address-based sample. There is no available basis for estimating the proportion of cases with unknown eligibility that are actually eligible.

Section G2. Response Rate: Panel Studies

27. If the CSES Module appeared in a panel study...

How many waves were conducted prior to the wave that included the CSES Module?

What was the response rate at the initial recruitment stage? Please show your calculations.

What percent of recruited respondents participated in the first wave of the study? Please show your calculations.

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.

If there were substantial differences in the distribution of key demographics (for example, age, gender, education, etc.) between the first wave of the study and the wave that included CSES, please note them here.

Please provide the number of completed interviews for the wave that included the CSES Module.

Section H. Post-Survey Adjustment Weights

28. Are weights included in the data file?

- Yes
 No

If No, please explain why no weights are provided:

If Yes, please describe in detail: their construction, what they correct for, and how their use makes the survey dataset more representative of the population.

The dataset includes two types of weights: demographic weight and political weight.

- (1) Demographic Weight: Post-stratification weights were applied to ensure the sample replicates the distribution of the target population. Iterative post-stratification was used to align weighted marginal distributions with known population margins for the following control variables: gender, age, statistical region, place of living, and ethnicity.**
- (2) Political Weight: This weight was applied after data collection to align certain characteristics of the sample with known population data, specifically voting behavior. The respondents' self-reported voting behavior (as captured in Q10lh_b) was adjusted to match the official results of the State Election Commission from the last parliamentary elections held in spring 2024.**

29. Were any other steps taken to mitigate the impact of non-response in the dataset? If so, how do the adjustments affect the survey results?

No adjustments were made to account for non-response in the dataset.

Section I. Translation

Notes to collaborators...

- As part of your deposit, please provide the original questionnaire(s) in each language used.
- For questionnaires in a language other than English, if a back-translation to English happens to be available, we would appreciate receiving the back-translation, also.
- The below questions on translation are adapted from those developed for the ISSP.

30. 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

31. Please list all languages used for the fielded module.

Macedonian and Albanian.

32. If the questionnaire was translated, was the translated questionnaire assessed/checked or evaluated? Please mark all that apply.

Yes, a group worked together on it and reconciled their differences through discussion

- Yes, an expert checked it
- Yes, by back translation
- Other; please specify: _____
- No
- Not applicable

33. If the questionnaire was translated, was the questionnaire pre-tested?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

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

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

35. 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:

N/A.

Section J. Other

36. Please list any additional advice you have for analysts about how the survey should be used, and any remaining special considerations in that regard.