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

Version: December 2022

Country/territory: Spain
Date of election: 23rd July 2023
Prepared by: Mónica Méndez (CIS)
Date of preparation: April 2024

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: Juan Díez Nicolás
Affiliation:
Email: juandieznicolas@gmail.com

Collaborator name: CIS team (Mónica Méndez Lago, corresponding collaborator), Lisboa Osanz González/Jesús Laseca)
Affiliation: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas
Email: monica.mendez@cis.es

Section A2. Data Collection Organization

Organization that conducted the survey field work/data collection

Organization name: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas
Website: https://www.cis.es

Section A3. Funding Organization(s)

Organization(s) that funded the data collection…

Organization name: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas
Website: https://www.cis.es

Organization name:
Website:

Section A4. Archiving Organization

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

Organization name: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas
Website: https://www.cis.es

Section B. Study Design

1. Timing of the study that the CSES Module was included in:
    [X] 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: 20th December 2024

The date that interviewing ended: 13th February 2024

The number of days between the date of the election and when interviewing began: 148 days

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

[ ] Yes
[X] 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?

2,446 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?

[X] Yes
[ ] No

Section C. Sample frame, selection, and eligibility

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

Population holding Spanish citizenship, aged 18 and over. Spaniards who are eligible to vote but reside in a foreign country are not in the target population.

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)?

An effort was made to interview the respondent who was selected randomly, such as recalling at a date/time which was more convenient for the respondent.

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.

Individuals over 18 years old who hold Spanish citizenship, which are the main requisites to have voting rights. All residents in Spain are registered in the Population Register ("Padrón de habitantes") and this register is used to elaborate the Election Roll for the Spanish General Elections (only considering those individuals who hold Spanish nationality and have not been removed the right to vote following the corresponding legal procedure to do so).

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

The Population Register (Padrón) is the sampling frame used. This ensures the best available coverage of the resident population in Spain. The Population Register is updated using the municipal population registers: when a citizen moves from one municipality to another s/he is obligated to notify the local authorities of her/his new place of residence. That is a requisite to have access to the public health services, state schools and other public services, and the population register is used to update the electoral register.

The law makes it compulsory for every Spanish city council to send the data from its register to the National Statistics Institute once a month. This process enhances the chances that the national Continuous Population Register of inhabitants is updated. Foreigners, even if they are not legal residents in the country, usually register in municipal population registers is needed in order to benefit from the different services mentioned (public health services, schools, sports facilities and so on).

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

[ ] Specific regions of the country
[ ] Institutionalized persons
[ ] Military personnel
[X] Other, please specify: Spanish registered voters who reside in a foreign country. People in institutions are not formally excluded, though in practice they are if they cannot be reached through a landline or mobile phone.

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.

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.

It is a stratified sample, using two criteria: Autonomous Community/region of residence and the size of the municipality where the respondent resides. There are seventeen Autonomous Communities plus two Autonomous cities (Ceuta and Melilla) located in the North of Africa. It is a common practice for social surveys in Spain to use stratification by Autonomous Communities, justified on the observed socio-economic, political and cultural differences among them. The second criterion is the size of the municipality (considering only 18+ years old inhabitants) classified in seven brackets: equal or below 2,000 inhabitants, 2,001-10,000, 10,001-50,000,

50,001-100,000, 100,001-400,000, 400,001-1,000,00 and municipalities over 1,000,000 inhabitants.

Quotas defined by crossing gender and age group (seven groups) are used, considering seven age groups: 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, and 75 and older as the last group.

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).

[X] 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.

RDD is used both for landline and mobile phones. In the case of landline phones, the interview starts with a household grid and the CATI program randomly selects an individual to be interviewed. However, sex and gender quotas are used in the last phase of selection.

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

[X] Stratification
[ ] Cluster sampling
[X] 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
[X] 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?

0.7 of the individuals over 16 years old do not have a mobile phone and 45.5 of the households do not have a landline phone %, according to the most recent data from the National Statistics Institute (Survey about Information and CommunicationTechnology, 2023)

Interviews were carried out using both mobile and landline phones (72% and 28%, respectively). In our experience, it is still important to do part of the interviews using the landline phone, since older people tend to be more at ease doing the interview this way, rather than using the mobile phone.

Were unlisted telephone numbers included in the population sampled?

[X] 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)?

XX

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

XX

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
[X] No

b21. Were special efforts made to persuade respondents who were reluctant to be interviewed?

[X] Yes
[ ] No

The possiblity to postpone the interview/to call the respondent at a different time/date was offered to all respondents who could not be interviewed when they were first contacted.

Section F: Interview/Survey Verification

22. Was interview/survey verification used?

[X] Yes
[ ] No

If yes, please indicate the percent of completed surveys that were verified: 10.2%

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

Audio back-checks were used to verify that the interview took place according to the protocol: 1) data protection rights were read to the respondent and that the respondent gave his/her consent to be interviewed; 2) the correct registration of data regarding quotas; 2) the correct administration of the questions and accurate registration of the responses.

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 remove from the final dataset (e.g. due to speeding, satisficing, completing multiple surveys, etc.)? Please provide details.

None of the interviews were removed from the final dataset after the back-checks performed, since there were no cases of significant departure from the interviewing protocol. Back-checks take place during fieldwork, so there is the possibility to provide feed-back to interviewers on how to avoid minor mistakes, to insist on reading the questions/response categories, etc.

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 = _____2,446
P. Partial interviews	P =_____
Non-interviews	
R. Refusals and break-offs	R = _____1,185
NC. Non-Contact	NC = _____14,481
O. Other	O = _____4,472
Unknown Eligibility	
UH. Unknown if household/occupied household unit	UH = _____2,581
UO. Unknown, other	UO = _____8,775

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= 7,15%

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.

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?

[X] 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.

A5a: weight calculated considering the region where the respondent is registered (17 Autonomous Communites+2 autonomous cities) and the size of the municipality (seven brackets; up to 2,000 inhabitants, 2,001-10,000, 10,001-50,000, 50,001-100,000, 100,001-400,000, 400,001-1,000,000, and over 1,000,000 inhabitants).

A5b: weight calculated considering the region where the respondent is registered (same groupings as above), sex (men/women) and age group (18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, and over 74 years old).

A5c: post-stratification weight calculated considering the region where the respondent is registered and the size of the municipality, age and sex (all groupings as described for A5a and A5b), adding educational attainment as a post-stratification criterion. This is added to adjust the data as a result of the overrepresentation of individuals with high educational attainment in the achieved sample. Four groupings are used to calculate the weights: 1) primary education or less, 2) compulsory secondary education (general and vocational), 3) non-compulsory secondary education (general and vocational); tertiary education (vocational training and university).

This is the weight that has been used in the survey results published at www.cis.es

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?

See the explanation of the weights above.

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?

[X] 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.

Spanish

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

[X] Yes, a group worked together on it and reconciled their differences through discussion
[ ] Yes, an expert checked it
[X] Yes, by back translation (only some of the questions/items)
[ ] Other; please specify: _____
[ ] No
[ ] Not applicable

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

[X] Yes
[ ] No
[ ] Not applicable

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

[X] 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:

Q0e: the expression “online news sites” is difficult to translate into Spanish. We ended up opting for “agregador de noticias” and checked that this was fine in the pretest.

Q08a. The question referred to the government in CAPITAL, referring to the capital of the country, but this was not a good idea in Spain since there Madrid is a region/Autonomous Community with its own regional government, so making reference to the capital would be misleading. We ended up referring to the Government, which is generally understood as the national government in our own surveys.

Q13. “Fair elections” is difficult to translate as “elecciones justas”. We started with the expression “elecciones justas”, but we finally decided that this led to potential misinterpretations by respondents who were not satisfied by the result and opted for “elecciones limpias”, which we thought conveyed better the meaning of the source questionnaire and was not so dependent on the actual result, but on the election process/procedure.

Q25b. Given that the survey was administered via the phone (CATI), and to the fact that the generic plural is the masculine form, we wanted to make sure that it was clear that we were referring to male or female political leaders, so we emphasised this by repeating men/women, even if it was not strictly necessary “Siempre los líderes políticos hombres”/”Siempre las líderes políticas mujeres”.

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.

In question 10UHB which collects information about the vote in the Senate respondents respondents can provide up to three answers due to the electoral system used.

Most senators are directy elected by citizens 18 years old and over, while the rest are elected indirectly, by regional parliaments. Each province elects four senators. However, in the insular provinces, each island or group of islands acts as an electoral constituency, with each of the larger islands (Gran Canaria, Mallorca and Tenerife) electing three senators and the remaining islands (Ibiza-Formentera, Menorca, Fuerteventura, Gomera, Hierro, Lanzarote and La Palma) electing one senator. The populations of Ceuta and Melilla each choose two senators.

Each voter may cast three votes in the provincial constituencies, two votes on the larger islands and in Ceuta and Melilla, and one vote on the remaining islands.