

Belgium
ISSP 2016 – Role of Government
Study Description

ISSP Study Description Form – Belgium

- Study title:* ISSP module Role Of Government 2016
- Fieldwork dates:* 28-11-2017 – 28-03-2018
- Principal investigators:* Vlaamse Overheid, Statistics Flanders (Ann Carton, Tina Vander Molen)
Walloon Institute of Assessment, Forecasting and Statistics (IWEPS) (Frédéric Vesentini, Céline Lamy)
Brussels Institute for Statistics and Analysis (BISA) (Xavier Dehaibe, Pauline Binon)
- Sample type:* Target population: Persons 18 years or more, Belgian and non-Belgian nationality, resident within private households, in Belgium.
Sampling design: Simple random sampling procedure
N=7.500 with 2.500 selected units in each region (Flemish Region, Walloon Region, Brussels Capital Region)
No substitution.
The National Register is a national governmental institution that stores data on all residents in Belgium: name, address, gender, date of birth, nationality, and composition of the family.
- Fieldwork institute:* Statistics Flanders, IWEPS, BISA
- Fieldwork methods:* ISSP-modules: Statistics Flanders was responsible for the mailings in Flanders, IWEPS for the mailings in French and BISA for the mailings in Brussels Capital Region.
Mixed mode: web/postal self-completion
Total of 4 mailings:
- 1) 28-11-2017: Letter with URL link, username and password, possible winning of incentive of 6,00 euro for completed returned questionnaire.
Letter in French for Walloon Region, Dutch for Flemish Region and both French and Dutch for Brussels Capital Region, option to ask for a paper version. English version available on web and paper.
 - 2) 5-12-2017: Walloon and Brussels Capital Region: 1st letter to remind with URL link, username and password, possible winning of incentive of 6,00 euro for completed returned questionnaire. 19-12-2017 for Flemish Region.
Letter in French for Walloon Region, Dutch for Flemish Region and both French and Dutch for Brussels Capital Region, option to ask for a paper version. English version available on web and paper.
 - 3) 12-01-2018 in Flemish and Walloon Region; 23-01-2018 in Brussels Capital Region 2nd letter to remind with URL link, username and password, promised possible winnings of incentive of 6,00 euro for completed returned questionnaire + questionnaire in paper, preprint and prepaid envelope to send the completed questionnaire back to Statistics Flanders, IWEPS or BISA.
Letter and questionnaire in French for Walloon Region, Dutch for Flemish Region and both French and Dutch for Brussels Capital Region.

- 4) February-March 2018: Thank you letter + incentive (=voucher to be used in 10.000 or more shops) for randomly chosen respondents.

Letter in French for Walloon Region, Dutch for Flemish Region and both French and Dutch for Brussels Capital Region.

N. of respondents: N=1.952 completed the questionnaire

<p><i>Details about issued sample:</i></p> <p>Please follow the standards laid down in AAPOR Standard Definitions: http://www.aapor.org/AAPOR_Main/media/publications/Standard-Definitions20169theditionfinal.pdf The numbers in the parentheses are those used in Tables 2 and 3 of Standard Definitions.</p>	1. Total number of starting or issued names/addresses (gross sample size) *	7.500
	2. Interviews (1.0)	1.952
	3. Eligible, Non-Interview	
	A. Refusal/Break-off (2.10)	165
	B. Non-Contact (2.20)	2
C. Other	36	
i. Language Problems (2.33)	6	
ii. Miscellaneous Other (2.31, 2.32, 2.35)	35	
3. Unknown Eligibility, Non-Interview (3.0)	5.292	
4. Not Eligible		
A. Not a Residence (4.50)		
B. Vacant Residence (4.60)		
C. No Eligible Respondent (4.70)		
D. Other (4.10,4.90)	12	

Remark: we used table 3 for Mail Surveys of Specifically Named Persons.

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		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	11) Complete interview - 60 ticks	796	10,6	10,6	10,6
	12) Partial interview - 30-59 ticks	1156	15,4	15,4	26,0
	212) Break-off questionnaire too incomplete to process	105	1,4	1,4	27,4
	225) Notification that respondent was unavailable during field period	2	,0	,0	27,5
	231) Deceased	6	,1	,1	27,5
	232) Physically or mentally unable/incompetent	29	,4	,4	27,9
	233) Language	6	,1	,1	28,0
	234) Literacy problems	2	,0	,0	28,0
	236) Miscellaneous - wrong person answered questions	34	,5	,5	28,5
	319) Nothing ever returned	5227	69,7	69,7	98,2

330) Unknown whereabouts, mailing returned undelivered	65	,9	,9	99,0
410) Selected respondent screened out of sample	12	,2	,2	99,2
2112) Known respondent-level refusal	52	,7	,7	99,9
2113) Blank questionnaire mailed-back, implicit refusal	8	,1	,1	100,0
Total	7500	100,0	100,0	

Language(s): Dutch, French and English
 In the web version first introductory screen in three languages and before starting the questionnaire the respondents had to choose the preferred language

Weight present: yes
Weighting procedure: In order to deliver one integrated harmonized data file for Belgium post stratification weights were calculated based upon age (three age groups: 18-39; 40-59; 60+), sex, and geographical classification (NUTS1 Flemish Region, Walloon Region, Brussels Capital Region). These characteristics are known for all sampled units and the population distributions are published by the Belgian Institute for National Statistics (Statbel). The age-sex distribution in each region is reproduced by the weights as well as the distribution over the regions.
 The result of this weighting procedure in combination with the sampling design is that the weights for respondents of the Brussels Capital Region are much smaller than the weights for the respondents of the Flemish and Walloon regions.
 The use of adequate software is always necessary when analysing data with weights, but with these data it is vitally important when comparing the regions or analysing only one region separately.

The weights were scaled to make the weighted sample size equal to the unweighted sample size.

Known systematic properties of sample: Realized sample versus population:
 Following group is over represented:
 Inhabitants of the Brussels Capital Region

Following group is (slightly) over represented:
 - Men aged 60 or older

Following group is (slightly) under represented:
 - Women aged 60 or older

Deviations from ISSP questionnaire: no

Publications:

Technical report about the fieldwork (in preparation).