



Leibniz-Institut
für Sozialwissenschaften

GESIS Panel Wave Report

Wave bf

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Content

Part I: About the GESIS Panel.....	4
1. General Overview	4
2. Data Collection Waves.....	4
2.1 Data Collection.....	4
2.2 Waves	5
3. Access to Data and Documentation	6
4. Bibliographic Citation and Notification of Publications.....	6
4.1 Bibliographic Citation.....	6
4.2 Notification of Publications.....	7
5. GESIS Panel Team.....	7
5.1 Core Team Members.....	7
5.2 Quality Assurance Board Members.....	7
6. Acknowledgements.....	7
Part II: Wave bf (Dezember 2014/ Januar 2015)	8
1. Wave Preparation.....	8
1.1 Responsible GESIS Panel Team Members.....	8
1.2 Methodological Considerations	8
1.3 Studies.....	8
1.4 Questionnaire Composition	9
2. Fielding and Outcome Rates.....	9
2.1 Fielding Phase.....	9
2.2 Outcome Rates	10
3. Post-Processing.....	13
3.1 Data Cleaning and Quality Control.....	13
3.2 Handling of Ambiguous Cases in the Paper Questionnaire	13
3.3 Variables that are generated in the process of data cleaning	13
3.4 Paradata	14
3.5 Disclosure of Variables	15
3.6 Miscellaneous	15
I. Field Phase	17
II. Outcome and Response Metrics.....	18
III. Documents.....	23
a. Invitation Letter for Offline Participants sent by Mail.....	23

b.	Invitation Letter for Online Participants sent by Mail	25
c.	Invitation E-Mail	27
d.	First E-Mail Reminder	28
e.	Second E-Mail Reminder	29

Part I: About the GESIS Panel

1. General Overview

The GESIS Panel provides a probability-based Omnibus Access Panel infrastructure located at GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences in Mannheim, Germany. The project offers the social science community a unique opportunity to collect survey data from a representative sample of the German population free of charge.

The sample encompasses the German speaking population aged between 18 and 70 years (at the time of recruitment) and permanently residing in Germany. Fully operational from the beginning of 2014 the GESIS Panel encompasses over 4800 panelists.

The omnibus survey waves take place on a bi-monthly basis, each taking about 20 minutes and split up into two self-administered survey modes (online, offline). 62% of the panelists participate online (Web-based surveys), 38% of the panelists attend the surveys by mail.

Each survey wave consists of two major parts: About fifteen minutes of survey time is reserved for the submitted studies. Fielded external studies have undergone a peer-review process. The second part of each survey wave (about five minutes of interviewing time) is reserved for longitudinal core study topics developed by GESIS.

One aim of the GESIS Panel Longitudinal Core Study is to measure frequently demanded characteristics beyond demographics, such as personality and human values, political behavior and orientations, well-being and quality-of-life, environmental attitudes and behavior, and information/communication technology usage. Moreover, a second aim of the GESIS Panel Longitudinal Core Study is to assess and to control for data quality (i.e., different sources of survey error) by measuring concepts such as survey participation evaluations, survey mode habits and preferences, and by including selected items from other benchmark surveys (e.g., German micro-census, ESS, ALLBUS, ISSP).

2. Data Collection Waves

2.1 Data Collection

The data collection process employs two self-administered survey modes (online, offline). Data collection and panel maintenance is administered and organized by the GESIS Panel Team. From 2014 onwards, the GESIS Panel runs questionnaires submitted by the research community that underwent a review process.

Panel members were recruited in 2013 in face-to-face interviews followed by a self-administered welcome survey. The mode was chosen by the participants. All participants of the welcome survey are considered members of the panel and invited to the bi-monthly regular waves. Please refer to the methods report of the recruitment process.

From 2014 onwards, all participants are invited by mail and receive an unconditional incentive of 5 Euros. For the online mode, all GESIS Panel questionnaires are implemented into the EFS Panel installation by Questback. In addition to the mail invitation, online participants receive an invitation and two reminders by email. The online data collection process is conducted by the GESIS Panel team. The online field phase lasts about eight weeks.

Offline data are collected by the mail service provider SSM. They send out mail invitations to offline and online panelists one day before the start of the online field phase. The letters to offline panelists contain paper questionnaires along with invitations. No reminders are sent out in the offline mode. In-coming paper questionnaires are processed by a mail provider SSM until one day before the start of the next wave's field phase. The data is entered manually and all questionnaires are archived electronically.

2.2 Waves

The GESIS Panel omnibus survey waves take place on a bi-monthly basis, each encompassing about 20 minutes starting with wave aa in August 2013. The regular field phase lasts until the beginning of the next wave for both modes. Each wave includes a number of studies.

Table 1 presents an overview of all waves fielded by the GESIS Panel so far with central characteristics. The first column indicates the name of the wave. Waves and studies are named after the GESIS Panel naming convention (see Codebook). Waves are signified by two letters, the first signifying the year and the second the wave in the year, both letters having the potential range from a to z. To give an example, wave aa is the first wave (starting in mid-august) in the first year of the GESIS Panel 2013 and wave ba is the first wave in the second year of the GESIS Panel that went into the field mid-February 2014.

The second column indicates the studies that were fielded in the respective wave. The last columns provide information on the field period as well as the number of invited panelists as well as the number of those that participated for online and offline mode separately.

The first three waves in 2013 (waves aa, ab, ac) were part of the recruitment phase and therefore only include a subsample of panelists. The first wave of the GESIS Panel with the full sample is wave ba in February 2014.

Table 1 Overview of GESIS Panel field periods

Wave	Studies	Field period		Invited		Participation	
		Online	Offline	Online	Offline	Online	Offline
aa	aa, ab, zq	21.08.2013- 20.09.2013	21.08.2013- 14.10.2013	793	301	670	204
ab	ab, ac, ad, zq	16.10.2013- 10.12.2013	16.10.2013- 10.12.2013	1712	877	1462	584
ac	ab, ae, af, zq	11.12.2013- 19.02.2014	11.12.2013- 19.02.2014	2765	1562	2278	1003
ba	zb, ag, ah, ai, zq	27.02.2014 – 15.04.2014	27.02.2014 – 15.04.2014	3041	1847	2781	1523
bb	zc, aj, ak, al, ai, zq	16.04.2014 – 17.06.2014	16.04.2014 – 17.06.2014	3027	1839	2732	1480
bc	zd, aj, am, an, zq	18.06.2014 – 12.08.2014	18.06.2014 – 12.08.2014	3016	1823	2694	1411
bd	ze, ao, ap, an, zq	13.08.2014 – 14.10.2014	13.08.2014 – 14.10.2014	2871	1641	2642	1393
be	zf, zg, zh, aq, an, zq	15.10.2014 – 16.12.2014	15.10.2014 – 16.12.2014	2844	1614	2623	1378

Wave	Studies	Field period		Invited		Participation	
		Online	Offline	Online	Offline	Online	Offline
bf	zi, zh, am, ar, zq	17.12.2014– 17.02.2015	17.12.2014– 17.02.2015	2794	1550	2589	1293

3. Access to Data and Documentation

The scientific use file of the GESIS Panel is accessible for scientific purposes only via the GESIS Data Archive in Cologne. Along with the dataset all documents are stored centrally in the data catalogue. The documentation comprises the wave reports, the questionnaires and a codebook that documents all variables in the dataset.

Every two months an updated edition of the master dataset is released that includes new data from the last wave as well as revisions from previous waves. Data will be accessible about three months after the end of the field period.

We provide two editions of this master dataset: a scientific use file accessible for research purposes (GESIS Panel standard edition: ZA5665) and a secure scientific use file that is only available for on-site use at the Secure Data Center in Cologne (GESIS Panel extended edition: ZA5664). To access the scientific use file, users have to register with the data catalogue of the Data Archive (<https://dbk.gesis.org/dbksearch/>) and apply for access to the GESIS Panel dataset. Researchers then need to sign a user contract. Upon approval of the data use request, the data archive will provide researchers with access to the current scientific use file via secure ftp download.

Due to privacy protection rules some variables are not included in the scientific use file but are only included in the secure scientific use file that can only be accessed on-site via the [Secure Data Center](#) at the GESIS data archive in Cologne. Please refer to the conditions of the Secure Data Center for more information on this opportunity to use the GESIS Panel data.

4. Bibliographic Citation and Notification of Publications

4.1 Bibliographic Citation

Each new release, with its own DOI, is marked as a new edition. Although each release may include changes to older waves, replicability is guaranteed since every variable remains in the dataset and new editions are not replaced but added as new variables. We ask users to always pay attention that they use the correct DOI of the dataset they used for publications.

Researchers are required to cite the dataset they use in publications as follows with the correct ZA and Version number and DOI. Please use the following citations for the data with the doi: 10.4232/1.12203 and doi: 10.4232/1.12204.

German:

GESIS (2015): GESIS Panel Erweiterte Edition. GESIS Datenarchiv, Köln. ZA5664 Datenfile Version 7.0.0, doi: 10.4232/1.12203

GESIS (2015): GESIS Panel Standard Edition. GESIS Datenarchiv, Köln. ZA5665 Datenfile Version 7.0.0, doi: 10.4232/1.12204

English:

GESIS (2015): GESIS Panel extended edition. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA5664 Datafile Version 7.0.0, doi: 10.4232/1.12203

GESIS (2015): GESIS Panel standard edition. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA5665 Datafile Version 7.0.0, doi: 10.4232/1.12204

4.2 Notification of Publications

To get an overview over the actual usage of our data, we would appreciate short notification in case of publications using GESIS Panel data to info@gesis-panel.de. Please notify bibliographic information of your publication and the DOI of the data set used. In accordance with our user contract we ask researchers to provide us with an electronic or paper copy of their publications. Publications that use GESIS Panel data are included in the official GESIS Panel bibliography on our homepage.

5. GESIS Panel Team

5.1 Core Team Members

The GESIS Panel team members are Prof. Dr. Michael Bosnjak (Team Leader) and Dr. Wolfgang Bandilla (Overall Project Management), Angela Tanner (Project Marketing and Survey Project Management), Dr. Tanja Dannwolf, Ines Schaurer and Dr. Bella Struminskaya (Survey Project Management), Dr. Tobias Enderle and Kai Weyandt (Survey Statistics and Data Quality Management), Gabriele Wahlig (Panel Management), and Kai Böge and Lutz Bremen (Software Adjustment and Maintenance).

5.2 Quality Assurance Board Members

The members of the GESIS Panel Scientific Quality Assurance Board are Jun.-Prof. Dr. Annelies Blom (University of Mannheim), Prof. Dr. Alan Bryman (University of Leicester), Prof. Dr. Mick Couper (University of Michigan), Prof. Dr. Marcel Das (CentERdata and Tilburg University), Prof. Dr. Don Dillman (Washington State University), Prof. Dr. Marek Fuchs (Technical University Darmstadt), Prof. Dr. Jon Krosnick (Stanford University), Prof. Dr. Peter Lynn (University of Essex), Prof. Dr. Norbert Schwarz (University of Southern California), and Ass.-Prof. Dr. Vera Toepoel (Utrecht University).

6. Acknowledgements

The GESIS Panel thanks the researchers submitting proposals to and fielding studies in the GESIS Panel. We are grateful to the anonymous reviewers that provided valuable feedback to the submitted studies.

Part II: Wave bf (Dezember 2014/ Januar 2015)

1. Wave Preparation

1.1 Responsible GESIS Panel Team Members

Survey project management: Bella Struminskaya & Ines Schaurer

Data management: Tobias Enderle

Data archiving: Kai Weyandt

Panel management: Gabi Wahlig

1.2 Methodological Considerations

Wave bf is the fifth regular panel wave of the GESIS Panel after the recruitment process was finished. Overall, 4344 active panelists were invited to participate in the Wave bf.

All participants were invited by mail and received an unconditional incentive of 5 Euros. Online participants received an email invitation in addition.

1.3 Studies

Wave bf consisted of five studies (see Table 2). Wave bf included two core studies. The first core study fielded in Wave bf is the GESIS Panel Longitudinal Core Study Module on panel survey participation evaluation & mode preferences by Bella Struminskaya, Michael Bosnjak, Peter Lugtig, Vera Toepoel and Edith de Leeuw. The second core study is the GESIS Panel Longitudinal Core Study Module on Demography by Tanja Dannwolf & Silke Schneider. Study three is the second wave of a two-wave psychological study developing a short version of the Metacognitive Prospective Memory Battery (MPMB) by Jan Rummel and Beatrice G. Kuhlmann. This study is followed by the first wave of the two-wave study on policy preferences for inheritance taxes and motives of intergenerational transfers within families by Ivo Bischoff and Nataliya Kusa. Wave bf closes with study zq on survey evaluation, which is a GESIS Panel Longitudinal Core Study and is part of every panel wave.

Table 2 Overview of GESIS Panel studies in wave bd

Study	Waves	Authors	Title
zi	core study	Bella Struminskaya, Michael Bosnjak, Peter Lugtig, Vera Toepoel, Edith de Leeuw	Panel survey participation evaluation & mode preferences
zh am	core study bc, bf	Tanja Dannwolf & Silke Schneider Jan Rummel, Beatrice G. Kuhlmann	Demography update A short version of the Metacognitive Prospective Memory Battery (MPMB)
ar	bf, ca	Ivo Bischoff & Nataliya Kusa	Policy preferences for inheritance taxes and motives of intergenerational transfers within

Study	Waves	Authors	Title
zq	core study	Bella Struminskaya, Michael Bosnjak & Lars Kaczmirek	families Survey Evaluation

1.4 Questionnaire Composition

Wave bf questionnaire starts with the core study on survey attitudes and panel survey participation evaluation & mode preferences. This study is split into two parts in the wave bf. The first part contains items on general survey attitudes and specific attitudes to the GESIS Panel. The second part contains items about device use and device preferences and is asked at the end of the questionnaire.

Following the first part of the core study, the questionnaire continues with 14 questions about inheritance taxes, followed by three questions of the study on the prospective memory battery. These questions are followed by 16 questions from the core study on demography and 6 questions of the first core study about device use and mode preferences. The questionnaire closes with ten questions on respondents' evaluation of the questionnaire (core study zq).

The questionnaire contains several filter questions:

In core study zf those respondents who are not married and living together with their spouse are filtered over the next two questions about a life partner and common household with a life partner in case the respondent indicates having a life partner. Furthermore, respondents who are still continuing their education could skip several follow-up questions about their educational level. **Those respondents who did not attend a university or a "Fachhochschule"** were filtered over the question about the type of diploma they have.

Online and offline questionnaires differ by two items of the core study zi about online panel membership. One of these questions is also preceded by a filter. Furthermore, the online and offline questionnaires differ with respect to two questions from the core study on survey evaluation. Online respondents were asked about the electronic device they used to fill in the questionnaire (variables bfzq014a and bfzq015a). Offline respondents were asked on which date they filled in the questionnaire (variables bfzq017 and bfzq018).

The online and offline questionnaire as well as the codebook can be accessed via the study entry in the GESIS Data Archive.

2. Fielding and Outcome Rates

2.1 Fielding Phase

The invitation was sent out by mail on 17 December 2014 for all respondents (online and offline). The invitation letter included a 5-Euro bill as an unconditional incentive. The letter for the offline respondents additionally included the paper questionnaire. Online respondents additionally received an invitation by email on 18 December 2014. The fieldwork for the wave bf ended on 17 February 2015.

Overall, 4344 active members of the GESIS Panel were invited, 1550 in the offline mode and 2794 in the online mode.

The respondents invited by mail did not receive any reminders. The online participants who have not participated in the survey received two reminders on 25 December 2014 and on 1

January 2015. The text of the invitation letters (online and offline) and the reminders (only email) can be found in the Appendix.

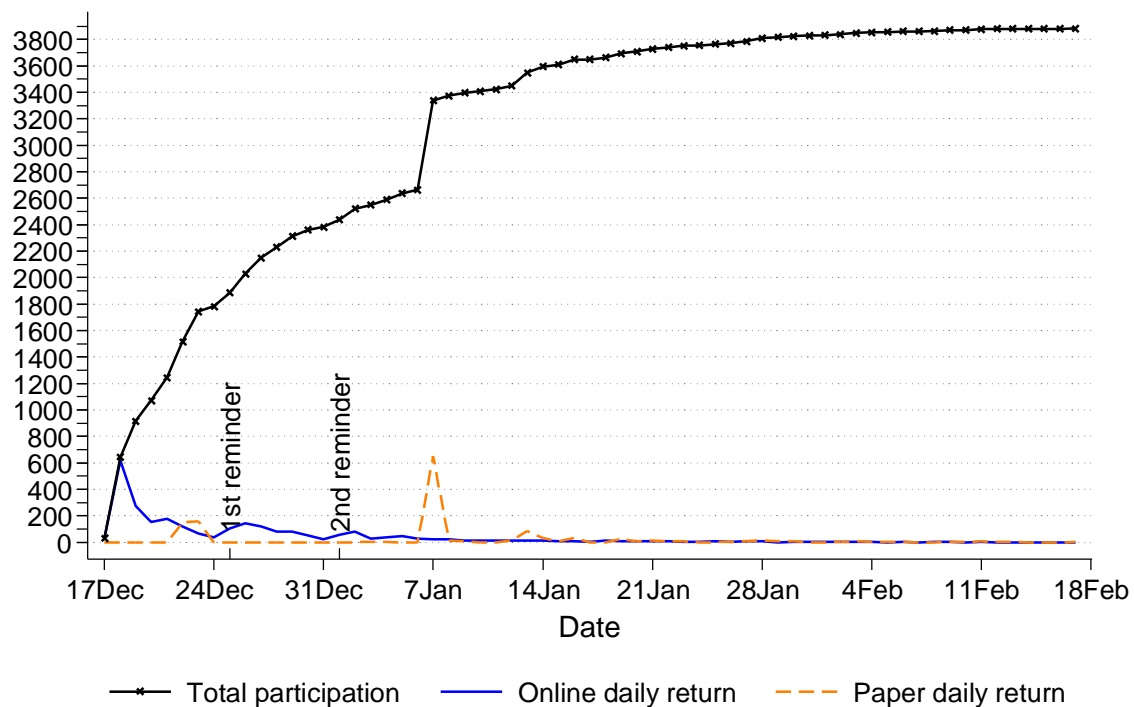


Figure 1 Wave bf field phase

Figure 1 shows the cumulative participation over the field period and the daily return of online and paper questionnaires. A detailed table can be found in the Appendix (see Table 5).

2.2 Outcome Rates

Response rates calculations for self-administered online and offline surveys within the GESIS Panel are based on Callegaro and DiSogra (2008), DiSogra & Callegaro (forthcoming) and Final Disposition Codes for Mail Surveys (American Association for Public Opinion Research, 2011). For detailed information on coding of outcomes for the Wave bf, refer to Table 5 in the Appendix.

The completion rate (COMR) is the proportion of those who completed or partially completed the survey over eligible panel members who were invited to the survey. All active panel members are eligible for the wave. Active panel members are those who do not sign off from the panel. The eligibility for the wave surveys is defined as the returned welcome questionnaire: all invited panelists who returned the welcome questionnaire and did not sign off from the panel afterwards, were invited to the wave. The completion rate is computed separately for two modes and as an overall rate with counting the response to the mode the respondent was originally invited to.

$$\text{Completion Rate COMR} = \frac{\text{Interview} + \text{Partial}}{\text{Interview} + \text{Partial} + \text{Refusal} + \text{Noncontact} + \text{Other}}$$

$$\text{Overall COMR} = (3775 + 78) / (3775 + 78 + 47 + 11 + 433) = 88.70\%$$

$$\text{COMR Online} = (2546+23)/(2546+23+31+0+194) = 91.95\%$$

$$\text{COMR Offline} = (1229+55)/(1229+55+16+11+239) = 82.84\%$$

The absorption rate indicates the quality of address lists of active panel members. This estimate is a proportion of noncontacts among the active panelists.

$$\text{Absorption Rate} = \frac{\text{Invitations sent} - \text{undeliverable invitations}}{\text{Invitations sent}}$$

$$\text{Overall Absorption Rate} = (4344-11)/4344 = 99.75\%$$

$$\text{Absorption Rate Online} = (2794-0)/2794 = 100.00\%$$

$$\text{Absorption Rate Offline} = (1550-11)/1550 = 99.29\%$$

The cumulative response rate (COMR) is obtained by multiplication of the recruitment rate, profile rate, and the completion rate for each wave. The detailed information about the calculation of the recruitment rate and the profile rate is provided in the Appendix.

$$\text{Cumulative Response Rate 1 (CUMR1)} = \text{RECR} \times \text{PROR} \times \text{COMR}$$

$$\text{Overall CUMR1 Wave bf} = 0.2898 \times 0.7942 \times 0.8870 = 20.42\%$$

$$\text{CUMR1 Wave bf Online}^1 = 0.2898 \times 0.7878 \times 0.9195 = 20.99\%$$

$$\text{CUMR1 Wave be Offline} = 0.2898 \times 0.8067 \times 0.8284 = 19.37\%$$

The cumulative response rate 2 (CUMR2) takes into account the retention rate (RETR), that is, the number of active panel members at the time of the wave bf out of all active panel members (i.e., the panelists who returned the welcome questionnaire). It is advisable to report this indicator when using the data from a single wave.

$$\text{Retention Rate} = \frac{\text{Overall active panel@Wave bf}}{\text{Overall active panel@Welcome survey}} = 4344/4938 = 87.97\%$$

$$\text{Retention Rate Online}^2 = 2794/3068 = 91.07\%$$

¹ For calculations of the cumulative response rates by online and offline mode the recruitment rate is assumed to be equal for online and offline panelists as it cannot be split into modes since no information on Internet usage is available for nonrespondents to the recruitment interview.

² The percentages of retention for online and offline panel components are not exact. From 4938 panelists defined as active panel, 4929 were invited to the first regular wave after the profile survey since 9 panelists signed off from the panel after the profile survey. For all panelists who were invited to the first regular wave after the profile survey, the mode of panel participation is the mode they were invited to participate in the first regular wave. For 9 panelists who signed off from the panel before the first regular wave, we treat the mode of participation in the profile survey as the panel participation mode: 5 offline and 4 online participants who signed off before the first regular wave are included into the active panel as 5 offliners and 4 onliners. Furthermore, GESIS Panel generally allows offline respondents to switch to the online mode if they actively communicate their wish to panel management and in exceptional cases a switch from online to offline is allowed (e.g., a person does not have a computer anymore and would otherwise be lost). In Wave bf, 8 persons were invited in the mode other than their mode at the start of the panel (4 online-offline and 4 offline-online switches). This does not affect the retention rate for Wave bf, but in waves where the number of switches in one direction is higher than in another direction, the retention rates would be affected. Thus, we ask to report the rates for offline and online participants with caution.

Retention Rate Offline = $1550/1870 = 82.89\%$

Cumulative Response Rate 2 (CUMR2) = $RECR \times PROR \times RETR \times COMR$

Overall CUMR2 Wave bf = $0.2898 \times 0.7942 \times 0.8797 \times 0.8870 = 17.96\%$

CUMR2 Wave bf Online³ = $0.2898 \times 0.7878 \times 0.9107 \times 0.9195 = 19.12\%$

CUMR2 Wave bf Offline = $0.2898 \times 0.8067 \times 0.8289 \times 0.8284 = 16.05\%$

The break-off rate is a proportion of those who answered less than 50% of the substantial questions over those who started the interview (answered at least one question).

Break-off rate = $\frac{Break-off}{Interview+Partial+Break-off} = 21/(3775+78+21) = 0.54\%$

Break-off rate Online = $12/(2546+23+12) = 0.46\%$

Break-off rate Offline = $9/(1229+55+9) = 0.70\%$

Attrition rate in this wave report is defined as the proportion of the panel members who drop out between the welcome survey that was the first self-administered survey of the GESIS Panel and the Wave bf. According to the definition of the active panel (returned the welcome questionnaire), the active panel after the welcome questionnaire was 4938 panel members. During the recruitment phase, 50 panel members have signed off from the panel.

Attrition can occur voluntarily and involuntarily (DiSogra & Callegaro, forthcoming). In GESIS Panel, during the recruitment and in the first three regular waves (ba, bb, and bc) attrition was a result of panel members contacting the GESIS Panel and requesting to be removed from the panel (voluntary attrition). Cases in which inability to participate due to health reasons or death of a panel member were communicated to the GESIS Panel by other persons (such as panel members' relatives) were treated as voluntarily attrition and removed from the panel.

If panel members do not respond to three consecutive waves or cannot be reached for three consecutive waves, they are excluded from the GESIS Panel (involuntary attrition). Removal of panel members due to prolonged nonresponse or prolonged noncontact was done before Wave bd for the first time and is done before each wave. The attrition rate reported below includes cases for which a request has been done to be removed as well as cases removed by the GESIS Panel.

Attrition rate = $\frac{Overall\ active\ panel@Welcome\ survey - Overall\ active\ panel@Wave\ bf}{Overall\ active\ panel@Welcome\ survey} =$
 $= (4938 - 4344)/4938 = 12.03\%$

³ The CUMR2 for online and offline panel components are affected by the calculations of the retention rates. The explanations provided in Footnote 2 apply here as well. It is advisable to report the overall retention rate and the overall cumulative response rate.

3. Post-Processing

3.1 Data Cleaning and Quality Control

Variable bfza002a indicates the mode in which a respondent answered the questionnaire. In general, paper questionnaires offer less guidance to respondents on how to answer a question than online questionnaires. This might even cause questions to be answered in an unintended manner and render the offline and online data incomparable. All responses marked as unclear by the field institute entering the data are thoroughly checked by the survey management of GESIS Panel. Any peculiarities are described and discussed in section 3.2.

The longitudinal character of the panel requires special attention to data protection measures. Some variables might therefore require special security levels. These variables are discussed and listed in section 3.5

3.2 Handling of Ambiguous Cases in the Paper Questionnaire

The paper questionnaires are entered manually by a field institute. Any problems and unclear responses are marked by the person entering the data and clarified afterwards by the responsible survey manager. This is done by reverting to the scanned paper questionnaires of the respondent.

The main incidence are cases in which the person entering the data was uncertain of how to interpret the information provided by the respondent in the questionnaire.

If one of two choices was clearly rendered invalid by the respondent, the data manager entered a valid response after consulting a second person. These cases are not considered as unclear responses and are not specially marked in the dataset.

If it was not possible to decide which answer was valid, we chose randomly between the options which were marked by the respondent. In wave bf the questions about the most important reason of intergenerational money transfers (bfar038a) and the preferred mode or device to answer the questionnaire (bfzi109a) were interpreted by 19 offline respondents and 15 offline respondents respectively as multiple choice questions. In these cases, one item was randomly chosen from all items that were marked.

Single incidences of unclear responses which could not be resolved may occur in several questions throughout the survey. These are marked as -111.

3.3 Variables that are generated in the process of data cleaning

Table 3 lists the variables that were generated in the process of data cleaning. In wave bf these are mainly open variables where text responses had to be anonymized due to privacy reasons. Generally, open ended variables are only available in the extended edition of the data set.

Table 3 Overview of generated variables in wave bf

Variable	Variable Label	Reason
bfzq016b	Anmerkungen, dichotom	Data protection: The text responses are not published but only a variable indicating whether the respondent left comments on the survey.
bfzi010b	Wichtigster Grund Umfrageteilnehme	Data protection: The text responses have been partly anonymized due to privacy reasons.
bfzi011b	Zweitwichtigster Grund Umfrageteilnahme	Data protection: The text responses have been partly anonymized due to privacy reasons.
bfzi012b	Drittwichtigster Grund Umfrageteilnahme	Data protection: The text responses have been partly anonymized due to privacy reasons.
bfzh073b	Familienstand	Data protection: The number of categories reduced due to privacy reasons.
bfzh077b	Anderer Schulabschluss	Data protection: The text responses have been partly anonymized due to privacy reasons.
bfzh081b	Anderer Abschluss	Data protection: The text responses have been partly anonymized due to privacy reasons.
bfzh083b	Anderer beruflichen Abschluss	Data protection: The text responses have been partly anonymized due to privacy reasons.
bfzh085b	Haushaltsgröße, mehr als eine Person	Data protection: The number of categories reduced due to privacy reasons.
bfzh085c	Haushaltsgröße, mehr als eine Person, 5 Kategorien	Data protection: The number of categories further reduced due to privacy reasons.
bfzh087b	Anzahl Kinder unter 16, 3 Kategorien	Data protection: The number of categories reduced due to privacy reasons.
bfzh088b	Persönliches Einkommen, 15 Kategorien	Data protection: The number of categories reduced due to privacy reasons.
bfzh089b	Haushaltseinkommen, 10 Kategorien	Data protection: The number of categories reduced due to privacy reasons.
bfzh089c	Haushaltseinkommen, 9 Kategorien	Data protection: The number of categories further reduced due to privacy reasons.

3.4 Paradata

In general, paradata can be easily identified in the dataset by the third and fourth digit in the variable name zr. In general, more paradata are available in the online mode.

For the online mode, relative time stamps (variables bfzr001a to bfzr056a) for each page are available. These time variables report the time difference in seconds between pressing the forward button of the respective page and the absolute time stamp. The absolute time stamp variable (bfzp207a) signifies the time in seconds which is past since 1.1.1970 when loading the first page of the survey.

The connected page id is mentioned in the label. The page id for each question can be found in the codebook or on the screenshots of the online questionnaire. For technical details about the logic of the provided time stamp variables please see the EFS manual.

In the Wave bf, several client side based paradata are collected in page-based string variables (bfzs001a to bfzs056a). The connected page id is mentioned in the label. The page id for each question can be found in the codebook or on the screenshots of the online questionnaire. For

detailed information please see the separate paradata documentation (ZA5664-65_Online-Paradata.pdf).

3.5 Disclosure of Variables

All answers to open questions are not included in the standard edition. They are available in the extended edition. Table 4 gives an overview on the variables that are available in the extended edition.

Table 4 Overview of variables that are only available in the extended edition

Variable	Variable Label	Reason
bfzi010b	Wichtigster Grund Umfrageteilnehme	Data protection: open question
bfzi011b	Zweitwichtigster Grund Umfrageteilnahme	Data protection: open question
bfzi012b	Drittwichtigster Grund Umfrageteilnahme	Data protection: open question
bfzh073b	Familienstand	Data protection
bfzh077b	Anderer Schulabschluss	Data protection: open question
bfzh081b	Anderer Abschluss	Data protection: open question
bfzh083b	Anderer beruflichen Abschluss	Data protection: open question
bfzh085b	Haushaltsgröße, mehr als eine Person	Data protection
bfzh087b	Anzahl Kinder unter 16, 3 Kategorien	Data protection
bfzh088b	Persönliches Einkommen, 15 Kategorien	Data protection
bfzh089b	Haushaltseinkommen, 10 Kategorien	Data protection
bfzq016b	Anmerkungen, dichotom	
bfzp208a	Browser information	Data protection
bfzp209a	Javascript version	Data protection
bfzp210a	Flash version	Data protection

The text responses with comments about the questionnaire in variable bfzq016a are not published. Only a variable indicating whether the respondent left comments on the survey or not (bfzq016b) is published.

3.6 Miscellaneous

Wave bf contains several filter questions (bfzh073a, bfzh074a, bfzh076a, bfzh079a), which include instructions to skip several following questions for some respondents. Despite these instructions, some offline respondents continued to answer the questions they were supposed to skip. Similarly, answers to the follow-up questions may have been saved in the online questionnaire when respondents went back to the filter question and changed their answers in the manner that no follow-up questions should have followed. The dataset documents the answers to the filter questions as initially provided by the respondents. Therefore, data users should carefully check the consistency of answers when analyzing this data.

The items bfzi094a, bfzi095a, bfzi096a, bfzi097a did not include an implicit filter, but an instruction to choose the respective category based on the answers to the previous questions (bfzi090a, bfzi091a, bfzi092a, bfzi093a). Some of the respondents ignored the instruction, so caution is needed when analyzing these data.

For the variable bfzh079a (higher education) the answer category with a university degree (value label 5) was printed incorrectly in the offline questionnaire. Therefore, the analyses with the offline data might lead to false results. For these reasons, researchers are advised to use the information about university education from the recruitment interview.

Appendix

I. Field Phase

Table 5 Field Period

Date	Event	Online No.	%	Offline No.	%	Total No.	%
17Dec2014		27	1.04	0	0.00	27	0.70
18Dec2014		616	23.79	0	0.00	616	15.87
19Dec2014		273	10.54	0	0.00	273	7.03
20Dec2014		155	5.99	0	0.00	155	3.99
21Dec2014		175	6.76	0	0.00	175	4.51
22Dec2014		117	4.52	154	11.91	271	6.98
23Dec2014		67	2.59	160	12.37	227	5.85
24Dec2014		38	1.47	0	0.00	38	0.98
25Dec2014	1 st online reminder	103	3.98	0	0.00	103	2.65
26Dec2014		144	5.56	0	0.00	144	3.71
27Dec2014		121	4.67	0	0.00	121	3.12
28Dec2014		81	3.13	0	0.00	81	2.09
29Dec2014		80	3.09	0	0.00	80	2.06
30Dec2014		50	1.93	0	0.00	50	1.29
31Dec2014		22	0.85	0	0.00	22	0.57
01Jan2015	2 nd online reminder	56	2.16	0	0.00	56	1.44
02Jan2015		80	3.09	0	0.00	80	2.06
03Jan2015		28	1.08	2	0.15	30	0.77
04Jan2015		36	1.39	2	0.15	38	0.98
05Jan2015		49	1.89	0	0.00	49	1.26
06Jan2015		28	1.08	0	0.00	28	0.72
07Jan2015		23	0.89	651	50.25	674	17.36
08Jan2015		22	0.85	14	1.08	36	0.93
09Jan2015		15	0.58	8	0.62	23	0.59
10Jan2015		12	0.46	0	0.00	12	0.31
11Jan2015		13	0.50	0	0.00	13	0.33
12Jan2015		15	0.58	12	0.93	27	0.70
13Jan2015		12	0.46	87	6.73	99	2.55
14Jan2015		14	0.54	33	2.55	47	1.21
15Jan2015		8	0.31	6	0.46	14	0.36
16Jan2015		6	0.23	32	2.47	38	0.98
17Jan2015		2	0.08	0	0.00	2	0.05
18Jan2015		12	0.46	0	0.00	12	0.31
19Jan2015		9	0.35	23	1.78	32	0.82
20Jan2015		8	0.31	8	0.62	16	0.41
21Jan2015		8	0.31	11	0.85	19	0.49
22Jan2015		6	0.23	7	0.54	13	0.33
23Jan2015		4	0.15	6	0.46	10	0.26
24Jan2015		4	0.15	0	0.00	4	0.10
25Jan2015		8	0.31	0	0.00	8	0.21

Date	Event	Online No.	%	Offline No.	%	Total No.	%
26Jan2015		4	0.15	5	0.39	9	0.23
27Jan2015		6	0.23	7	0.54	13	0.33
28Jan2015		9	0.35	16	1.24	25	0.64
29Jan2015		0	0.00	6	0.46	6	0.15
30Jan2015		2	0.08	6	0.46	8	0.21
31Jan2015		5	0.19	0	0.00	5	0.05
01Feb2015		2	0.08	0	0.00	2	0.21
02Feb2015		3	0.12	5	0.39	8	0.23
03Feb2015		3	0.12	6	0.46	9	0.25
04Feb2015		2	0.08	4	0.31	6	0.05
05Feb2015		0	0.00	2	0.15	2	0.13
06Feb2015		1	0.04	4	0.31	5	0.05
08Feb2015		2	0.08	0	0.00	2	0.13
09Feb2015		2	0.08	4	0.31	6	0.15
10Feb2015		0	0.00	2	0.15	2	0.05
11Feb2015		1	0.04	6	0.46	7	0.18
12Feb2015		0	0.00	2	0.15	2	0.05
13Feb2015		0	0.00	1	0.08	1	0.03
17Feb2015		0	0.00	1	0.08	1	0.03
Total		2589	100.0	1293	100.0	3882	100.0

II. Outcome and Response Metrics

Response rates calculations for the recruitment interview for the GESIS Panel are based on Final Disposition Codes for In-Person Household Surveys (American Association for Public Opinion Research, 2011). The response metrics for self-administered online and offline surveys, including the welcome survey, are based on Callegaro and DiSogra (2008), Callegaro (forthcoming) and Final Disposition Codes for Mail Surveys (American Association for Public Opinion Research, 2011).

The Recruitment Rate (RECR) is a proportion of respondents who provided initial consent over all eligible respondents. We provide two recruitment rates, a maximum and a minimum recruitment rate, which correspond conceptually to AAPOR1 and AAPOR5 response rates. The minimum recruitment rate (RECR1) estimates all cases of unknown eligibility (e) as eligible, the maximum recruitment rate (RECR5) estimates all cases of unknown eligibility as non-eligible. For detailed information on coding of outcomes for the CAPI interview, refer to Table 5 in the Appendix and to the *TNS Recruitment Report*.

Recruitment rate RECR

$$\text{Overall RECR} = \frac{\text{Initial Consent}}{\text{Initial Consent} + \text{Refusal} + \text{Noncontact} + \text{Other} + e(\text{Unknown Household} + \text{Unknown Other})}$$

RECR1 (with e=1)=28.98%

RECR5 (with e=0)=31.56%

The profile rate (PROR) is a proportion of respondents who completed or partially completed the welcome questionnaire over all respondents who were sent an invitation to the welcome questionnaire. Complete response is defined as 80% and more answered substantial questions. Partial response is defined as 50-80% answered substantial questions. Substantial questions are questions starting from the first question to up to the survey evaluation items (denoted as zq in codebooks).

The profile rate is calculated separately for online and mail modes. If the respondent switched the mode, and completed/broke-off the questionnaire, his or her response is counted in the mode the respondent completed the survey. In case of the mode switch, respondents' invitation mode is replaced by the actual participation mode. Non-responding cases are counted to the mode in which they were sent the invitation to the Welcome survey.

$$\text{Profile rate PROR} = \frac{\text{Profile survey complete} + \text{Profile survey Partial}}{\text{Profile survey complete} + \text{partial} + \text{Refusal} + \text{Noncontact} + \text{Other}}$$

$$\text{Overall PROR} = 4932/6210 = 79.42\%$$

$$\text{PROR Online} = 3233/4104 = 78.78\%$$

$$\text{PROR Offline} = 1699/2106 = 80.67\%$$

$$\text{Response Rate for the Welcome survey} = \text{RECR1} \times \text{PROR} = 23.02\%$$

$$\text{Response Rate for the Welcome survey Online} = \text{RECR1} \times \text{PROR} = 22.83\%$$

$$\text{Response Rate for the Welcome survey Offline} = \text{RECR1} \times \text{PROR} = 23.38\%$$

Absorption rate indicates the quality of address lists of active panel members. This estimate is a proportion of noncontacts among the active panelists.

$$\text{Absorption Rate}^4 = \frac{\text{Invitations sent} - \text{undeliverable invitations}}{\text{Invitations sent}} = (6210 - 27)/6210 = 99.57\%$$

The break-off rate is a proportion of those who answered less than 50% of the substantial questions over those who started the interview (answered at least one question).

$$\text{Break-off rate} = \frac{\text{Break-off}}{\text{Interview} + \text{Partial} + \text{Break-off}} = 20/(4875 + 57 + 20) = 0.40\%$$

$$\text{Break-off rate Online} = 6/(3223 + 10 + 6) = 0.19\%$$

$$\text{Break-off rate Offline} = 14/(1652 + 47 + 14) = 0.82\%$$

Attrition rate in this wave report is defined as the proportion of the panel members who drop out between the welcome survey that was the first self-administered survey of the GESIS

⁴ Since both online and offline respondents were invited per post, the absorption rate is calculated without a distinction by mode.

Panel and the Wave bf. According to the definition of the active panel (returned the welcome questionnaire), the active panel after the welcome questionnaire was 4938 panel members. During the recruitment phase, 50 panel members have signed off from the panel.

Attrition can occur voluntarily and involuntarily (DiSogra & Callegaro, forthcoming). In GESIS Panel, during the recruitment and in the first three regular waves (ba, bb, and bc) attrition was a result of panel members contacting the GESIS Panel and requesting to be removed from the panel (voluntary attrition). Cases in which inability to participate due to health reasons or death of a panel member were communicated to the GESIS Panel by other persons (such as panel members' relatives) were treated as voluntarily attrition and removed from the panel.

If panel members do not respond to three consecutive waves or cannot be reached for three consecutive waves, they are excluded from the GESIS Panel (involuntary attrition). Removal of panel members due to prolonged nonresponse or prolonged noncontact was done before Wave bd for the first time and is done before each wave. The attrition rate reported below includes cases for which a request has been done to be removed as well as cases removed by the GESIS Panel.

$$\text{Attrition rate} = \frac{\text{Overall active panel@Welcome survey} - \text{Overall active panel@Wave bf}}{\text{Overall active panel@Welcome survey}}$$

$$= (4938 - 4344) / 4938 = 12.03\%$$

Table 6 Outcome Codes

CAPI Recruitment	Overall	Online	Offline
Initial Consent	6210	n/a	n/a
Cases directly and actively refusing	10498	n/a	n/a
Noncontacts	1864	n/a	n/a
Other eligible noninterview cases	1104	n/a	n/a
Unknown if housing unit	247	n/a	n/a
Unknown eligibility other	1502	n/a	n/a
Profile (Welcome) Survey	Overall	Online	Offline
Profile survey Invited	6210	3997	2213
Invited including mode switch	6210	4104	2106
Profile survey Complete	4875	3223	1652
Profile survey Partial	57	10	47
Refusal to complete profile survey	50	28	22
Break-off (among refusal)	20	6	14
Profile survey noncontact (bouncer/retour)	27	13	14
Profile survey other	1201	830	371
Single wave surveys	Overall	Online	Offline
Wave bf Invited	4344	2794	1550
Wave bf Complete	3775	2546	1229
Wave bf Partial	78	23	55
Wave bf Refusal	47	31	16
Break-off (among refusal)	21	12	9
Wave bf Noncontact (bouncer/retour)	11	0	11
Wave bf Other	433	194	239

Note: Complete response is defined as 80% and more of answered substantial questions. Partial response is defined as 50-80% of answered substantial questions. Break-off is defined as providing an answer to at least one substantial question and to less than 50% substantial questions. Refusal includes active (explicit) refusal and implicit refusal (leaving the questionnaire unanswered). Substantial questions are questions starting from the first question to up to the survey evaluation items (denoted as zq in codebooks).


Table 7 AAPOR Code scheme


Returned questionnaire	1.0
Complete	1.1
Partial or break-off with sufficient information	1.2
Eligible. Non-Interview	2.0
Refusal and Breakoff	2.10
Refusal	2.11
Other person refusal	2.111
Known respondent-level refusal	2.112
Explicit refusal	2.1121
Explicit refusal with incentive	2.11211
Explicit refusal no incentive	2.11212
Implicit refusal	2.1122
Logged on to survey. did not complete any items	2.11221
Blank questionnaire mailed back. „implicit refusal“	2.113
Blank questionnaire with incentive returned	2.1131
Blank questionnaire with no incentive returned	2.1132
Break-off: questionnaire too incomplete to process/Break-off or partial with insufficient information	2.12
Non-contact	2.20
Notification that respondent was unavailable during field period	2.26
Completed questionnaire but not returned during field period	2.27
Other	2.30
Death (including Post: „Deceased“)	2.31
Physically or mentally unable/incompetent	2.32
Language	2.33
Respondent language problem	2.332
Miscellaneous	2.36
Unknown eligibility. non-interview	3.0
Not mailed / No invitation sent	3.11
Nothing ever returned	3.19
Post: No Mail Receptacle	3.253
Unknown whereabouts. mailing returned undelivered	3.30
Invitation returned undelivered (Email Bouncer)	3.30
Email Bouncer: Delivery problem	3.3113
Email Bouncer: Mailbox unknown	3.3114
Email Bouncer: Postbox full	3.3115
Email Bouncer: Spam-Filter	3.3116
Post: Undeliverable as addressed	3.31
Post: Attempted - Addressee not known at place of address	3.311
Postal box full	3.3112
Post: Moved, left no address	3.32
Returned with forwarding information	3.40
Other	3.90

Note: estimate of eligible cases from the cases with unknown eligibility (e) is set to 1 for the calculation of response rates yielding no ineligible cases since the eligibility was determined during the recruitment interview.

III. Documents


a. Invitation Letter for Offline Participants sent by Mail





Leibniz-Institut
für Sozialwissenschaften

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Mannheim, 16. Dezember 2014

—

Einladung zu unserer Dezember-/Januar-Umfrage

Sehr geehrter ,

herzlichen Dank für Ihre Teilnahme am GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor. Heute möchten wir Sie gerne einladen, an unserer aktuellen Dezember-/Januar-Umfrage teilzunehmen. Die Beantwortung der Fragen wird etwa 20 Minuten in Anspruch nehmen. Bitte schicken Sie uns den ausgefüllten Fragebogen wieder mit dem beiliegenden frankierten Rückumschlag zu.


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—

Das GESIS Panel Team wünscht Ihnen und Ihrer Familie frohe Festtage und einen guten Start ins neue Jahr.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen




Prof. Michael Bosnjak und das gesamte Projektteam

P.S.: Informationen zum Datenschutz finden Sie auf der Rückseite dieses Briefes.

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70098

Erklärung zum Datenschutz und zur absoluten Vertraulichkeit Ihrer Angaben bei dem GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor

GESIS - Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften arbeitet nach den Vorschriften des Bundesdatenschutzgesetzes (BDSG) und allen anderen anwendbaren datenschutzrechtlichen Bestimmungen.

Das gilt auch für die Wiederholungsbefragungen beim GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor, wo es wichtig ist, mehrere Befragungen mit derselben Person durchzuführen und die statistische Auswertung so vorzunehmen, dass die Angaben aus mehreren Befragungen durch eine Code-Nummer miteinander verknüpft werden. Auch hier gilt:

Es gibt keine Weitergabe von Daten, die Ihre Person erkennen lassen.

Die Ergebnisse werden – genauso wie bei Einmalbefragungen – ausschließlich in **anonymisierter Form** dargestellt. Das bedeutet: Niemand kann aus den Ergebnissen erkennen, von welcher Person die Angaben gemacht worden sind.

Die Teilnahme am GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor ist freiwillig. Erhaltene Aufwandsentschädigungen sind keine Bezahlung, sondern ein Dankeschön für die gegebene Unterstützung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung. Sie gehen damit keine Verpflichtung für weitere Befragungen ein. Die Beendigung bzw. das Abbrechen der Teilnahme ist jederzeit möglich und mit keinen Nachteilen verbunden. Um nicht mehr teilzunehmen, bedarf es keiner Kündigung.

Nach der Teilnahme an einer Befragung werden die Antworten in einer Datenbank gespeichert und zwar getrennt von den personenbezogenen Daten. Die Ergebnisse der Studie werden dann zu Forschungszwecken beispielsweise in Tabellen und Grafiken zusammengefasst. Das heißt, niemand erfährt, welche Antworten Sie persönlich gegeben haben.

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Institutsleitung (Präsident): Prof. Dr. York Sure

Betrieblicher Datenschutzbeauftragter: Harald Eul
E-Mail: datenschutz@gesis.org

b. Invitation Letter for Online Participants sent by Mail



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Mannheim, 16. Dezember 2014

Einladung zu unserer Dezember-/Januar-Umfrage

Sehr geehrter 

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Den Link zur aktuellen Umfrage erhalten Sie in den nächsten Tagen wie gewohnt per E-Mail. Sie können die Umfrage aber auch manuell starten, indem Sie sich auf unserer Homepage www.gesis-gesellschaftsmonitor.de mit Ihren persönlichen Zugangsdaten anmelden.

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Mit freundlichen Grüßen



Prof. Michael Bosnjak und das gesamte Projektteam

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Das gilt auch für die Wiederholungsbefragungen beim GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor, wo es wichtig ist, mehrere Befragungen mit derselben Person durchzuführen und die statistische Auswertung so vorzunehmen, dass die Angaben aus mehreren Befragungen durch eine Code-Nummer miteinander verknüpft werden. Auch hier gilt:

Es gibt keine Weitergabe von Daten, die Ihre Person erkennen lassen.

Die Ergebnisse werden – genauso wie bei Einmalbefragungen – ausschließlich in **anonymisierter Form** dargestellt. Das bedeutet: Niemand kann aus den Ergebnissen erkennen, von welcher Person die Angaben gemacht worden sind.

Die Teilnahme am GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor ist freiwillig. Erhaltene Aufwandsentschädigungen sind keine Bezahlung, sondern ein Dankeschön für die gegebene Unterstützung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung. Sie gehen damit keine Verpflichtung für weitere Befragungen ein. Die Beendigung bzw. das Abbrechen der Teilnahme ist jederzeit möglich und mit keinen Nachteilen verbunden. Um nicht mehr teilzunehmen, bedarf es keiner Kündigung.

Nach der Teilnahme an einer Befragung werden die Antworten in einer Datenbank gespeichert und zwar getrennt von den personenbezogenen Daten. Die Ergebnisse der Studie werden dann zu Forschungszwecken beispielsweise in Tabellen und Grafiken zusammengefasst. Das heißt, niemand erfährt, welche Antworten Sie persönlich gegeben haben.

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Quadrat B2, 1
68159 Mannheim

Institutsleitung (Präsident): Prof. Dr. York Sure

Betrieblicher Datenschutzbeauftragter: Harald Eul
E-Mail: datenschutz@gesis.org

c. Invitation E-Mail

Ihre neue Dezember-/ Januar-Umfrage 2014/2015

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Mit herzlichen Grüßen aus Mannheim,

Ihr GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor Team

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d. First E-Mail Reminder

Erinnerung: Ihre neue Dezember-/ Januar-Umfrage 2014/2015

Sehr geehrter Herr ...,

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e. Second E-Mail Reminder

Erinnerung: Ihre neue Dezember-/ Januar-Umfrage 2014/2015

Sehr geehrte Frau ...,

wir haben Sie kürzlich zur Teilnahme an einer neuen Befragung eingeladen und würden uns sehr freuen, wenn auch Sie teilnehmen. Über den folgenden Link können Sie direkt an der Dezember-/Januar-Umfrage 2014/2015 teilnehmen:

<https://www.gesis-gesellschaftsmonitor.de/...>

Als Dankeschön für Ihre Teilnahme haben wir Ihnen bereits 5 Euro per Post zugeschickt.

Bei Rückfragen erreichen Sie uns telefonisch zu den üblichen Bürozeiten unter 0621-1246564 oder per E-Mail an info@gesis-gesellschaftsmonitor.de. Wir freuen uns über Ihr Interesse und beantworten gerne alle Fragen.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen aus Mannheim und ein gutes neues Jahr,

Ihr GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor Team