GESIS Panel Wave Report

Wave ca

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Content

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 includes 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 15 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 five 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 all paper questionnaires one day before the start of the online field phase. No reminders are sent out in the offline mode. In-coming paper questionnaires are processed by 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 and 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 Online	Offline	Invited Online	Offline	Participation 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
bf	zi, zh, am, ar, zq	17.12.2014-17.02.2015	17.12.2014-17.02.2015	2794	1550	2589	1293

Wave	Studies	Field period		Invited		Participation	
		Online	Offline	Online	Offline	Online	Offline
ca	zb, at, av, ar, zq	18.02.2015-14.04.2015	18.02.2015-14.04.2015	2745	1504	2556	1282

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 (DBK). 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 two 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: 10.4232/1.12244 and doi: 10.4232/1.12245.

German:

GESIS (2015): GESIS Panel Erweiterte Edition. GESIS Datenarchiv, Köln. ZA5664 Datenfile Version 8.0.0, doi: 10.4232/1.12244

GESIS (2015): GESIS Panel Standard Edition. GESIS Datenarchiv, Köln. ZA5665 Datenfile Version 8.0.0, doi: 10.4232/1.12245

English:

GESIS (2015): GESIS Panel Extended Edition. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA5664 Datafile Version 8.0.0, doi: 10.4232/1.12244

GESIS (2015): GESIS Panel Standard Edition. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA5665 Datafile Version 8.0.0, doi: 10.4232/1.12245

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), Dr. Wolfgang Bandilla (Overall Project Management), Angela Tanner (Survey Project Management), Dr. Tanja Dannwolf, Ines Schaurer, Dr. Bella Struminskaya (Survey Project Management), Dr. Tobias Enderle, Kai Weyandt (Survey Statistics and Data Quality Management), Gabriele Wahlig (Panel Management), 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 provide valuable feedback to the submitted studies.

Part II: Wave ca (February / March 2015)

1. Wave Preparation

1.1 Responsible GESIS Panel Team Members

Survey project management: Angela Tanner, Kai Weyandt & Tanja Dannwolf

Data management: Tobias Enderle

Data archiving: Kai Weyandt

Panel management: Gabriele Wahlig

1.2 Methodological Considerations

Wave ca is the 7th regular panel wave of the GESIS Panel after the recruitment process was finished. Overall, 4249 active panelists were invited to participate in wave ca.

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

1.3 Studies

Wave ca consisted of five studies (see Table 2). The first study fielded in Wave ca is the GESIS Panel Longitudinal Core Study Module on Subjective Well-Being by Joseph Sirgy, Carina Cornesse, and Michael Bosnjak. The second study is about a ranking measure of life satisfaction by Prof. Dr. Grischa Perino and Sonja Köke, M.Sc. Study three is a cooperation project between the GESIS Panel and the German Internet Panel (GIP) located at the University of Mannheim by Prof. Dr. Annelies Blom, Prof. Dr. Michael Bosnjak, Daniela Ackermann-Piek, Carina Cornesse and Susanne Helmschrott with the overall aim of investigating the representativeness of online panels via focusing on issues regarding sample quality, question quality, measuring preferences that change dynamically over time, and preference separability. This study is followed by the study of Prof. Dr. Ivo Bischoff and Nataliya Kusa (M.A.) on policy preferences for inheritance taxes and motives of intergenerational transfers within families. Wave ca 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 ca

Study	Waves	Authors	Title
zb	core study	Joseph Sirgy, Carina Cornesse & Michael Bosnjak	GESIS Panel Longitudinal Core Study Module – Subjective Well-Being
at	ca	Grischa Perino, Sonja Köke	A Ranking Measure of Life Satisfaction
av	ca	Annelies Blom, Michael Bosnjak, Daniela Ackermann-Piek, Carina Cornesse & Susanne Helmschrott	Evaluating Political Reforms Using Surveys

Study	Waves	Authors	Title
ar	bf, ca	Ivo Bischoff, Nataliya Kusa	Policy Preferences for Inheritance Taxes and Motives of Intergenerational Transfers within Families.
zq	core study	Bella Struminskaya, Michael Bosnjak & Lars Kaczmirek	Survey Evaluation

1.4 Questionnaire Composition

The wave ca questionnaire begins with 15 questions on subjective well-being (study zb) and continues with two questions from study at on a ranking measure of life satisfaction. It follows with 18 questions from study av, one question about climate justice (GESIS Panel internal research) and 17 questions on policy preferences for inheritance taxes and motives of intergenerational transfers within families (study ar). The questionnaire closes with nine questions on respondents' evaluation of the questionnaire (core study zq).

The questionnaire contains several filter questions and experiments:

In study av offline respondents who never received a driver's license in Germany are filtered over the subsequent question about receiving a driver's license after 1 January 1999. In the online mode the filter question also filters over the question about traffic violation points registered in Flensburg which is only shown to respondents who have or had a driver's license. In the offline questionnaire the implementation of this filter was not compatible due to layout limitations. Instead the question about traffic violation points registered in Flensburg included an opt-out category within the question stating „I don't have a driver's license".

Study av also contains two experiments with four experimental conditions for each experiment (variables caav102a and caav103a). Explicit information on the experimental design can be found in the study description of study av.

Further filters are implemented in study ar for both online and offline respondents. Respondents indicating not having received an inheritance so far are filtered over the next question about inheritance taxes and continue with a question about the expectation of receiving an inheritance in the nearer future. Again, if respondents indicate not receiving an inheritance in the nearer future they are filtered about the subsequent question about inheritance taxes.

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 cazq014a and cazq015a). Offline respondents were asked on which date they filled in the questionnaire (variables cazq017a and cazq018a).

The online and offline questionnaire as well as the codebook and the study descriptions 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 February 2015 for all respondents (online and offline). The invitation letter included a five-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 February 2015. The fieldwork for the wave ca ended on 14 April 2015.

Overall, 4249 active members of the GESIS Panel were invited, 1504 in the offline mode and 2745 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 26 February 2015 and on 6 March 2015. The text of the invitation letters (online and offline) and the reminders (only email) can be found in the Appendix.
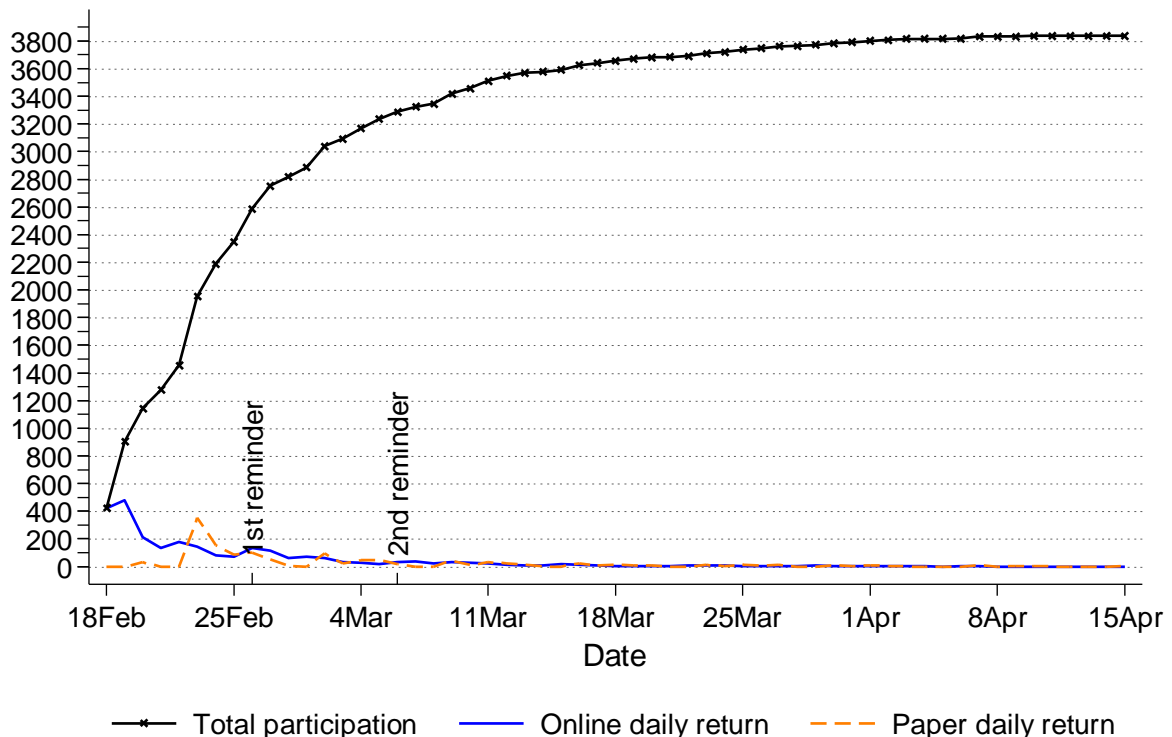

Figure 1 Wave ca field phase

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 and Callegaro (forthcoming) and Final Disposition Codes for Mail Surveys (American Association for Public Opinion Research, 2011). For detailed information on coding of outcomes for wave ca, 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.

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

Overall COMR = (3767+55)/(3767+55+30+19+378) = 89.95%

COMR Online = (2529+17)/(2529+17+20+0+179) = 92.75%

COMR Offline = (1238+38)/(1238+38+10+19+199) = 84.84%

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

Absorption Rate $= \dfrac{Invitations\ Sent-Undeliverable\ Invitations}{Invitations\ Sent}$

Overall Absorption Rate = (4249-19)/4249 = 99.55%

Absorption Rate Online = (2745-0)/2745 = 100.00%

Absorption Rate Offline = (1504-19)/1504 = 98.74%

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.

Cumulative Response Rate 1 (CUMR1) = RECR×PROR×COMR

Overall CUMR1 Wave ca = 0.2898×0.7942×0.8995 = 20.70%

CUMR1 Wave ca Online[1] = 0.2898×0.7878×0.9275 = 21.18%

CUMR1 Wave ca Offline = 0.2898×0.8067×0.8484 = 19.83%

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 ca 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.

Retention Rate $= \dfrac{Overall\ Active\ Panel@Wave\ ca}{Overall\ Active\ Panel@Welcome\ Survey}$ = 4249/4938 = 86.05%

Retention Rate Online[2] = 2745/3068 = 89.47%

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[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

Retention Rate Offline = 1504/1870 = 80.43%

Cumulative Response Rate 2 (CUMR2)=RECR×PROR×RETR×COMR

Overall CUMR2 Wave ca = 0.2898×0.7942×0.8605×0.8995 = 17.81%

CUMR2 Wave ca Online[3] = 0.2898×0.7878×0.8947×0.9275 = 18.95%

CUMR2 Wave ca Offline = 0.2898×0.8067×0.8043×0.8484 = 15.95%

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 $= \dfrac{Break-Off}{Interview+Partial+Break-Off}$ = 10/(3767+55+10) = 0.26%

Break-Off rate Online =4/(2529+17+4) = 0.16%

Break-Off rate Offline = 6/(1238+38+6) = 0.47%

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 wave ca. 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 and Callegaro, forthcoming). In the 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

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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 ca, 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 ca, 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.

[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.

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.

$$\text{Attrition rate} = \frac{Overall\ Active\ Panel@Welcome\ Survey - Overall\ Active\ Panel@Wave\ ca}{Overall\ Active\ Panel@Welcome\ Survey} =$$

$$= (4938\text{-}4249)/4938 = 13.95\%$$

3. Post-Processing

3.1 Data Cleaning and Quality Control

Variable caza002a 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 incidences 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 ca the questions about the interpersonal comparison regarding family (cazb029a) and interpersonal comparison regarding financial matters (cazb033a) were interpreted as a multiple choice questions by 14 offline respondents and 10 offline respondents respectively. 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 ca these are mainly open variables were 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 ca

Variable	Variable Label	Reason
cazq016b	Anmerkungen, dichotom	Data protection: The text responses are not published but only a variable indicating whether the respondent left comments on the survey.
cazb034b	Vergleichsperson Finanzen - offen	Data protection: The text responses have been partly anonymized due to privacy reasons.
caav065b	Zweitstimme - letzte Bundestagswahl - offen	Data protection: The text responses have been partly anonymized due to privacy reasons.
caav067b	Parteimitgliedschaft - offen	Data protection: The text responses have been partly anonymized due to privacy reasons.
cazz080b	Klimagerechtigkeit - offen	Data protection: The text responses have been partly anonymized 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 cazr001 a to cazr056a) 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 (cazp207a) 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 wave ca, several client side based paradata are collected in page-based string variables (cazs001a to cazs056a). 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 only Available in the Extended Edition

Variable	Variable Label	Reason
cazq016a	Anmerkungen	Data protection: Open question
cazb030a	Vergleichsperson Familie - offen	Data protection: Open question
cazb034b	Vergleichsperson Finanzen - offen	Data protection: Open question
caav054a	Anzahl zugelassene Autos - offen	Data protection: Open question
caav061a	Größe - offen	Data protection: Open question
caav063a	Gewicht - offen	Data protection: Open question
caav065b	Zweitstimme - letzte Bundestagswahl - offen	Data protection: Open question
caav067b	Parteimitgliedschaft - offen	Data protection: Open question
cazz080b	Klimagerechtigkeit - offen	Data protection: Open question
cazp208a	Browser information	Data protection
cazp209a	Javascript version	Data protection
cazp210a	Flash version	Data protection

The text responses with comments about the questionnaire in variable cazq016a are not published. Only a variable indicating whether the respondent left comments on the survey or not (cazq016b) is published.

3.6 Miscellaneous

Wave ca contains several filter questions (caav049a, caav051a, caar089a, caar091, acaar098a and caar100a), 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.

Appendix

I. Field Phase

Table 5 Field Period

Date	Event	Online		Offline		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18Feb2015		422	16.51	0	0.00	422	11.00
19Feb2015		482	18.86	0	0.00	482	12.56
20Feb2015		211	8.26	30	2.34	241	6.28
21Feb2015		133	5.20	0	0.00	133	3.47
22Feb2015		178	6.96	0	0.00	178	4.64
23Feb2015		143	5.59	355	27.69	498	12.98
24Feb2015		81	3.17	155	12.09	236	6.15
25Feb2015		72	2.82	88	6.86	160	4.17
26Feb2015	1st online reminder	135	5.28	102	7.96	237	6.18
27Feb2015		116	4.54	50	3.90	166	4.33
28Feb2015		60	2.35	5	0.39	65	1.69
01Mar2015		69	2.70	0	0.00	69	1.80
02Mar2015		60	2.35	93	7.25	153	3.99
03Mar2015		32	1.25	22	1.72	54	1.41
04Mar2015		29	1.13	46	3.59	75	1.95
05Mar2015		19	0.74	49	3.82	68	1.77
06Mar2015	2nd online reminder	31	1.21	19	1.48	50	1.30
07Mar2015		37	1.45	0	0.00	37	0.96
08Mar2015		22	0.86	0	0.00	22	0.57
09Mar2015		30	1.17	43	3.35	73	1.90
10Mar2015		29	1.13	10	0.78	39	1.02
11Mar2015		22	0.86	31	2.42	53	1.38
12Mar2015		13	0.51	23	1.79	36	0.94
13Mar2015		6	0.23	16	1.25	22	0.57
14Mar2015		7	0.27	0	0.00	7	0.18
15Mar2015		16	0.63	0	0.00	16	0.42
16Mar2015		12	0.47	22	1.72	34	0.89
17Mar2015		9	0.35	6	0.47	15	0.39
18Mar2015		5	0.20	11	0.86	16	0.42
19Mar2015		4	0.16	10	0.78	14	0.36
20Mar2015		2	0.08	8	0.62	10	0.26
21Mar2015		3	0.12	0	0.00	3	0.08
22Mar2015		7	0.27	0	0.00	7	0.18
23Mar2015		7	0.27	12	0.94	19	0.50
24Mar2015		7	0.27	3	0.23	10	0.26
25Mar2015		4	0.16	15	1.17	19	0.50
26Mar2015		4	0.16	5	0.39	9	0.23
27Mar2015		3	0.12	11	0.86	14	0.36
28Mar2015		3	0.12	0	0.00	3	0.08
29Mar2015		6	0.23	0	0.00	6	0.16

Date	Event	Online		Offline		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
30Mar2015		4	0.16	8	0.62	12	0.31
31Mar2015		5	0.20	3	0.23	8	0.21
01Apr2015		2	0.08	9	0.70	11	0.29
02Apr2015		2	0.08	5	0.39	7	0.18
03Apr2015		5	0.20	0	0.00	5	0.13
04Apr2015		2	0.08	0	0.00	2	0.05
06Apr2015		2	0.08	0	0.00	2	0.05
07Apr2015		3	0.12	11	0.86	14	0.36
09Apr2015		0	0.00	1	0.08	1	0.03
10Apr2015		0	0.00	4	0.31	4	0.10
15Apr2015		0	0.00	1	0.08	1	0.03
Total		2556	100	1282	100	3838	100

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), DiSogra and 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

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

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.

Profile Rate PROR $=\dfrac{Profile\ Survey\ Complete+Profile\ Survey\ Partial}{Profile\ Survey\ Complete+Partial+Refusal+Noncontact+Other}$

Overall PROR=4932/6210=79.42%

PROR Online=3233/4104=78.78%

PROR Offline=1699/2106=80.67%

Response Rate for the Welcome Survey=RECR1×PROR=23.02%

Response Rate for the Welcome Survey Online=RECR1×PROR=22.83%

Response Rate for the Welcome Survey Offline=RECR1×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.

Absorption Rate[4]$=\dfrac{Invitations\ Sent-Undeliverable\ Invitations}{Invitations\ Sent}$=(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).

Break-Off Rate$=\dfrac{Break-Off}{Interview+Partial+Break-Off}$=20/(4875+57+20)=0.40%

Break-Off Rate Online=6/(3233+10+6)=0.19%

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 Panel and wave ca. 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 and 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

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

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.

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

$$= (4938-4249)/4938 = 13.95\%$$

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
Non-contacts	1864	n/a	n/a
Other eligible non-interview 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 non-contact (bouncer/retour)	27	13	14
Profile survey other	1201	830	371

Single Wave Surveys	Overall	Online	Offline
Wave ca invited	4249	2745	1504
Wave ca complete	3767	2529	1238
Wave ca partial	55	17	38
Wave ca refusal	30	20	10
Break-off (among refusal)	10	4	6
Wave ca non-contact (bouncer/retour)	19	0	19
Wave ca other	378	179	199

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

GesellschaftsMonitor
gesis

gesis
Leibniz-Institut
für Sozialwissenschaften

GESIS · Postfach 10 28 36 · 68028 Mannheim

GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor

Postfach 10 28 36
68028 Mannheim
Telefon 0621 – 1246 – 564
Telefax 0621 – 1246 – 577
www.gesis-gesellschaftsmonitor.de

Mannheim, 17. Februar 2015

Einladung zu unserer Februar-/März-Umfrage

Sehr geehrter ▮▮▮▮▮,

herzlichen Dank für Ihre Teilnahme am GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor. Heute möchten wir Sie gerne einladen, an unserer aktuellen Februar-/März-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.

Wir wünschen Ihnen viel Spaß beim Ausfüllen der Umfrage. Als Dankeschön für Ihre Teilnahme haben wir Ihnen in diesem Schreiben wieder 5 Euro beigelegt.

Hat sich Ihre Adresse geändert oder ziehen Sie in Kürze um? Bei Adressänderungen oder sonstigen 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 freundlichen Grüßen

Prof. Michael Bosnjak und das gesamte Projektteam

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

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.

Da es sich beim GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor um mehrere Befragungen handelt (Wiederholungsbefragungen), werden Befragungen durch eine Code-Nummer miteinander verknüpft. Ergebnisse werden nur in anonymisierter Form dargestellt. Niemand kann aus den Ergebnissen erkennen, von welcher Person die Angaben gemacht worden sind.

Für die Einhaltung der Datenschutzbestimmungen ist verantwortlich:
GESIS - Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften
Quadrat B2, 1
68159 Mannheim

Institutsleitung (Präsident): Prof. Dr. York Sure

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

b. Invitation Letter for Online Participants sent by Mail

GesellschaftsMonitor
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gesis Leibniz-Institut
für Sozialwissenschaften

GESIS · Postfach 10 28 36 · 68028 Mannheim

GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor

Postfach 10 28 36
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Telefon 0621 – 1246 – 564
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www.gesis-gesellschaftsmonitor.de

Mannheim, 17. Februar 2015

Einladung zu unserer Februar-/März-Umfrage

Sehr geehrter

herzlichen Dank für Ihre Teilnahme am GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor. Heute möchten wir Sie gerne einladen, an unserer aktuellen Februar-/März-Umfrage teilzunehmen. Die Beantwortung der Fragen wird etwa 20 Minuten in Anspruch nehmen.

Wir wünschen Ihnen viel Spaß beim Ausfüllen der Umfrage. Als Dankeschön für Ihre Teilnahme haben wir Ihnen in diesem Schreiben wieder 5 Euro beigelegt.

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.

Hat sich Ihre Adresse geändert oder ziehen Sie in Kürze um? Sie können Ihre Adresse online in Ihrem persönlichen Mitgliedsbereich ändern. Bei Adressänderungen oder sonstigen Rückfragen können Sie uns auch telefonisch zu den üblichen Bürozeiten unter 0621-1246564 oder per E-Mail an info@gesis-gesellschaftsmonitor.de kontaktieren. Wir freuen uns über Ihr Interesse und beantworten gerne alle Fragen.

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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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.

Da es sich beim GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor um mehrere Befragungen handelt (Wiederholungsbefragungen), werden Befragungen durch eine Code-Nummer miteinander verknüpft. Ergebnisse werden nur in anonymisierter Form dargestellt. Niemand kann aus den Ergebnissen erkennen, von welcher Person die Angaben gemacht worden sind.

Für die Einhaltung der Datenschutzbestimmungen ist verantwortlich:
GESIS - Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften
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 Februar-/ März-Umfrage 2015

Sehr geehrte Frau ...,

herzlichen Dank für Ihre Teilnahme am GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor.

Heute möchten wir Sie gerne einladen, an unserer aktuellen Befragung teilzunehmen. Über diesen Link kommen Sie direkt zu unserer Februar-/ März-Umfrage 2015:

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

Als Dankeschön für Ihre Teilnahme erhalten Sie in Kürze wieder 5 Euro per Post.

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Mit herzlichen Grüßen aus Mannheim,

Ihr GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor Team

Hinweis zum Datenschutz:
In keinem Fall werden Daten weitergegeben, die Ihre Person erkennen lassen. Niemand kann aus den Auswertungen der Daten Rückschlüsse darauf ziehen, von welcher Person die Angaben gemacht worden sind. Weitere Informationen zum Datenschutz finden Sie hier:
https://www.gesis-gesellschaftsmonitor.de/privacy_policy.php

d. First E-Mail Reminder

Erinnerung: Ihre neue Februar-/ März-Umfrage 2015

Sehr geehrter Herr ...,

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 Februar-/ März-Umfrage 2015 teilnehmen:

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Mit herzlichen Grüßen aus Mannheim,

Ihr GESIS GesellschaftsMonitor Team

e. Second E-Mail Reminder

Erinnerung: Ihre neue Februar-/ März-Umfrage 2015

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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