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Household and Individual Participation, Attrition, and Sample Development in the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) Waves 1-9

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Household and Individual Participation, Attrition, and Sample Development in the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) Waves 1-9

Based on Release 9.0.0

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Abstract: This data documentation is meant to provide users of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) with a comprehensive overview of both households' and individuals' initial participation in the survey as well as the longitudinal development of the survey so far. All numbers and figures reported in this documentation refer to SHARE Release 9.0.0 and are based on information from SHARE's Sample CTRL (the tool used by agencies to manage fieldwork), Case CTRL (the tool used by interviewers to manage assigned cases) and additional national gross sample information. After a summary of the different sampling designs used in SHARE, the target population as well as eligibility criteria are described. Against this background, we first report household and individual participation in the baseline or refreshment interview by wave, country, and certain subgroups. The second focus is on sample development over time, i.e., the wave-to-wave participatory behavior of initial samples, entrance patterns of new sample members, and success of achieving so-called end-of-live interviews, usually with the partner or a close relative when the respondent has died.

Overall, it can be concluded that the temporary loss of respondents during the Covid-19 pandemic was largely recovered afterwards, yielding annualized retention rates between 85 and 95 percent. However, it should be noted that the situations and conditions faced by countries in SHARE differ, making it difficult to generalize statements across countries and over time. This report therefore also aims to highlight and acknowledge relevant country specifics before drawing generalized conclusions.

Keywords: survey participation, response rates, panel retention, sample design, SHARE

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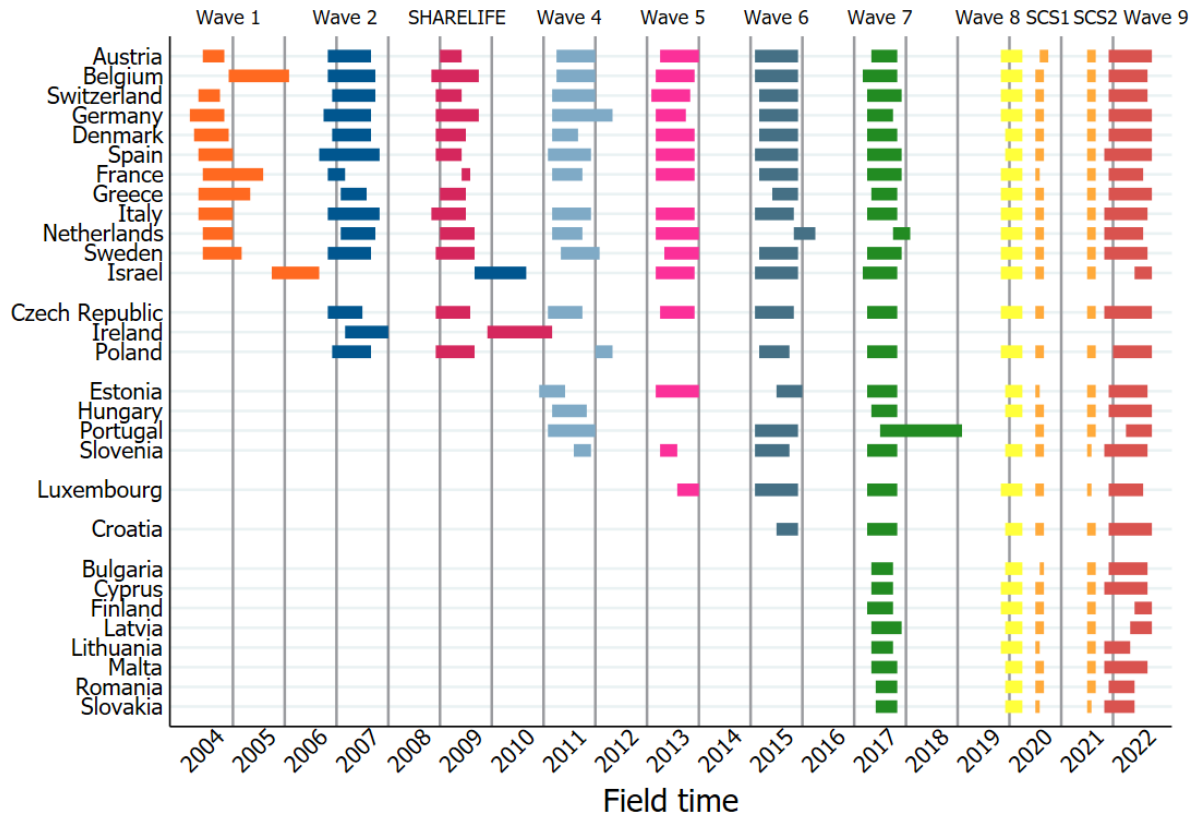
1. Introduction

This data documentation is meant to provide users of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE; Bergmann et al., 2024; Börsch-Supan et al., 2013) with a general overview of both the participation of respondents in their first (baseline/refreshment) interview and the longitudinal development of the survey so far. It thus complements the previous reports on survey participation in SHARE that are mainly based on data during and at the end of fieldwork (Blom & Schröder, 2011; De Luca & Peracchi, 2005; Kneip, 2013; Kneip et al., 2015; Malter, 2013; Malter & Sand, 2017; Philip et al., 2024; Sand, 2019, 2021). SHARE is a multidisciplinary and cross-national panel study, which has been conducted biannually since 2004. By collecting data on health, socioeconomic status, and social and family networks from individuals aged 50 and older and their partners, it strongly contributes to the understanding of the ageing process in Europe. Wave 9 of SHARE included participation from 28 countries: the 26 continental EU member states, along with Switzerland and Israel (see Figure 1).[1] With the public release of Wave 9 in March 2024, the data available to the scientific community are currently based on more than 600,000 interviews administered on more than 140,000 respondents who participated in the survey so far. Figure 1 shows which countries joined SHARE and when, and provides further details on the fieldwork periods in each country.

The term survey participation is used here to describe how many households and individuals of the initial gross sample delivered completed interviews, how many were found to be ineligible, and how many did not respond. In the following, we present survey participation patterns separately for initial (i.e., baseline and refreshment) samples as well as for longitudinal samples from countries that have already participated in SHARE before. Whereas for baseline and refreshment samples the focus is on response behavior to the initial survey request, for longitudinal samples the focus is on response behavior at subsequent waves, i.e., on panel retention.

[1] Furthermore, SHARE is harmonized with similar panel surveys in the British Isles, the United States, Japan, Korea, China, India, Mexico, Brazil, and South Africa.

Figure 1: Field times in SHARE



Note: England participates in the English Longitudinal Survey on Ageing (ELSA), a closely harmonized sister study of SHARE. The same holds for Ireland since Wave 4, when the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) was established. In the Netherlands, SHARE was conducted in a different (online) mode in Waves 6 and 7. Israel followed a different schedule for Waves 1 and 2.

The remainder of this documentation is organized as follows: After an overview of the different sampling frames and sampling designs that have been used in the SHARE countries so far (Section 2), we briefly describe the target population as well as the eligibility criteria used in SHARE (Section 3). Against this background, we report the household and individual participation in the baseline or refreshment interview by wave and country (Section 4). This is done for the whole SHARE sample as well as for certain subgroups. Afterwards, the focus is on the longitudinal development of the sample composition in SHARE (Section 5). Here, we first report the development of the number of successful interviews, before we present the wave-to-wave retention of the longitudinal samples. In this respect, we distinguish between retention rates with and without recovery of former respondents, as well as new or missing partners that have not participated in SHARE before (Subsections 5.1 to 5.3). Finally, we report the success of achieving so called end-of-live interviews with the partner or a close relative when the respondent has died (Subsection 5.4). All numbers and figures reported in this documentation are based on information from SHARE's Sample CTRL and Case CTRL as well as additional national gross sample information using the scientific release 9.0.0.

2. Sampling frames and sampling designs in SHARE

The aim of the SHARE survey design is to be able to draw inferences about the population of people who are 50 years and older across countries by using probability-based sampling. This is a complex process since the samples in each country must do justice to national characteristics but at the same time be internationally comparable. In the ideal case, all countries included in SHARE would have a probability-based sample based on an official person register covering the population of interest. The availability of population registers that can be used as sampling frames varies a lot across countries, however, as do the regulations about who can or cannot access the registers and what information can be obtained from them. A key feature that any frame must fulfill in SHARE is the availability of reliable information on age. If this information is not available from a given sampling frame – as it is frequently the case when no population register with individual information is available – a screening procedure to identify the age of respondents has to be applied before starting fieldwork. In this case, we require using the Sample/Case CTRL software for screening the whole sample for age-eligibility. The necessity to have a screening procedure identifying persons of 50 years and older is a specific feature of SHARE: It can negatively affect the response rate obtained as it is an additional step for realizing an interview. As a result, it is difficult to compare response rates across countries in general. Nevertheless, when making these comparisons, researchers should at least point out country differences (e.g. screening), especially when referring to total response/retention rates (see below), as these also depend on changes in the composition of countries over time. This makes comparisons within SHARE challenging, and even more so when comparing rates across different surveys.

Table 1 provides an overview of the sampling frame types (with one line for each sampling frame when changes occurred over time) and indicates whether it contains age-related information or not. It also specifies the sampling unit and the wave at which a baseline/refreshment sample was drawn, as well as important sampling design features. The most recent sample refreshment was conducted in 2019 for use in Wave 8. Due to the stop of Wave 8 fieldwork because of the pandemic, most participating countries were unable to completely field their planned refreshment sample or could not even start it in the case of Finland, Portugal and Spain. Not finished refreshment samples thus have been continued in Wave 9. For the started refreshment samples in Wave 8, there were no individual units (with information on age) available in the Czech Republic, France, Israel and Latvia. Therefore, a screening procedure was necessary in these countries. In Belgium and Switzerland screening

for age-eligibility is no longer needed since Wave 4 and in Austria since Wave 8, as these countries achieved to use a population register with individual information on age from that time on.[2] Based on the available sampling frame, the most frequently used sampling design in the SHARE countries is a multi-stage stratified sampling design, i.e., the country is divided into several strata in a first step to ensure representativeness of different geographical areas within the country, to improve efficiency of the survey estimates, and to reduce the costs of the interview process. Within these strata, primary sampling units (PSUs, e.g., municipalities or zip codes) are usually drawn in a second step – often with a probability proportional to their size to give larger PSUs a larger probability of being sampled. If other relevant characteristics are available from the sampling frame – such as age and gender in the case of population registers – countries are advised to also use those for stratification. Finally, individuals or households/addresses can be drawn within the selected PSUs depending on the available information. In some countries (e.g., Denmark or Sweden since Wave 5) such a multi-stage sampling design is not needed as individuals can be drawn directly from the central population register (for more information on the specific characteristics of the used sampling designs, see Bergmann et al., 2019; Bergmann, 2024; Bergmann et al., 2017; De Luca et al., 2015).

[2] SHARE was the first survey that was allowed to use the Swiss population register, which is known to be of excellent quality.

Table 1: Sampling frames and sampling designs in SHARE

Country	Type of sampling frame	Sampling unit	Information on age	Waves (reference year of sampling) with a baseline/refreshment sample	Multistage sampling design	Stratification	Nursing home respondents[1] in	
							sampling frame[2]	data[3]
Austria	Telephone directory	H	no	1 (2004)	yes	yes	no	yes
	Register for specific use	B	no	4 (2010)	yes	yes	no	yes
	Population or civil register	I	Only if 50+/ age groups	8/9 (2019)	yes	yes	yes	yes
Belgium	Telephone directory	H	no	1 (2004), 2 (2006) French-speaking part	yes	yes	n.a.	yes
	Population or civil register	I	yes	4 (2010), 5 (2012), 6 (2014), 8/9 (2019)	yes	yes	yes	yes
Bulgaria	Population or civil register	H	only if 50+	7 (2016)	yes	yes	no	yes
Croatia	Register for specific use	I	yes	6 (2014), 8/9 (2019)	yes	yes	only w8/9	yes
Cyprus	Telephone directory	H	no	7 (2016)	no	yes	no	yes
Czech Republic	Telephone directory	H	no	2 (2006)	yes	yes	n.a.	yes
	Register for specific use	B	no	4 (2010), 5 (2012), 8/9 (2019)	yes	yes	only w8/9	yes
Denmark	Population or civil register	H	yes	1 (2004)	no	no	yes	yes
	Population or civil register	I	yes	2 (2006), 4 (2010), 5 (2012), 6 (2014), 8/9 (2019)	no	no	only w8/9	yes
Estonia	Population or civil register	I	yes	4 (2010), 6 (2014), 8/9 (2019)	no	yes	only w6, 8/9	yes
Finland	Population or civil register	I	yes	7 (2016), 9 (2019)	yes	yes	yes	yes
France	Population or civil register	H	only if 50+	1 (2004), 2 (2006), 4 (2010), 5 (2012), 6 (2014), 8/9 (2019)	yes	yes	no	not w6, 8/9
Germany	Population or civil register	I	yes	1 (2004), 2 (2006), 5 (2012), 8/9 (2019)	yes	only w8/9	only w1, 8/9	yes
Greece	Telephone directory	H	no	1 (2004), 2 (2006)	no	yes	only w1	yes
	Geographical listing/database	B	no	6 (2014)	yes	yes	n.a.	yes
Hungary	Population or civil register	I	yes	4 (2010), 8/9 (2019)	yes	yes	only w4	yes
Ireland	Population or civil register	I	yes	2 (2006)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	yes
Israel	Population or civil register	I	yes	1 (2005), 2 (2009), 5 (2012), 7 (2016)	yes	yes	no	yes

	Population or civil register	B	no	8/9 (2019)	yes	yes	no	yes
Italy	Register for specific use	I	yes	1 (2004), 2 (2006), 4 (2010), 5 (2012), 6 (2014)	yes	yes	no	yes
Latvia	Population or civil register	H	only if 50+	7 (2016), 8/9 (2019)	yes	yes	only w7	yes
Lithuania	Register for specific use	B	no	7 (2016)	yes	yes	no	yes
Luxembourg	Register for specific use	I	yes	5 (2012), 6 (2014)	no	yes	only w6	yes
Malta	Register for specific use	I	yes	7 (2016)	no	yes	yes	yes
Netherlands	Population or civil register	I	yes	1 (2004), 2 (2006), 4 (2010), 5 (2012)	yes	no	yes	yes
	Probability-based online panel	I	yes	6 (2014)	no	no	no	yes
Poland	Population or civil register	I	yes	2 (2006)	no	yes	n.a.	yes
				6 (2014), 7 (2016), 8/9 (2019)	yes	yes	no	yes
Portugal	Register for specific use	H	no	4 (2010)	yes	yes	yes	yes
	Register for specific use	I	yes	9 (2019)	yes	yes	yes	yes
Romania	Register for specific use and geographical listing/database	H	only if 50+/ no	7 (2016)	yes	yes	no	yes
Slovakia	Geographical listing/database (plus telephone directory)	H	no	7 (2016)	yes	yes	no	yes
Slovenia	Population or civil register	I	yes	4 (2010), 5 (2012), 6 (2014), 8/9 (2019)	yes	yes	no	yes
Spain	Population or civil register	I	yes	1 (2004), 2 (2006), 4 (2010), 5 (2012) only Girona, 9 (2019)	yes	yes	not w9	not w9
Sweden	Population or civil register	I	yes	1 (2004), 2 (2006), 5 (2012), 8/9 (2019)	no	only w1,2	yes	not w8/9
Switzerland	Telephone directory	H	no	1 (2004), 2 (2006)	no	yes	no	yes
	Population or civil register	I	yes	4 (2010), 8/9 (2019)	no	yes	no	not w8/9

Note: I: Individual address (name + address); H: Households (last name + address); B: Building address (address without name).

[1] Including respondents who did the interview in a nursing home (mn024), lived in a nursing home during the last 12 months (hc029), received care or died in a nursing home (xt018_4, xt014), or when the type of building was recorded as a nursing home (ho036, iv010).

[2] Entries according to information provided by country teams and survey agencies.

[3] Data include nursing home respondents, although these may not be represented uniformly in the sampling frame.

All SHARE respondents who were interviewed in any previous wave (including non-responding partners) are part of the longitudinal sample. Additionally, refreshment samples are drawn regularly to i) maintain representation of the younger age-cohorts of the target population that were not age-eligible in previous waves and ii) compensate for the reduction in panel sample size due to attrition. Table 1 shows when refreshment samples were recruited or a new country joined SHARE for the first time with a baseline survey that would ultimately form the "first wave" panel sample for the next waves of the study. In practice, the decision to conduct a refreshment sample, as well as the sample size, depends heavily on the country-specific funding situation. As funding and sampling resources vary between participating countries, SHARE does not define a minimum net sample size. Instead, SHARE advises countries to maximize their net sample size within their budget, while carefully considering the representativeness of the entire sample.

Each country that draws a baseline or refreshment sample in a SHARE wave is initially required to provide a sample design form (SDF) containing a complete description of both the chosen sampling frame and the associated sampling design. Based on this form, the sampling proposal is evaluated and approved by the SHARE Central coordination team at the SHARE Berlin Institute (SBI) before the sample is drawn. The SDF is archived as a reference for the sampling information and the weighting design (see Bergmann et al., 2017; De Luca & Li Donni, 2024; De Luca et al., 2021; De Luca & Rossetti, 2019; De Luca et al., 2015 for a detailed discussion of the used weighting strategy). In addition, each country that draws a baseline or refreshment sample has to submit a gross sample template (GST). The GST must contain all selected households, the associated sampling frame information required to compute selection probabilities (e.g., household-level and population-level information about stratification and clustering), and household-level information about regional codes (NUTS and LAU). If applicable, it should also include additional auxiliary variables that could be used for ex-post compensation of non-sampling errors. Before calculating the weights, the SHARE Central coordination team carefully checks the coherence between the SDF and the GST.

3. Target population and eligibility criteria

The SHARE target population consists of all persons aged 50 years and older at the time of sampling who have their regular domicile in the respective SHARE country. Persons are excluded if they are incarcerated, hospitalized, or out of the country during the entire survey period, unable to speak the country's languages[3], could not be located due to errors in the sampling frame (e.g., non-existent address, vacant house), or have moved to an unknown address. In Wave 1, all age-eligible persons per sampled household (plus their partners, regardless of age) were selected for an interview. Since Wave 2, only one age-eligible person per household (plus partner, regardless of age) has been selected. All SHARE respondents who were interviewed in any previous wave are part of the longitudinal sample. If they have a new partner living in the household, the new partner is eligible for an interview as well (regardless of age). Age-eligible respondents who participated are traced and re-interviewed if they move within the country and end-of-life interviews are conducted if they decease. Younger partners, new partners, and partners who never participated in SHARE will not be traced if they move and are not eligible for an end-of-life interview. Persons living in nursing homes and other institutions for elderly are considered to be part of the target population investigated by SHARE but may not be equally well represented in all countries depending on the sampling frame coverage. As SHARE countries do not use specific sampling methods for these groups but include them as part of the general population sample, differences in sampling frames used across countries can lead to country-specific under-coverage of the nursing home population. Table 1 gives an overview of which countries include the institutionalized population in their baseline/refreshment samples (see also Schanze, 2017 for further information).

While these general eligibility criteria are determined through information provided during the individual SHARE interview, age-eligibility of an initially sampled household (i.e. at least one person aged 50 and older lives in the household) is determined through the very first part of the interview, the so-called coverscreen (CV). The CV is a brief interview on household composition before the actual interview starts. In practice, the CV is incomplete for non-responding households (i.e., households that were not contacted or refused to complete the CV) and thus does not allow assessing the age-eligibility of all sampled households. This problem, which is common to all countries, has different origins and consequences depending on the

[3] If a language is spoken by more than ten percent of the population in a certain country, the questionnaire is translated also into that language to include the language group in SHARE and to avoid under-coverage of important migrant groups (e.g., Russian in Estonia).

nature of the sampling frame adopted. In one group of countries (Austria since Wave 8, Belgium since Wave 4, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta[4], the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal since Wave 8, Slovenia, Spain (including Girona), Sweden, and Switzerland since Wave 4), the sampling frame already contains information on the age of the sampled household member. For this first group of countries using a population or civil register, age-eligibility is determined directly from the information provided by the sampling frame. In another group of countries (Austria before Wave 8, Belgium before Wave 4, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal before Wave 8, Romania, Slovakia, and Switzerland before Wave 4) the sampling frame does not contain information on age. For this second group of countries a screening phase before the actual interview is required to assess the age-eligibility of sampled households.

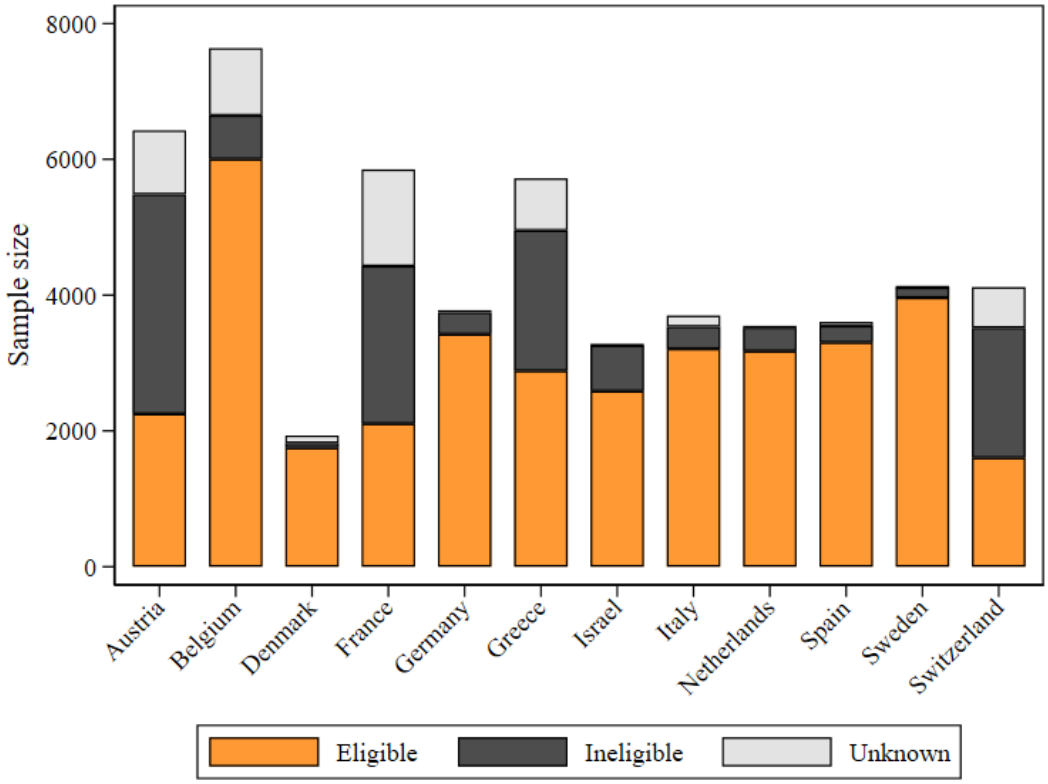
The American Association for Public Opinion Research provides guidelines for a final classification of sample units (see AAPOR, 2023) . On this basis, a variety of indicators on respondents' participation behavior (e.g., response rates) can be calculated, which are the focus of Section 4 and Section 5. Following these guidelines, the SHARE Sample CTRL that contains event history information for each contact event is used to classify the baseline/refreshment samples as well as the longitudinal samples of each country into three exhaustive and mutually exclusive main categories: (1) eligible households, (2) ineligible households, and (3) households of unknown eligibility (see Kneip et al., 2015 for further information on the hierarchical classification of contact events into household states).

The following figures show the size of the baseline/refreshment samples in each country[5] in all previous waves[6] and how they were composed regarding household eligibility status (i.e., at least one age-eligible respondent lives in the household). Absolute numbers can be found in the Appendix. In the mentioned countries with a sampling frame not containing any information on age, ineligibility can also be an outcome of the screening procedure. In addition, any form of screening non-response (non-contact, refusal, other non-response) led to classifying a

[4] Malta uses an electoral register with information on age. However, due to uncertainties in the available data, this information is double checked during the CV.
[5] Ireland is missing in Figure 2, because the necessary gross sample information is incomplete. Consequently, we have not calculated response rates for Ireland in the next section. In addition, the Netherlands are included in Figure 6 (Wave 6), although this sample was drawn from a national online sample (LISS panel) and conducted as an online experiment due to funding issues (see Das et al., 2017).
[6] In Wave 3, no new baseline or refreshment samples have been conducted.

household as having unknown eligibility[7]. Due to the lack of information on age from the sampling frame, the fraction of unknown eligibility is also highest in these countries. In countries where information on age is available from the sampling frame, households without any contact attempt are considered to be of unknown eligibility.

Figure 2: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 1 by classification of sample units



[7] In Austria, screening non-response leading to unknown eligibility and post-screening ineligibility could not be unambiguously separated from each other in Wave 4 (see Figure 4).

Figure 3: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 2 by classification of sample units

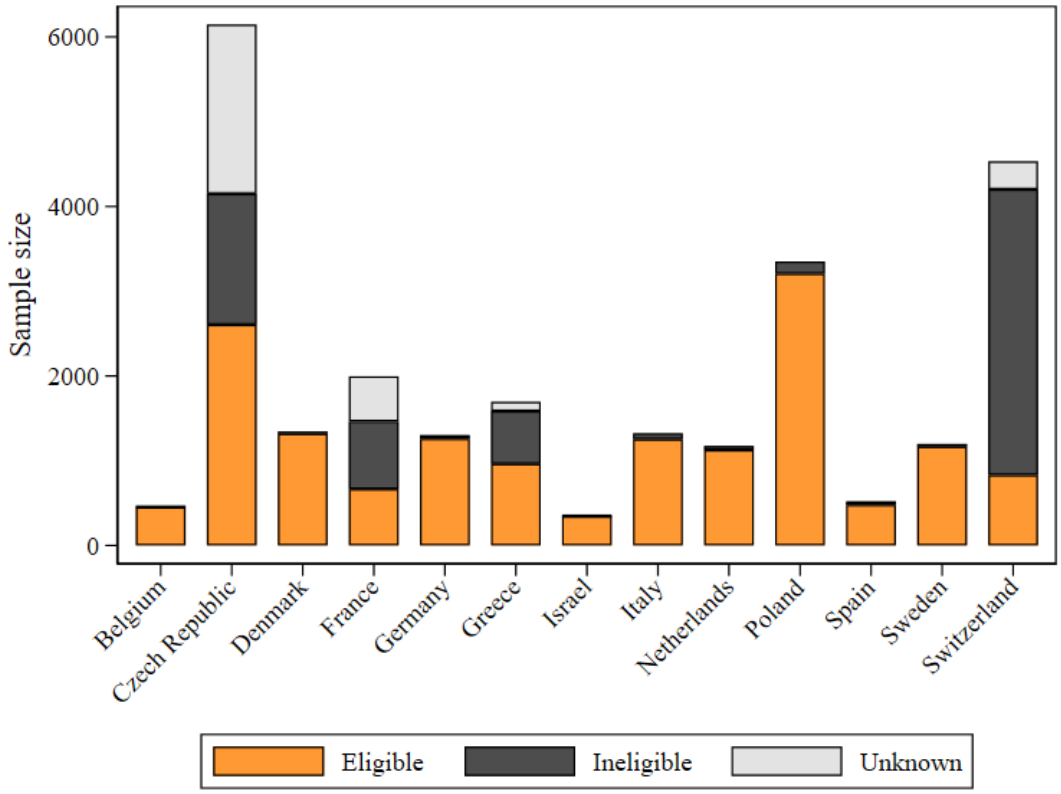


Figure 4: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 4 by classification of sample units

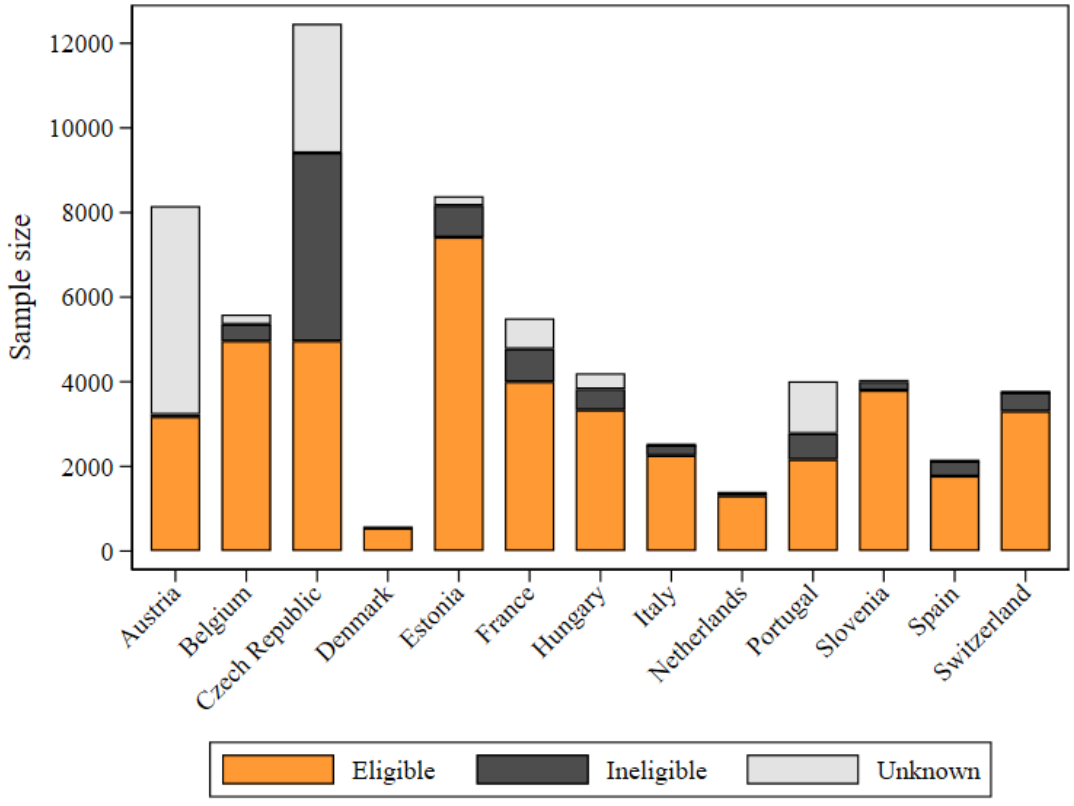


Figure 5: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 5 by classification of sample units

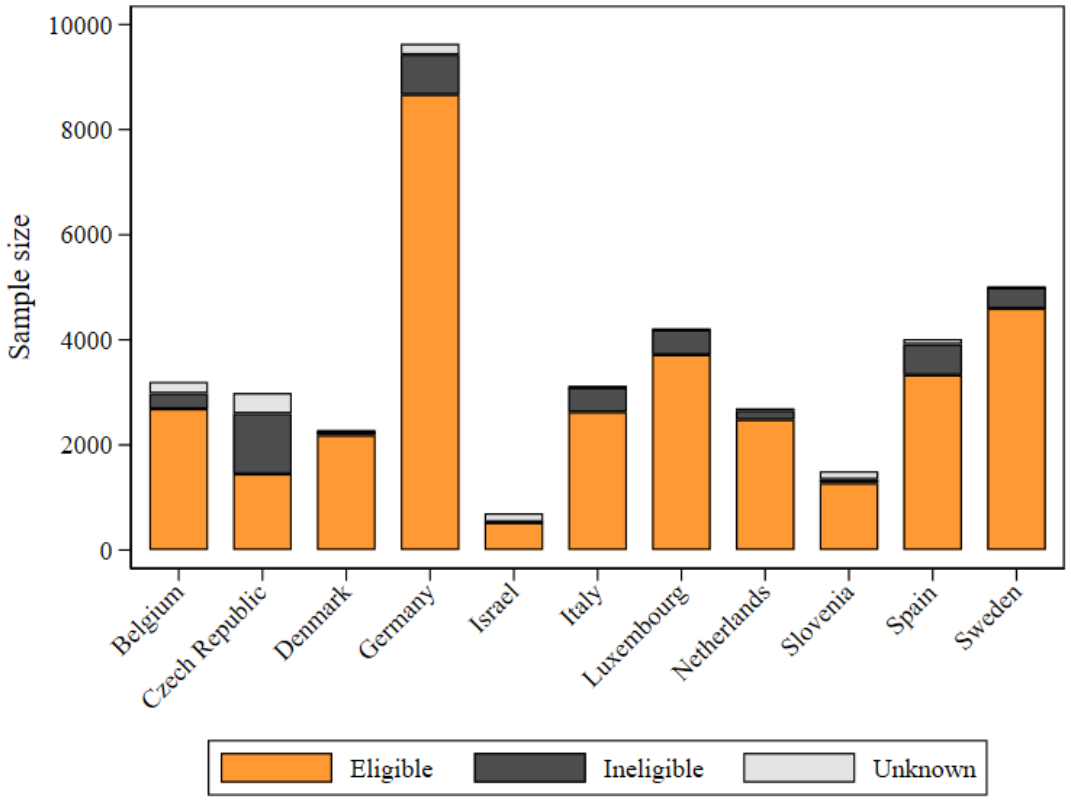


Figure 6: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 6 by classification of sample units

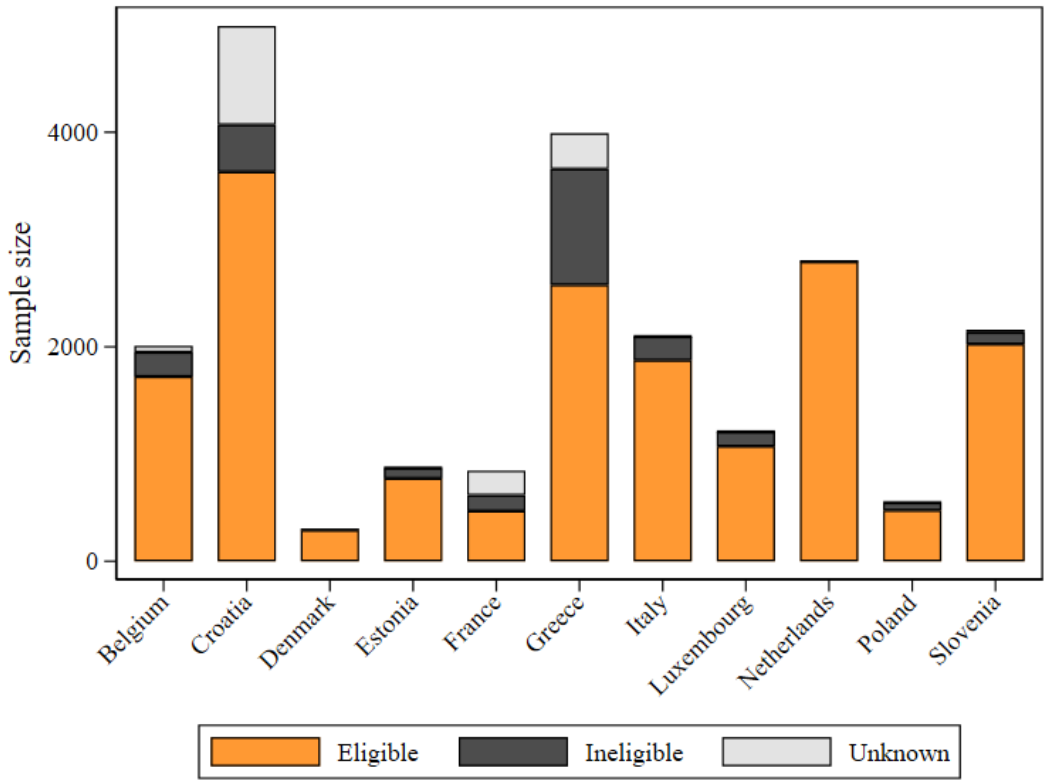


Figure 7: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 7 by classification of sample units

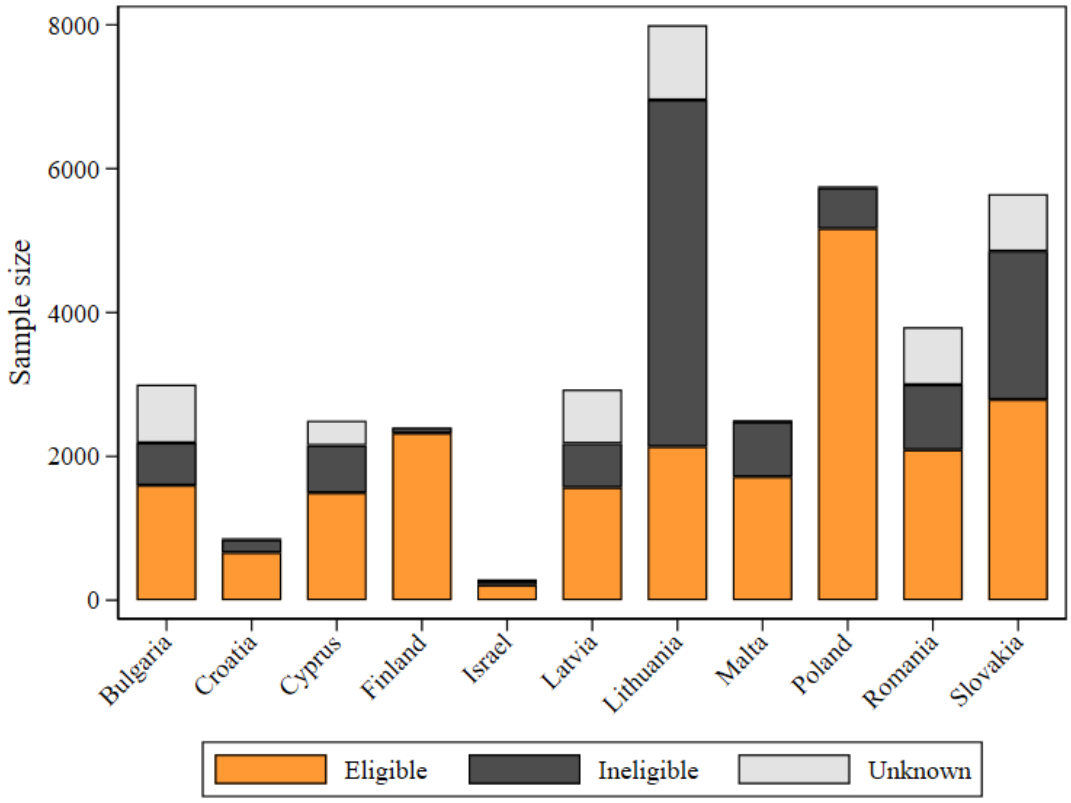


Figure 8: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 8 by classification of sample units

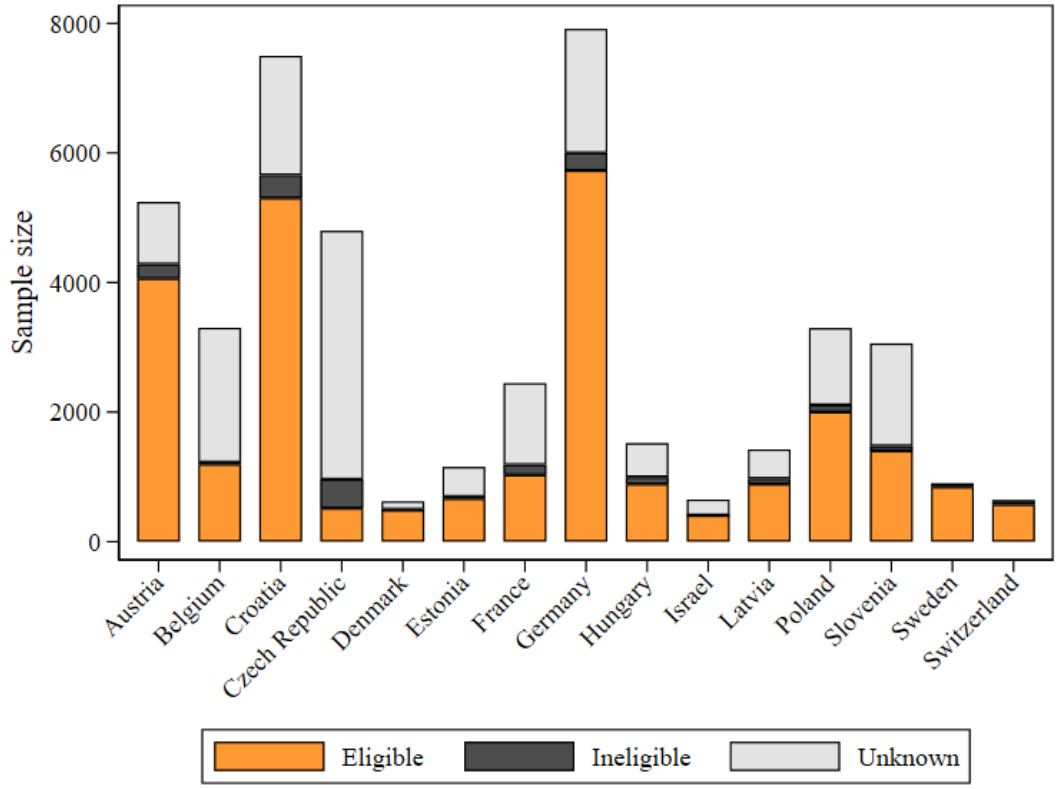
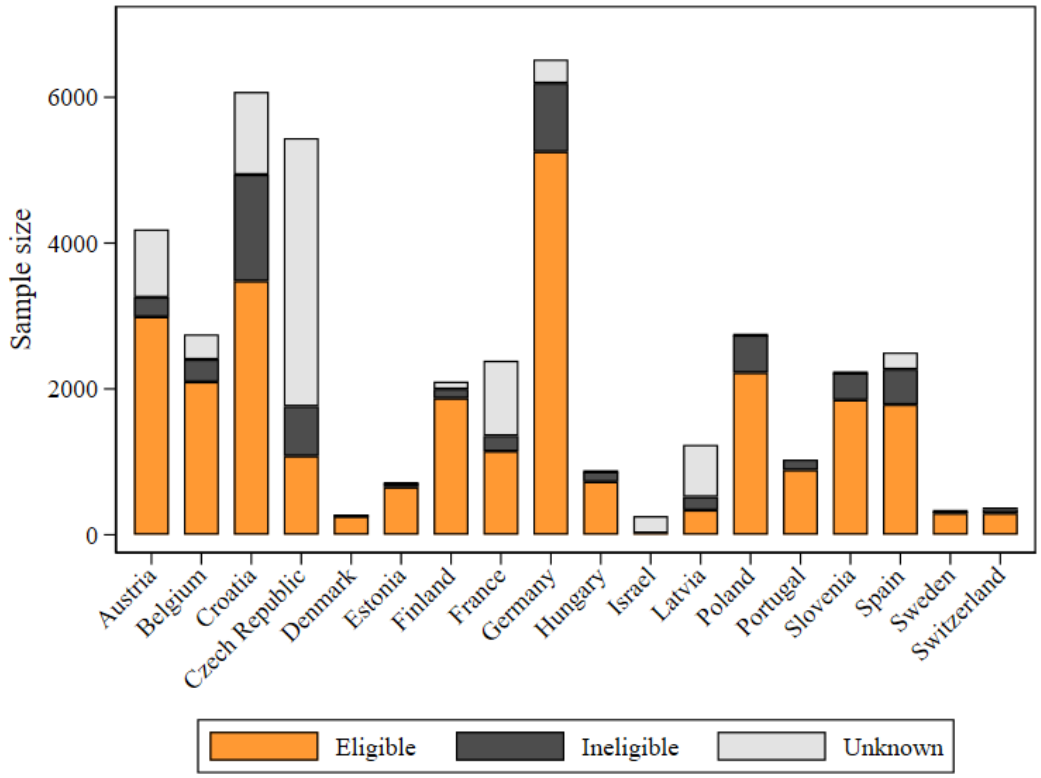


Figure 9: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 9 by classification of sample units



4. Survey participation in the SHARE baseline and refreshment samples

With respect to the participatory behavior of respondents in their first (baseline/refreshment) interview, the following tables provide an overview of the number of successful interviews – both at the household level (Subsection 4.1) and the individual level (Subsection 4.2). There are several ways in which response rates can be calculated, depending on how cases of unknown eligibility are handled. They can be considered entirely eligible, partially eligible, or entirely ineligible. Following the AAPOR (2023) guidelines, these differences correspond to a number of slightly different response rates whose definitions are given below and which are presented in the next subsections.

$$RR1 = \frac{I}{(I+P) + (R+NC+O) + (UH+UR+UO)}$$

Response Rate 1 (RR1), or the minimum response rate, is the number of complete interviews (I) divided by the number of interviews (complete (I) plus partial (P)[8]) plus the number of non-interviews (refusal and break-off (R) plus non-contacts (NC) plus others (O)) plus all cases of unknown eligibility (unknown if housing unit exists (UH), unknown if there is an eligible respondent (UR), plus unknown, other (UO)). It represents the lower bound of the presented response rates.

$$RR3 = \frac{I}{(I+P) + (R+NC+O) + e(UH+UR+UO)}$$

Response Rate 3 (RR3) discounts the number of households with unknown eligibility by weighting it with the proportion of cases actually eligible. In SHARE, *e* is estimated as the fraction of eligible units among the cases with known eligibility, which assumes that the fraction of eligible units does not depend on whether the eligibility status is known or not. That this assumption might yield a biased overestimate of the eligibility rate is pointed out by Smith (2009), who argues that the proportion of eligible cases will fall given more attempts during fieldwork to establish the status of the remaining unknown cases (e.g., due to the fact that non-assigned telephone numbers with ringing tones cannot be resolved by more attempts). Consequently, also this version of calculating response rates might lead to an underestimation of the actual response rate.

[8] In SHARE, partial interviews are considered complete if all applicable modules including the interviewer observations (IV module) at the very end of the CAPI are conducted.

$$RR5 = \frac{I}{(I+P) + (R+NC+O)}$$

Response Rate 5 (RR5) is either a special case of RR3 in that it assumes that e=0 (i.e., that there are no eligible cases among the cases of unknown eligibility) or the rare case in which there are no cases of unknown eligibility. In this respect, RR5 represents the upper bound of the response rates presented.

The idea behind presenting not only one but several response rates is that countries with different sampling frames can be better compared as some need a screening procedure to determine the eligibility status while others need no initial screening. Generally, countries that need to screen for age-eligibility show lower response rates when cases of unknown eligibility are counted as eligible (RR1), because this constitutes an additional step for realizing an interview. The opposite is true with respect to RR5. In this scenario, response rates might be overestimated as the assumption of counting cases of unknown eligibility as entirely ineligible is not very plausible in countries that need to screen for age-eligibility. Therefore, for these countries RR1 as well as RR5 are inadequate – especially when response rates are compared between countries with different sampling frames. In this respect, counting cases of unknown eligibility as partially eligible (RR3) might be more suitable for comparisons of response rates between countries that need to screen for age-eligibility and those that have a priori information on age.

4.1 Household participation

The following tables show the number of households with at least one interview as well as the different household response rates of the baseline/refreshment samples by country. As can be seen, the variation across countries is considerable. It is mainly caused by differences in sampling frames and the need to screen for age-eligibility as mentioned above, but also by changes of survey agencies collecting the sample, their fieldwork procedures including legal restrictions with regard to refusal conversion, and the general survey climate (e.g., Kneip et al., 2015; Loosveldt & Joye, 2016). In addition, the sampling structure with respondents aged 50 years and older as well as frequently rather strict requirements regarding incentives and interviewer payment schemes that are not under the control of SHARE makes it very difficult to compare the presented rates with other (particularly non-European) surveys. Overall, most of the rates are in line with or even above the numbers of comparable surveys in the same period.

In Wave 8, fieldwork had to be suspended due to the pandemic in the middle of the data collection period, resulting in lower response rates until March 2020. Refreshment samples that were unfinished in Wave 8 were continued in Wave 9, when face-to-face interviewing could resume without risk to the vulnerable target population in SHARE. However, the ability to conduct face-to-face interviews varies greatly from country to country, with some still experiencing negative consequences for fieldwork performance due to new variants of the virus. Therefore, the response rates in Waves 8 and 9 cannot be directly compared to previous waves.

Table 2: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 1 by country

Country	**Households with >=1 interview**	**Household response rate (RR1)[1]**	**Household response rate (RR3)[2]**	**Household response rate (RR5)[3]**
Austria[a]	1165	36.5%	44.2%	51.8%
Belgium[a]	2519	34.3%	35.0%	40.3%
Denmark	1175	63.2%	63.3%	67.1%
France[a]	2053	58.2%	73.8%	97.5%
Germany	1992	57.6%	57.7%	58.2%
Greece[a]	1981	54.3%	59.5%	68.7%
Israel	1667	64.2%	64.2%	64.5%
Italy	1770	52.5%	52.7%	55.2%
Netherlands	1946	60.9%	60.9%	61.3%
Spain	1686	50.2%	50.2%	51.1%
Sweden	2136	53.7%	53.7%	53.9%
Switzerland[a]	706	32.1%	37.6%	44.0%
Total	*20796*	*52.2%*	*55.0%*	*60.1%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Total response rates are calculated by considering the number of households with at least one interview in each country.
[1] RR1 is the number of complete interviews divided by the number of interviews (complete plus partial) plus the number of non-interviews plus all cases of unknown eligibility.
[2] RR3 estimates what proportion of cases of unknown eligibility is actually eligible by using the information about eligible and ineligible respondents from the sampling process.
[3] RR5 is either a special case of RR3 in that it assumes that there are no eligible cases among the cases of unknown eligibility or that there are no cases of unknown eligibility.

Table 3: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 2 by country

Country	Households with >=1 interview	Household response rate (RR1)[1]	Household response rate (RR3)[2]	Household response rate (RR5)[3]
Belgium[a]	190	42.1%	42.1%	42.1%
Czech Republic[a]	1874	40.7%	48.6%	71.9%
Denmark	860	65.2%	65.2%	65.2%
France[a]	635	53.0%	69.9%	95.3%
Germany	614	48.8%	48.8%	48.8%
Greece[a]	559	52.1%	54.3%	58.1%
Israel	271	77.9%	77.9%	78.6%
Italy	637	50.8%	50.8%	50.8%
Netherlands	535	47.5%	47.5%	47.5%
Poland	1770	55.2%	55.2%	55.2%
Spain	281	58.3%	58.3%	58.7%
Sweden[b]	416	35.7%	35.7%	35.7%
Switzerland[a]	547	47.0%	61.0%	65.8%
Total	*9189*	*50.8%*	*54.5%*	*61.6%*

Note: [a] Screening country. [b] Gross sample was partly drawn in Wave 1 (2004).
Total response rates are calculated by considering the number of households with at least one interview in each country.

Table 4: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 4 by country

Country	Households with >=1 interview	Household response rate (RR1)[1]	Household response rate (RR3)[2]	Household response rate (RR5)[3]
Austria[a]	3076	38.0%	38.3%	96.9%
Belgium	2142	40.8%	40.9%	42.7%
Czech Republic[a]	2849	35.5%	43.3%	57.4%
Denmark	278	51.6%	51.6%	51.6%
Estonia	4654	60.9%	61.1%	62.8%
France[a]	2592	54.8%	56.2%	64.8%
Hungary	2019	54.4%	55.2%	60.6%
Italy	924	40.9%	40.9%	40.9%
Netherlands	535	40.0%	40.0%	41.1%
Portugal[a]	1337	39.3%	42.7%	61.8%
Slovenia	2113	55.0%	55.0%	55.6%
Spain	1120	63.1%	63.1%	63.3%
Switzerland	1813	54.9%	54.9%	54.9%
Total	*25452*	*49.2%*	*50.6%*	*62.1%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Total response rates are calculated by considering the number of households with at least one interview in each country.

Table 5: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 5 by country

Country	Households with >=1 interview	Household response rate (RR1)[1]	Household response rate (RR3)[2]	Household response rate (RR5)[3]
Belgium	991	33.9%	34.2%	36.6%
Czech Republic[a]	899	48.8%	53.9%	62.0%
Denmark	1300	59.5%	59.5%	59.6%
Germany	3028	34.1%	34.2%	34.9%
Israel	352	51.5%	51.8%	67.4%
Italy	1138	43.3%	43.3%	43.3%
Luxembourg	1212	32.5%	32.5%	32.6%
Netherlands	1234	48.9%	48.9%	49.7%
Slovenia	582	40.8%	41.0%	45.8%
Spain	2063	60.1%	60.4%	61.9%
Sweden	1808	39.3%	39.3%	39.3%
Total	*14607*	*44.1%*	*44.5%*	*46.2%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Total response rates are calculated by considering the number of households with at least one interview in each country.

Table 6: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 6 by country

Country	Households with >=1 interview	Household response rate (RR1)[1]	Household response rate (RR3)[2]	Household response rate (RR5)[3]
Belgium	783	43.9%	44.0%	45.0%
Croatia	1588	34.9%	35.7%	43.7%
Denmark	166	57.2%	57.2%	57.2%
Estonia	435	55.8%	55.9%	56.3%
France[a]	232	33.3%	36.1%	49.6%
Greece[a]	1783	61.3%	63.4%	69.2%
Italy	840	44.8%	44.8%	44.8%
Luxembourg	325	30.3%	30.3%	30.3%
Netherlands[b]	1813	64.9%	64.9%	64.9%
Poland	246	50.1%	50.3%	51.8%
Slovenia	923	45.0%	45.1%	45.6%
Total	9134	50.3%	51.0%	54.0%

Note: [a] Screening country. [b] The sample in the Netherlands was drawn from a probability-based online panel (LISS).
Total response rates are calculated by considering the number of households with at least one interview in each country.

Table 7: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 7 by country

Country	Households with >=1 interview	Household response rate (RR1)[1]	Household response rate (RR3)[2]	Household response rate (RR5)[3]
Bulgaria[a]	1346	55.9%	61.4%	84.2%
Croatia	234	34.1%	34.3%	35.2%
Cyprus[a]	846	46.0%	48.7%	56.6%
Finland	1396	60.1%	60.1%	60.1%
Israel	108	49.8%	50.0%	50.9%
Latvia[a]	1290	55.6%	61.1%	82.2%
Lithuania[a]	1544	48.6%	62.9%	72.3%
Malta	796	46.2%	46.2%	46.4%
Poland	2158	41.6%	41.6%	41.8%
Romania[a]	1412	48.8%	53.2%	67.5%
Slovakia[a]	1287	35.9%	39.6%	46.1%
Total	*12417*	*48.3%*	*52.3%*	*61.1%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Total response rates are calculated by considering the number of households with at least one interview in each country.

Table 8: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 8 by country

Country	Households with >=1 interview	Household response rate (RR1)[1]	Household response rate (RR3)[2]	Household response rate (RR5)[3]
Austria[a]	302	6.0%	6.1%	7.4%
Belgium	217	6.7%	6.8%	17.8%
Croatia	581	8.1%	8.3%	11.0%
Czech Republic[a]	230	5.3%	8.9%	44.7%
Denmark	156	25.6%	25.7%	32.0%
Estonia	278	24.8%	25.3%	41.9%
France[a]	397	17.3%	18.7%	38.5%
Germany	761	10.0%	10.1%	13.3%
Hungary	309	21.9%	22.8%	34.8%
Israel[a]	381	58.7%	58.8%	93.6%
Latvia[a]	305	22.8%	23.5%	34.3%
Poland	506	15.9%	16.2%	25.3%
Slovenia	394	13.2%	13.6%	28.1%
Sweden	151	17.2%	17.3%	17.9%
Switzerland	147	24.8%	24.8%	25.6%
Total[b]	*5115*	*17.6%*	*18.1%*	*29.7%*

Note: [a] Screening country. [b] Fieldwork had to be suspended in March 2020 due to Covid-19.
Total response rates are calculated by considering the number of households with at least one interview in each country.

Table 9: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 9 by country

Country	Households with >=1 interview	Household response rate (RR1)[1]	Household response rate (RR3)[2]	Household response rate (RR5)[3]
Austria[a]	673	17.2%	17.5%	22.5%
Belgium	578	23.6%	24.0%	27.2%
Croatia	1398	30.3%	32.7%	40.2%
Czech Republic[a]	538	11.3%	16.1%	49.9%
Denmark	73	27.9%	27.9%	29.0%
Estonia	280	42.3%	42.3%	42.9%
Finland	508	25.7%	25.8%	27.2%
France[a]	346	15.9%	17.2%	30.2%
Germany	975	17.5%	17.6%	18.6%
Hungary	268	36.3%	36.3%	36.8%
Israel[a]	21	8.2%	8.2%	87.5%
Latvia[a]	275	26.1%	34.1%	81.1%
Poland	694	31.2%	31.2%	31.2%
Portugal	388	43.7%	43.7%	43.7%
Slovenia	647	35.0%	35.0%	35.0%
Spain	372	18.5%	18.9%	20.8%
Sweden	43	14.3%	14.4%	14.6%
Switzerland	71	22.5%	22.7%	24.1%
Total[b]	*8148*	*25.8%*	*27.0%*	*33.8%*

Note: [a] Screening country. [b] Unfinished samples were continued after Covid-19.
Total response rates are calculated by considering the number of households with at least one interview in each country.

4.2 Individual participation

While for the above reported numbers households were considered as participating if at least one eligible household member was successfully interviewed, studying the response behavior of eligible individuals requires defining the response rate as the proportion of eligible individuals that actually respond. Again, several ways of computing individual response rates are possible, depending on how households with unknown eligibility are treated. In addition, the number of eligible individuals in households with an incomplete CV has to be determined. These households may or may not contain eligible individuals and different assumptions about their number therefore directly affect the response rate. As before, a fraction *e* is calculated, based on the assumption that the average number of eligible persons in a household with or without a complete CV is the same in each country. The estimated average number of eligible individuals per household is shown in each of the following tables together with the total number of individual interviews separated by gender and age groups. Individual response rates (RR1, RR3, and RR5) are then calculated using the formulas above and multiplying the respective denominator by the estimated number of eligible persons per household. Compared to the household response rates presented before, it can be seen that individual response rates are only marginally smaller. This indicates that in many cases interviewers managed to interview all eligible persons within a household.

Table 10: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 1 by country, sex, and age

Country	Total number of interviews	Male	Female	<50	50-64	65-74	75+	Estimated number of eligible persons per household	Individual response rate (RR1)	Individual response rate (RR3)	Individual response rate (RR5)	Within household individual response rate
Austria[a]	1558	643	915	41	768	445	304	1.53	31.9%	38.6%	45.3%	87.4%
Belgium[a]	3810	1734	2076	173	1982	984	671	1.65	31.0%	31.6%	36.4%	90.4%
Denmark	1706	772	934	92	917	368	329	1.56	58.8%	58.9%	62.5%	93.1%
France[a]	3122	1356	1766	157	1605	744	616	1.60	55.3%	70.1%	92.7%	95.0%
Germany	2995	1373	1622	69	1560	883	483	1.74	49.8%	49.8%	50.3%	86.4%
Greece[a]	2897	1242	1655	231	1453	715	498	1.58	50.2%	55.1%	63.6%	92.6%
Israel	2449	1073	1376	112	1310	628	399	1.75	53.9%	53.9%	54.1%	83.9%
Italy	2551	1129	1422	47	1340	784	380	1.82	41.6%	41.8%	43.7%	79.2%
Netherlands	2968	1363	1605	96	1702	711	459	1.73	53.7%	53.7%	54.1%	88.2%
Spain	2316	968	1348	40	1045	665	566	1.85	37.2%	37.3%	37.9%	74.3%
Sweden	3047	1410	1637	53	1588	814	592	1.69	45.4%	45.4%	45.5%	84.4%
Switzerland[a]	997	452	545	43	501	249	204	1.62	27.9%	32.8%	38.4%	87.2%
Total	*30416*	*13515*	*16901*	*1154*	*15771*	*7990*	*5501*	*1.68*	*45.5%*	*48.1%*	*52.9%*	*87.1%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 11: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 2 by country, sex, and age

Country	Total number of interviews	Male	Female	<50	50-64	65-74	75+	Estimated number of eligible persons per household	Individual response rate (RR1)	Individual response rate (RR3)	Individual response rate (RR5)	Within household individual response rate
Belgium[a]	267	118	149	36	169	36	26	1.57	37.7%	37.7%	37.7%	89.5%
Czech Republic[a]	2728	1143	1585	100	1536	662	430	1.59	37.3%	44.5%	65.8%	91.6%
Denmark	1313	587	726	64	775	286	188	1.70	58.6%	58.6%	58.6%	89.8%
France[a]	903	401	502	47	513	185	158	1.65	45.6%	60.2%	82.2%	86.2%
Germany	900	414	486	31	506	222	141	1.70	42.1%	42.1%	42.1%	86.2%
Greece[a]	933	417	516	102	541	191	99	1.73	50.3%	52.4%	56.1%	96.5%
Israel	411	164	247	2	114	136	159	1.60	73.8%	73.8%	74.5%	94.8%
Italy	990	467	523	45	511	299	135	1.77	44.6%	44.6%	44.6%	87.8%
Netherlands	761	351	410	28	530	125	78	1.79	37.7%	37.7%	37.7%	79.5%
Poland	2466	1075	1391	54	1396	594	422	1.73	44.4%	44.4%	44.4%	80.5%
Spain	431	198	233	29	260	78	64	1.77	50.5%	50.5%	50.8%	86.7%
Sweden[b]	534	238	296	9	277	136	112	1.67	27.4%	27.4%	27.4%	76.9%
Switzerland[a]	724	311	413	29	433	151	111	1.63	38.2%	49.5%	53.5%	81.2%
Total	*13361*	*5884*	*7477*	*576*	*7561*	*3101*	*2123*	*1.68*	*44.3%*	*47.5%*	*53.8%*	*86.8%*

Note: [a] Screening country. [b] Gross sample was partly drawn in Wave 1 (2004).
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 12: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 4 by country, sex, and age

Country	Total number of interviews	Male	Female	<50	50-64	65-74	75+	Estimated number of eligible persons per household	Individual response rate (RR1)	Individual response rate (RR3)	Individual response rate (RR5)	Within household individual response rate
Austria[a]	4328	1828	2500	196	2237	1252	643	1.53	34.9%	35.2%	89.1%	92.0%
Belgium	2948	1323	1625	147	1889	494	418	1.55	35.8%	35.9%	37.5%	87.7%
Czech Republic[a]	4154	1742	2412	170	2199	1103	677	1.57	33.0%	40.2%	53.3%	92.9%
Denmark	437	213	224	50	385	2	0	1.78	45.5%	45.5%	45.5%	88.3%
Estonia	6863	2765	4098	144	3170	2061	1488	1.54	58.4%	58.5%	60.1%	95.8%
France[a]	3586	1549	2037	206	1981	692	707	1.58	48.0%	49.3%	56.8%	87.6%
Hungary	3070	1317	1753	89	1686	820	475	1.58	52.4%	53.1%	58.3%	96.2%
Italy	1415	646	769	56	808	331	220	1.72	36.4%	36.4%	36.4%	89.0%
Netherlands	773	346	427	27	496	160	90	1.66	34.8%	34.8%	35.8%	87.0%
Portugal[a]	2013	862	1151	76	1054	553	330	1.68	35.2%	38.3%	55.3%	89.6%
Slovenia	2748	1192	1556	57	1472	688	531	1.66	43.1%	43.1%	43.6%	78.3%
Spain	1781	800	981	69	918	409	385	1.69	59.4%	59.4%	59.5%	94.1%
Switzerland	2597	1194	1403	114	1429	664	390	1.69	46.5%	46.5%	46.5%	84.8%
Total	*36713*	*15777*	*20936*	*1401*	*19724*	*9229*	*6354*	*1.63*	*44.7%*	*46.0%*	*56.4%*	*90.5%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 13: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 5 by country, sex, and age

Country	Total number of interviews	Male	Female	<50	50-64	65-74	75+	Estimated number of eligible persons per household	Individual response rate (RR1)	Individual response rate (RR3)	Individual response rate (RR5)	Within household individual response rate
Belgium	1388	647	741	60	837	271	220	1.65	28.6%	28.8%	30.8%	84.1%
Czech Republic[a]	1312	548	764	42	660	403	207	1.57	45.3%	50.1%	57.6%	93.0%
Denmark	1928	887	1041	75	1067	522	264	1.71	51.6%	51.6%	51.6%	86.7%
Germany	4548	2125	2423	178	2608	1088	674	1.69	30.3%	30.4%	31.1%	88.9%
Israel	537	253	284	36	480	11	10	1.77	44.4%	44.7%	58.1%	86.2%
Italy	1705	764	941	65	936	430	273	1.60	40.5%	40.6%	40.6%	93.6%
Luxembourg	1607	753	854	24	936	391	255	1.69	25.5%	25.5%	25.6%	78.5%
Netherlands	1690	768	922	27	967	443	253	1.67	40.1%	40.1%	40.8%	82.0%
Slovenia	748	317	431	19	393	182	154	1.62	32.4%	32.5%	36.3%	79.3%
Spain	3295	1553	1742	104	1555	760	876	1.70	56.5%	56.8%	58.2%	94.0%
Sweden	2584	1237	1347	44	1182	899	459	1.68	33.4%	33.4%	33.5%	85.1%
Total	*21342*	*9852*	*11490*	*674*	*11621*	*5400*	*3645*	*1.67*	*39.1%*	*39.5%*	*41.0%*	*87.6%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 14: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 6 by country, sex, and age

Country	Total number of interviews	Male	Female	<50	50-64	65-74	75+	Estimated number of eligible persons per household	Individual response rate (RR1)	Individual response rate (RR3)	Individual response rate (RR5)	Within household individual response rate
Belgium	1059	471	588	80	654	181	144	1.60	36.7%	36.8%	37.7%	83.7%
Croatia	2495	1097	1398	65	1368	683	379	1.64	33.4%	34.1%	41.9%	95.8%
Denmark	248	122	126	39	208	1	0	1.81	47.3%	47.3%	47.3%	82.7%
Estonia	646	294	352	65	578	3	0	1.60	52.0%	52.0%	52.4%	93.1%
France[a]	316	152	164	36	270	6	4	1.59	28.5%	30.9%	42.4%	85.6%
Greece[a]	2667	1156	1511	137	1465	553	511	1.60	57.2%	59.2%	64.6%	93.3%
Italy	1231	562	669	52	752	288	137	1.58	41.6%	41.6%	41.7%	92.9%
Luxembourg	413	182	231	9	247	111	46	1.71	22.5%	22.5%	22.5%	74.3%
Netherlands	2504	1218	1286	60	1316	827	301	1.63	55.1%	55.1%	55.1%	84.8%
Poland	365	173	192	25	338	2	0	1.69	44.0%	44.2%	45.4%	87.8%
Slovenia	1322	587	735	19	648	384	271	1.68	38.5%	38.5%	38.9%	85.4%
Total	*13266*	*6014*	*7252*	*587*	*7844*	*3039*	*1793*	*1.65*	*44.8%*	*45.4%*	*48.4%*	*89.5%*

Note: [a] Screening country.

Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 15: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 7 by country, sex, and age

Country	Total number of interviews	Male	Female	<50	50-64	65-74	75+	Estimated number of eligible persons per household	Individual response rate (RR1)	Individual response rate (RR3)	Individual response rate (RR5)	Within household individual response rate
Bulgaria[a]	1998	835	1163	60	880	662	394	1.51	55.0%	60.5%	82.9%	98.4%
Croatia	346	157	189	6	176	109	55	1.65	30.5%	30.7%	31.6%	89.6%
Cyprus[a]	1233	495	738	39	431	400	363	1.65	40.5%	43.0%	49.9%	88.2%
Finland	2007	922	1085	36	974	615	382	1.64	52.8%	52.8%	52.8%	87.8%
Israel	152	65	87	4	73	38	36	1.58	44.3%	44.5%	45.4%	89.1%
Latvia[a]	1734	632	1102	53	794	469	417	1.43	52.3%	57.5%	77.3%	94.0%
Lithuania[a]	2035	730	1305	60	987	528	460	1.46	43.9%	56.8%	65.3%	90.4%
Malta	1261	552	709	20	563	461	217	1.68	43.5%	43.6%	43.7%	94.3%
Poland	3164	1435	1729	63	1756	829	516	1.66	36.8%	36.8%	37.0%	88.5%
Romania[a]	2114	898	1216	77	1104	572	361	1.60	45.6%	49.7%	63.0%	93.4%
Slovakia[a]	2077	951	1126	95	1364	457	160	1.64	35.3%	38.9%	45.3%	98.2%
Total	*18121*	*7672*	*10449*	*513*	*9102*	*5140*	*3361*	*1.59*	*44.4%*	*48.0%*	*56.1%*	*92.4%*

Note: [a] Screening country.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 16: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 8 by country, sex, and age

Country	Total number of interviews	Male	Female	<50	50-64	65-74	75+	Estimated number of eligible persons per household	Individual response rate (RR1)	Individual response rate (RR3)	Individual response rate (RR5)	Within household individual response rate
Austria[a]	387	175	212	10	286	40	51	1.60	4.8%	4.9%	6.0%	80.1%
Belgium	268	127	141	21	207	25	15	1.44	5.6%	5.7%	15.0%	84.3%
Croatia	842	370	472	25	416	246	155	1.57	7.5%	7.6%	10.1%	92.4%
Czech Republic[a]	325	129	196	15	133	97	80	1.53	4.9%	8.3%	41.3%	92.4%
Denmark	199	95	104	14	184	1	0	1.56	21.0%	21.1%	26.2%	82.0%
Estonia	380	166	214	28	345	7	0	1.52	22.3%	22.7%	37.6%	89.8%
France[a]	535	255	280	27	295	137	76	1.54	15.2%	16.4%	33.8%	87.8%
Germany	989	486	503	28	584	217	160	1.68	7.7%	7.8%	10.3%	77.5%
Hungary	440	205	235	9	281	105	42	1.47	21.3%	22.2%	33.8%	97.2%
Israel[a]	482	208	274	1	123	180	178	1.57	47.3%	47.4%	75.5%	80.6%
Latvia[a]	423	155	268	12	192	123	96	1.43	22.0%	22.7%	33.2%	96.7%
Poland	781	343	438	24	362	242	153	1.66	14.7%	15.0%	23.4%	92.7%
Slovenia	554	244	310	26	408	59	61	1.66	11.2%	11.5%	23.8%	84.6%
Sweden	179	89	90	7	167	5	0	1.61	12.7%	12.7%	13.2%	73.5%
Switzerland	188	102	86	4	182	2	0	1.61	19.7%	19.7%	20.3%	79.4%
Total[b]	*6972*	*3149*	*3823*	*251*	*4165*	*1486*	*1067*	*1.56*	*15.0%*	*15.5%*	*25.7%*	*86.8%*

Note: [a] Screening country. [b] Fieldwork had to be suspended in March 2020 due to Covid-19.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 17: Breakdown of all baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 9 by country, sex, and age

Country	Total number of interviews	Male	Female	<50	50-64	65-74	75+	Estimated number of eligible persons per household	Individual response rate (RR1)	Individual response rate (RR3)	Individual response rate (RR5)	Within household individual response rate
Austria[a]	885	412	473	19	702	105	59	1.58	14.3%	14.6%	18.8%	83.3%
Belgium	697	322	375	32	579	47	39	1.49	18.9%	19.2%	21.9%	80.5%
Croatia	2090	916	1174	29	1045	614	402	1.57	28.9%	31.1%	38.3%	95.3%
Czech Republic[a]	724	292	432	27	293	256	148	1.46	10.4%	14.9%	46.1%	92.4%
Denmark	90	42	48	4	84	2	0	1.61	21.3%	21.3%	22.1%	76.4%
Estonia	361	156	205	17	341	3	0	1.43	38.2%	38.2%	38.7%	90.3%
Finland	615	301	314	2	181	237	195	1.47	21.2%	21.3%	22.4%	82.5%
France[a]	456	219	237	13	227	128	88	1.54	13.6%	14.7%	25.8%	85.5%
Germany	1251	573	678	20	776	276	179	1.66	13.5%	13.7%	14.4%	77.4%
Hungary	400	199	201	5	254	122	17	1.49	36.4%	36.5%	37.0%	100.4%
Israel[a]	26	11	15	0	5	16	5	1.71	5.9%	5.9%	63.2%	72.2%
Latvia[a]	425	182	243	17	208	114	86	1.56	25.8%	33.7%	80.2%	98.9%
Poland	1006	439	567	11	469	379	147	1.57	28.7%	28.7%	28.8%	92.1%
Portugal	577	271	306	26	521	21	9	1.68	38.6%	38.6%	38.6%	88.3%
Slovenia	889	386	503	25	713	87	64	1.69	28.5%	28.5%	28.5%	81.4%
Spain	495	215	280	13	476	6	0	1.50	16.4%	16.8%	18.5%	88.8%
Sweden	49	21	28	1	48	0	0	1.47	11.1%	11.2%	11.4%	77.8%
Switzerland	80	43	37	0	78	2	0	1.49	17.0%	17.2%	18.2%	75.5%
Total[b]	*11116*	*5000*	*6116*	*261*	*7000*	*2415*	*1438*	*1.55*	*23.2%*	*24.3%*	*30.9%*	*87.8%*

Note: [a] Screening country. [b] Unfinished samples from Wave 8 were continued after Covid-19 in Wave 9.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

5. Survey participation in the SHARE longitudinal samples

Thus far, we have looked at survey participation of households and individuals in their first interview suppressing the longitudinal dimension of SHARE. This is the focus of the following section that investigates participation patterns of individuals who have been successfully interviewed before. To clearly distinguish these different aspects, we now use the terms retention and retention rate (instead of response rate) when it comes to the participation of individuals from the longitudinal sample. For a panel study like SHARE, its value is strongly determined by the long-term participation of panel members over waves. Only if persons can be observed multiple times as time passes by, it is possible to understand their individual ageing processes and to learn how respondents adapt to the changing environment over time. It is therefore of utmost importance to keep former respondents participating in the survey to exploit the full potential of SHARE regarding longitudinal analyses and conclusions. As can be seen, this goal is achieved quite well considering the difficulties SHARE is facing with respect to the sample structure of people aged 50 years and older, where natural mortality is a bigger issue than in most other surveys.

After several waves, various types of retention rates can be calculated conditional on previous participation that might differ between countries due to differences in the sample composition. Therefore, the longitudinal samples at the individual level in SHARE can be divided into four subsamples for better comparisons: *Subsample A* includes all respondents who participated in the previous wave of the SHARE survey.[9] *Subsample B* includes those respondents who ever participated in SHARE, but not in the previous wave, and live in a household where at least one household member participated in the previous wave. *Subsample C* includes respondents who ever participated, but not in the previous wave, and do not live in a household where at least one household member participated in the previous wave. Finally, *subsample D* includes missing and new partners who have not participated in SHARE before.

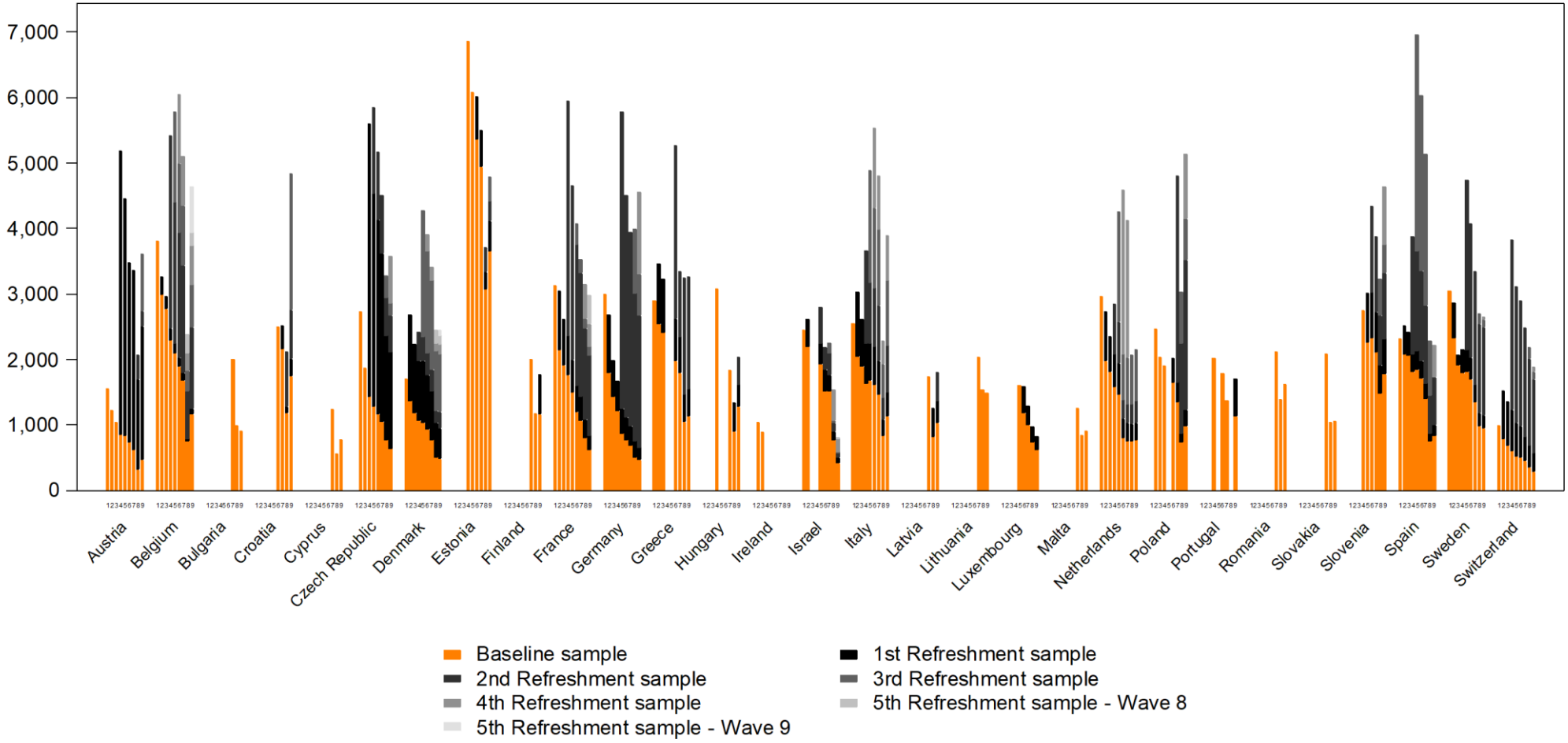
Based on these definitions, individual-level retention in the narrowest sense is given by the proportion of respondents retained in subsample A, ignoring potential future recovery (see Subsection 5.1). Additionally, retention in subsamples B and C informs about how well SHARE managed to get respondents back in the study who had already dropped out, which adds to panel

[9] Since Wave 7, subsample A is further divided into respondents who participated in the last SHARE wave and at least one earlier wave (subsample A1) and respondents who were newly recruited in the last SHARE wave from a baseline/refreshment sample and for whom the current wave is the second participation (subsample A2). Further information and more detailed splits between these subsamples can be found in Sand (2019).

retention. Participation behavior in subsample D is informative with respect to eligible persons in longitudinal households never interviewed before (i.e., either new sample members or eligible sample members for which reluctance to participate was overcome after refusals in previous waves) and adds to maintaining sample size. We thus present combined retention and recovery rates that include former respondents (Subsection 5.2) as well as new or missing partners (Subsection 5.3). While the latter focuses on the overall sample size development in SHARE, retention including former respondents in Subsection 5.2. is the most informative with respect to evaluating the success of maintaining panel respondents in the study. As an attempt to make the rates more comparable – both for the countries in SHARE that frequently show a different sample composition but also towards other surveys – we calculated annualized retention rates that take gaps as well as the biennial interval between waves in SHARE into account (see last column in tables of Subsections 5.2).

As a starting point, Figure 10 provides an overview of the development of the number of successful interviews in all SHARE samples over time, hence combining retention and recovery. The bars indicate the baseline (orange) and subsequent refreshment (different shades of grey) samples, while the change in the height of the bars illustrates the development of the various samples. The underlying numbers can be found in Table 48 in the Appendix. In addition, this table differentiates between main and end-of-live interviews that are also the focus of Subsection 5.4. As others (e.g., Blom & Schröder, 2011; Kneip et al., 2015) have shown before, attrition tends to be higher when panel members were approached for their first re-interview than in later waves. One consequence of rather high attrition rates is that the number of cases in the panel decreases, effectively reducing the power of longitudinal analyses. Furthermore, attrition from the panel might affect the sample composition, as certain groups of respondents might be more likely to drop out of the panel than others. However, previous analyses (Bergmann et al., 2022; Kneip et al., 2015) found only little if any evidence for selective attrition bias in SHARE. Only those in the oldest age group show a slightly higher probability of dropping out, which may actually be more indicative of natural mortality. Consequently, SHARE offers calibrated longitudinal weights that account for mortality of the original target population across waves (see Bergmann et al., 2017; De Luca & Li Donni, 2024; De Luca et al., 2021; De Luca & Rossetti, 2019 for details on the construction of these weights).

Figure 10: Sample development in SHARE



5.1 Wave-to-wave retention excluding recovery

The following tables show the wave-to-wave participatory behavior of panel respondents who participated in the previous wave not distinguishing between main and end-of-life interviews. Recovered respondents who were brought back into the survey after missing one or more wave(s) are thus excluded here (but see Subsections 5.2 and 5.3 for retention rates including recovery). Missing entries are due to the fact that not all countries participated in every wave. Greece, for example, had dropped from SHARE in Wave 4 due to the economic crisis but could be recovered for participation in Wave 6. Accordingly, the retention rate reported for Greece in Wave 6 (Table 18, second last column) refers to respondents last participating in Wave 3. This has to be considered when comparing rates across countries: Since more time has passed between two consecutive participations, the realization of an interview is more difficult in this case compared to other countries. Gaps with respect to Israel (no participation in Waves 3 and 4), Hungary (no participation in Waves 5 and 6), Poland (no participation in Wave 5) and Portugal (no participation in Waves 5 and 8) have to be interpreted analogously.[10]

By taking a close look at the following tables, it can be seen that – similar to Section 4 on response rates – there is some variation in individual retention rates across countries. Again, a mixture of differences in sampling frames, sample composition (i.e., the proportion of newly recruited panel members via refreshment samples), fieldwork procedures, and legal restrictions between countries to approach respondents refusing in a previous wave are the main causes for this variation. The last aspect is particularly important, as some countries have strict data protection requirements that could complicate the future participation of the people interviewed. In Germany, for example, all respondents must be asked at the end of their first SHARE interview whether they agree in writing that their addresses can be stored for future re-contact. This strict legal requirement does not exist in this form in any other SHARE country and might explain the lower retention in Germany compared to other countries (see, e.g., Table 18). Another reason applies to the Swedish Wave 2 sample (see Table 19, first column). Here, the sample could not be entirely approached in Wave 3, which explains the low retention between Wave 2 and Wave 3. Fortunately, most of these cases could be recovered in Wave 4, which results in a much higher retention between Wave 3 and Wave 4 and its stabilization afterwards.

Moreover, the drop in retention between Wave 5 and Wave 6 in the Netherlands was due to severe cuts in funding that made it necessary to conduct the interviews in Wave 6 in a different

[10] Other gaps are due to the following reasons: Ireland only participated in Waves 2 and 3; Girona only participated until Wave 8.

mode (see Das et al., 2017 for more information). The only way to keep the panel dimension of SHARE in the Netherlands was hence a shift from face-to-face to online interviews. Despite the high internet penetration in the Netherlands, the numbers clearly point out the huge challenges of such a change for an ongoing face-to-face panel study of respondents 50+ when participating for the first time in SHARE. Insofar, the low retention rate between Wave 5 and Wave 6 in the Netherlands cannot be directly compared with the rates in other countries. Despite this exception, however, there is a clear and consistent increase in retention of long-term panel members until Wave 8 and the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis, suggesting a high overall panel stability that is comparable to other studies with even shorter time intervals between interviews.

The Covid-19 pandemic hit SHARE in the middle of Wave 8 fieldwork. To avoid putting the vulnerable group of older respondents at risk, it was decided to suspend face-to-face interviews and conduct telephone interviews with SHARE panel respondents in 2020 (SCS1) and 2021 (SCS2). This explains the lower retention rates in Wave 8 and the much higher retention rates in the first SHARE Corona Survey, which are based on the sample realized in Wave 8. However, the transitions between SCS1 and SCS2, SCS2 and Wave 9, and Wave 8 and Wave 9 illustrate high stability in retention rates across most countries, despite the necessary mode switch and the fact that the pandemic was still ongoing at the beginning of Wave 9 in some countries. Israel is an exception, indicating significant challenges with face-to-face interviewing due to the country-specific situation during Covid-19 as well as difficulties in recruiting interviewers in crisis areas.

Table 18: Wave-to-wave retention rates of all Wave 1 (2004) samples by country

Country	Retention (Wave 1-2)	Retention (Wave 2-3)	Retention (Wave 3-4)	Retention (Wave 4-5)	Retention (Wave 5-6)	Retention (Wave 6-7)
Austria	74.3%	71.2%	74.7%	78.6%	81.5%	83.2%
Belgium	76.3%	83.9%	80.6%	84.4%	85.7%	88.5%
Denmark	77.0%	80.2%	85.2%	89.6%	88.3%	86.4%
France	67.0%	76.1%	82.4%	72.6%	71.2%	81.1%
Germany	55.1%	73.6%	77.6%	68.3%	89.5%	88.0%
Greece	86.3%	84.1%			76.1%	92.0%
Israel	75.6%			82.6%	74.7%	84.5%
Italy	71.5%	87.1%	84.8%	88.0%	89.3%	90.6%
Netherlands	62.3%	75.0%	78.9%	85.2%	47.3%	72.6%
Spain	68.5%	83.3%	80.1%	89.2%	88.3%	86.3%
Sweden	70.6%	70.7%	73.4%	79.4%	85.2%	81.5%
Switzerland	74.6%	83.5%	87.0%	86.3%	89.4%	88.7%
Total	*72.0%*	*79.6%*	*80.4%*	*82.7%*	*81.9%*	*86.0%*

Table 18: Continued

Country	Retention (Wave 7-8)	Retention (Wave 8-SCS1)	Retention (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention (SCS2-Wave9)	Retention (Wave 8-9)
Austria	47.3%	90.8%	87.9%	84.5%	86.2%
Belgium	45.9%	90.5%	91.1%	89.4%	85.4%
Denmark	67.5%	78.2%	76.0%	90.9%	73.6%
France	73.6%	74.6%	89.6%	84.6%	71.6%
Germany	75.2%	87.1%	66.8%	88.9%	79.9%
Greece	63.3%	94.2%	90.8%	84.1%	83.7%
Israel	48.3%	84.1%	84.5%	36.0%	44.8%
Italy	59.3%	92.5%	91.1%	90.1%	84.9%
Netherlands	59.1%	83.3%	88.6%	91.4%	74.2%
Spain	55.6%	88.3%	89.2%	70.4%	75.3%
Sweden	70.5%	90.9%	61.7%	89.1%	82.0%
Switzerland	82.2%	90.1%	86.9%	85.5%	79.3%
Total	*62.2%*	*87.8%*	*86.6%*	*83.2%*	*78.2%*

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Waves 6 and 7 were conducted in a different mode.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 19: Wave-to-wave retention rates of all Wave 2 (2006) samples by country

Country	Retention (Wave 2-3)	Retention (Wave 3-4)	Retention (Wave 4-5)	Retention (Wave 5-6)	Retention (Wave 6-7)	Retention (Wave 7-8)
Belgium	76.8%	72.8%	80.8%	82.4%	81.5%	35.4%
Czech Republic	65.8%	74.7%	85.9%	87.0%	90.0%	76.4%
Denmark	78.4%	81.2%	90.0%	87.0%	89.7%	68.1%
France	70.7%	75.8%	66.6%	70.9%	80.4%	67.2%
Germany	58.4%	76.2%	71.4%	91.0%	88.0%	83.3%
Greece	86.8%			73.0%	89.1%	76.9%
Ireland	69.2%					
Israel			78.3%	86.4%	79.9%	40.6%
Italy	72.0%	80.4%	80.8%	87.1%	81.1%	42.8%
Netherlands	65.4%	76.9%	85.7%	50.2%	71.5%	52.5%
Poland	73.5%	88.7%		85.8%	88.1%	57.7%
Spain	74.5%	76.2%	88.4%	86.2%	86.9%	51.9%
Sweden	39.3%	75.3%	76.3%	78.1%	80.9%	71.3%
Switzerland	83.7%	88.9%	83.8%	89.4%	82.3%	80.2%
Total	*72.1%*	*80.9%*	*82.6%*	*83.7%*	*86.0%*	*67.5%*

Table 19: Continued

Country	Retention (Wave 8-SCS1)	Retention (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention (SCS2-Wave9)	Retention (Wave 8-9)
Belgium	87.8%	86.7%	92.9%	82.9%
Czech Republic	78.8%	86.6%	89.8%	77.4%
Denmark	75.8%	76.7%	85.6%	71.9%
France	80.7%	86.4%	78.1%	68.4%
Germany	87.8%	73.0%	91.4%	79.5%
Greece	95.8%	95.4%	91.1%	89.1%
Israel	83.7%	90.1%	43.0%	70.1%
Italy	90.9%	89.2%	82.8%	88.3%
Netherlands	78.0%	84.8%	94.4%	72.1%
Poland	88.3%	93.0%	93.5%	87.3%
Spain	82.6%	89.2%	69.2%	78.2%
Sweden	79.8%	66.7%	80.0%	80.0%
Switzerland	89.0%	94.7%	86.1%	79.2%
Total	*85.2%*	*88.4%*	*87.3%*	*80.1%*

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Waves 6 and 7 were conducted in a different mode.
The Swedish sample could not be entirely approached in Wave 3.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 20: Wave-to-wave retention rates of all Wave 4 (2010) samples by country

Country	Retention (Wave 4-5)	Retention (Wave 5-6)	Retention (Wave 6-7)	Retention (Wave 7-8)	Retention (Wave 8-SCS1)
Austria	80.0%	81.6%	80.7%	49.0%	90.9%
Belgium	70.4%	79.4%	81.3%	43.6%	88.1%
Czech Republic	74.4%	84.0%	81.4%	60.0%	79.0%
Denmark	85.6%	84.8%	85.9%	59.9%	80.0%
Estonia	85.5%	84.6%	87.6%	63.0%	93.1%
France	69.6%	73.1%	77.6%	70.8%	75.2%
Hungary			58.5%	48.2%	71.7%
Italy	60.7%	82.2%	86.4%	41.2%	96.3%
Netherlands	76.7%	42.0%	74.5%	56.2%	67.7%
Portugal		80.4%	76.5%		
Slovenia	73.3%	85.4%	85.4%	69.1%	88.7%
Spain	82.5%	84.7%	81.7%	49.4%	84.5%
Switzerland	77.1%	85.7%	82.6%	76.4%	89.4%
Total	*77.4%*	*82.1%*	*82.8%*	*60.7%*	*86.6%*

Table 20: Continued

Country	Retention (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention (SCS2-Wave9)	Retention (Wave 8-9)
Austria	84.8%	82.6%	81.2%
Belgium	89.7%	88.4%	84.6%
Czech Republic	81.1%	89.8%	72.0%
Denmark	73.2%	89.2%	84.5%
Estonia	89.9%	86.3%	84.3%
France	86.6%	88.5%	77.1%
Hungary	85.6%	68.8%	78.6%
Italy	90.1%	90.7%	91.5%
Netherlands	90.5%	93.2%	73.1%
Portugal	92.5%	84.1%	
Slovenia	93.3%	96.1%	87.6%
Spain	89.5%	64.1%	69.9%
Switzerland	89.6%	85.5%	78.5%
Total	*88.4%*	*86.0%*	*80.8%*

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Waves 6 and 7 were conducted in a different mode.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 21: Wave-to-wave retention rates of all Wave 5 (2012) samples by country

Country	Retention (Wave 5-6)	Retention (Wave 6-7)	Retention (Wave 7-8)	Retention (Wave 8-SCS1)	Retention (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention (SCS2-Wave9)	Retention (Wave 8-9)
Belgium	71.0%	78.6%	32.5%	90.0%	85.0%	89.9%	85.0%
Czech Republic	75.6%	81.3%	64.4%	77.3%	80.5%	88.4%	71.5%
Denmark	79.6%	83.3%	64.5%	80.4%	75.2%	85.0%	72.7%
Germany	73.3%	83.2%	75.9%	85.8%	75.8%	89.9%	79.2%
Israel	62.2%	75.6%	30.6%	85.0%	74.5%	26.7%	45.3%
Italy	68.6%	84.5%	43.6%	93.1%	90.3%	85.8%	91.4%
Luxembourg	69.6%	73.4%	68.6%	79.1%	89.8%	81.0%	70.2%
Netherlands	38.4%	72.3%	56.1%	75.9%	90.5%	86.8%	72.8%
Slovenia	80.9%	84.3%	64.5%	92.7%	94.1%	93.8%	89.3%
Spain (Girona)	76.9%	77.6%	35.1%				
Sweden	76.4%	79.1%	71.3%	91.5%	74.8%	86.6%	80.5%
Total	*72.8%*	*80.3%*	*62.9%*	*85.3%*	*82.3%*	*87.1%*	*78.3%*

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Waves 6 and 7 were conducted in a different mode.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 22: Wave-to-wave retention rates of all Wave 6 (2014) samples by country

Country	Retention (Wave 6-7)	Retention (Wave 7-8)	Retention (Wave 8-SCS1)	Retention (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention (SCS2-Wave9)	Retention (Wave 8-9)
Belgium	70.4%	35.6%	85.9%	86.5%	84.6%	80.7%
Croatia	84.6%	53.5%	94.8%	92.2%	91.0%	91.0%
Denmark	81.0%	51.0%	68.8%	70.2%	83.0%	78.3%
Estonia	82.2%	44.7%	91.7%	87.7%	79.8%	87.8%
France	64.9%	58.4%	74.4%	85.7%	84.9%	77.2%
Greece	82.8%	67.7%	91.7%	87.2%	85.2%	82.0%
Italy	62.2%	42.3%	91.3%	86.6%	84.4%	86.8%
Luxembourg	65.1%	69.7%	80.1%	92.3%	77.1%	66.2%
Netherlands	78.5%					
Poland	74.8%	42.0%	90.3%	92.1%	88.8%	82.8%
Slovenia	82.9%	62.2%	91.8%	93.6%	92.4%	87.4%
Total	*78.2%*	*55.4%*	*90.9%*	*89.4%*	*87.2%*	*84.8%*

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Waves 6 and 7 were conducted in a different mode; therefore, the Wave 6 baseline sample was not followed in future waves.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 23: Wave-to-wave retention rates of all Wave 7 (2016) samples by country

Country	Retention (Wave 7-8)	Retention (Wave 8-SCS1)	Retention (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention (SCS2-Wave9)	Retention (Wave 8-9)
Bulgaria	48.2%	87.5%	86.9%	89.9%	79.1%
Croatia	29.8%	94.1%	84.9%	84.5%	89.2%
Cyprus	42.8%	78.4%	77.0%	78.4%	65.8%
Finland	56.7%	89.6%	87.1%	79.9%	70.4%
Israel	22.4%	93.5%	72.6%	29.8%	43.8%
Latvia	45.3%	92.9%	95.3%	90.3%	87.7%
Lithuania	71.4%	82.9%	96.4%	92.5%	86.4%
Malta	63.4%	87.3%	86.4%	89.4%	80.8%
Poland	41.6%	86.4%	92.3%	89.9%	84.5%
Romania	63.5%	97.2%	96.6%	96.0%	89.9%
Slovakia	49.2%	88.1%	92.2%	96.5%	90.2%
Total	*54.6%*	*88.6%*	*91.0%*	*89.8%*	*83.3%*

Note: Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 24: Wave-to-wave retention rates of all Wave 8 (2019) samples by country

Country	Retention (Wave 8-9)
Austria	48.6%
Belgium	66.4%
Croatia	84.6%
Czech Republic	56.6%
Denmark	60.3%
Estonia	77.9%
France	58.5%
Germany	60.6%
Hungary	74.3%
Israel	38.2%
Latvia	82.5%
Poland	77.0%
Slovenia	74.4%
Sweden	65.4%
Switzerland	61.7%
Total	*69.8%*

Note: Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

5.2 Wave-to-wave retention including recovery of former respondents

In addition to the previous subsection, the following tables show the wave-to-wave participatory behavior of respondents irrespectively of their former participation patterns. Respondents who missed one or more wave(s) are hence included here, which explains why some rates are higher than 100 percent. Again, it can be seen that the wave-to-wave retention increases remarkably over time in nearly all countries resulting in a very high overall panel stability after several waves. It can also be seen, that considerably lower retention rates during the pandemic where followed by very high rates in Wave 9, pointing to mainly temporary dropout and successful recovery (see also Bergmann et al., 2022). In this respect, it should be noted that the transition to the first SHARE Corona Survey was based on Wave 7, due to the suspension of fieldwork and the high proportion of interviews that were not completed by the time the pandemic broke out during Wave 8. Interestingly, the Netherlands shows a very high response rate in the first SHARE Corona Survey, suggesting that many respondents who did not participate online returned when another mode was introduced (see, for example, the second column in Table 25 continued). Furthermore, the significant variation between countries regarding the transition between Waves 8 and 9 can be partially explained by differences in the status of fieldwork when face-to-face interviews had to be stopped due to the pandemic (catch-up effects). In addition, the same considerations as in Subsection 5.1 apply with respect to comparisons between countries. To account for these differences between countries and samples we also calculated annualized retention rates, which consider gaps and the biennial interval between waves in SHARE. With values ranging from 85 to 95 percent, the annualized retention rates demonstrate the continued high level of sample stability in SHARE.

Table 25: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery of all Wave 1 (2004) samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 1-2)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 2-3)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 3-4)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 4-5)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 5-6)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 6-7)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-8)
Austria	74.3%	81.9%	84.1%	102.6%	97.2%	91.0%	54.1%
Belgium	76.3%	91.5%	86.1%	94.3%	93.7%	93.6%	47.9%
Denmark	77.0%	88.0%	94.8%	103.7%	98.8%	93.3%	71.8%
France	67.0%	89.8%	95.4%	89.3%	83.1%	92.4%	82.5%
Germany	55.1%	81.3%	86.8%	74.4%	91.1%	90.5%	77.3%
Greece	86.3%	95.2%			85.8%	105.2%	65.8%
Israel	75.6%			91.1%	85.3%	107.1%	54.8%
Italy	71.5%	92.6%	89.0%	103.9%	101.5%	98.5%	61.4%
Netherlands	62.3%	90.8%	90.1%	94.5%	56.9%	94.7%	100.7%
Spain	68.5%	96.9%	90.6%	108.1%	101.1%	93.1%	58.8%
Sweden	70.6%	81.6%	96.4%	108.4%	102.0%	85.7%	77.3%
Switzerland	74.6%	87.9%	89.5%	86.8%	98.2%	91.9%	84.1%
Total	*71.9%*	*89.8%*	*90.5%*	*97.3%*	*92.0%*	*95.9%*	*69.7%*

Table 25: Continued

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-SCS1)	Retention plus recovery (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention plus recovery (SCS2-Wave 9)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 8-9)	Retention plus recovery (annualized)
Austria	109.1%	88.8%	106.5%	158.3%	92.8%
Belgium	87.1%	93.3%	102.9%	165.3%	91.4%
Denmark	84.3%	80.0%	144.8%	96.2%	95.4%
France	79.5%	92.5%	110.9%	81.6%	92.9%
Germany	75.3%	67.2%	143.8%	93.0%	89.4%
Greece	85.3%	91.3%	94.3%	119.3%	94.5%
Israel	89.4%	86.9%	46.4%	60.5%	89.1%
Italy	93.1%	93.0%	113.6%	141.3%	94.6%
Netherlands	175.4%	93.1%	106.0%	108.5%	95.7%
Spain	92.6%	90.7%	94.5%	121.7%	93.3%
Sweden	65.5%	39.1%	129.2%	104.3%	89.5%
Switzerland	82.4%	87.8%	97.2%	84.4%	93.0%
Total	*90.2%*	*87.4%*	*107.8%*	*118.8%*	*92.6%*

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Waves 6 and 7 were conducted in a different mode.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 26: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery of all Wave 2 (2006) samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 2-3)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 3-4)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 4-5)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 5-6)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 6-7)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-8)
Belgium	76.8%	75.7%	92.9%	97.9%	85.2%	37.2%
Czech Republic	65.8%	77.6%	94.6%	96.0%	96.4%	79.8%
Denmark	78.4%	86.4%	107.3%	91.6%	94.4%	71.4%
France	70.7%	87.1%	79.8%	84.6%	95.5%	72.7%
Germany	58.4%	86.0%	75.2%	92.1%	88.6%	85.1%
Greece	86.8%			79.0%	98.1%	80.3%
Ireland	69.2%					
Israel			78.3%	104.0%	85.3%	47.0%
Italy	72.0%	84.7%	95.1%	103.0%	90.7%	47.3%
Netherlands	65.4%	88.3%	94.3%	61.9%	89.4%	91.6%
Poland	73.5%	95.6%		94.7%	92.1%	59.7%
Spain	74.5%	87.0%	105.8%	97.8%	92.4%	54.2%
Sweden	39.8%	107.2%	97.4%	96.4%	86.8%	77.8%
Switzerland	83.7%	91.2%	84.0%	95.7%	85.8%	85.6%
Total	*72.0%*	*88.1%*	*93.0%*	*92.5%*	*92.4%*	*72.7%*

Table 26: Continued

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-SCS1)	Retention plus recovery (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention plus recovery (SCS2-Wave 9)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 8-9)	Retention plus recovery (annualized)
Belgium	87.4%	86.7%	118.6%	202.4%	88.8%
Czech Republic	68.7%	90.4%	121.2%	89.4%	92.1%
Denmark	79.0%	81.4%	135.2%	96.6%	94.3%
France	81.8%	88.9%	97.7%	82.0%	90.6%
Germany	76.4%	73.0%	133.1%	89.7%	90.3%
Greece	88.7%	96.3%	95.9%	104.0%	95.0%
Ireland					83.2%
Israel	95.3%	92.1%	56.3%	87.4%	89.2%
Italy	102.3%	91.2%	109.0%	182.9%	91.9%
Netherlands	124.6%	76.3%	107.6%	112.8%	92.4%
Poland	84.5%	95.3%	128.9%	147.3%	94.1%
Spain	89.4%	91.6%	97.3%	129.1%	92.1%
Sweden	59.4%	36.8%	120.3%	99.5%	84.8%
Switzerland	82.8%	96.9%	90.0%	87.4%	93.2%
Total	*83.9%*	*90.0%*	*115.2%*	*117.4%*	*92.1%*

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Waves 6 and 7 were conducted in a different mode.
The Swedish sample could not be entirely approached in Wave 3 but only in Wave 4.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 27: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery of all Wave 4 (2010) samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 4-5)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 5-6)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 6-7)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-8)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-SCS1)
Austria	80.0%	88.2%	87.2%	52.6%	107.2%
Belgium	70.4%	89.9%	89.1%	45.7%	95.1%
Czech Republic	74.4%	93.7%	91.0%	65.5%	67.5%
Denmark	85.6%	86.1%	92.1%	62.1%	79.6%
Estonia	85.5%	92.4%	98.4%	67.1%	98.4%
France	69.6%	80.5%	88.7%	78.6%	75.6%
Hungary			58.5%	57.5%	111.8%
Italy	60.7%	95.3%	100.1%	43.0%	106.6%
Netherlands	76.7%	46.6%	97.3%	103.0%	221.1%
Portugal		80.4%	81.2%		124.9%
Slovenia	73.3%	98.6%	92.3%	74.3%	94.4%
Spain	82.5%	93.2%	90.5%	54.1%	95.2%
Switzerland	77.1%	92.1%	87.5%	81.3%	79.6%
Total	*77.3%*	*89.9%*	*89.2%*	*66.7%*	*96.7%*

Table 27: Continued

Country	Retention plus recovery (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention plus recovery (SCS2-Wave 9)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 8-9)	Retention plus recovery (annualized)
Austria	86.0%	108.1%	159.1%	91.0%
Belgium	91.5%	108.0%	175.8%	88.9%
Czech Republic	83.4%	126.1%	100.9%	90.3%
Denmark	77.4%	146.4%	125.3%	92.2%
Estonia	91.0%	102.0%	131.4%	94.0%
France	88.7%	125.5%	91.8%	91.1%
Hungary	87.3%	143.0%	158.3%	93.9%
Italy	90.9%	115.4%	217.9%	89.9%
Netherlands	118.4%	108.2%	113.6%	100.1%
Portugal	95.5%	104.9%		98.3%
Slovenia	94.7%	111.8%	124.6%	94.3%
Spain	91.2%	94.2%	132.1%	90.7%
Switzerland	90.7%	95.2%	87.4%	91.6%
Total	*90.2%*	*111.6%*	*125.1%*	*92.4%*

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Waves 6 and 7 were conducted in a different mode.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 28: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery of all Wave 5 (2012) samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 5-6)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 6-7)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-8)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-SCS1)	Retention plus recovery (SCS1-SCS2)
Belgium	71.0%	87.2%	33.7%	102.7%	86.3%
Czech Republic	75.6%	88.9%	69.9%	71.4%	81.9%
Denmark	79.6%	88.3%	69.0%	85.3%	79.9%
Germany	73.3%	87.6%	78.0%	77.6%	76.6%
Israel	62.2%	96.6%	36.4%	103.7%	76.3%
Italy	68.6%	97.1%	45.2%	109.7%	91.6%
Luxembourg	69.6%	81.6%	75.4%	77.0%	91.2%
Netherlands	38.4%	95.5%	103.7%	166.0%	101.6%
Slovenia	80.9%	88.2%	69.4%	107.5%	94.5%
Spain (Girona)	76.9%	89.7%	38.7%		
Sweden	76.4%	84.4%	79.0%	75.4%	52.6%
Total	*72.8%*	*88.7%*	*70.5%*	*90.0%*	*81.9%*

Table 28: Continued

Country	Retention plus recovery (SCS2-Wave 9)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 8-9)	Retention plus recovery (annualized)
Belgium	113.0%	230.7%	85.5%
Czech Republic	131.3%	102.0%	90.3%
Denmark	134.7%	101.7%	92.2%
Germany	126.3%	91.7%	90.7%
Israel	37.1%	60.9%	76.0%
Italy	114.8%	201.2%	90.0%
Luxembourg	94.1%	84.0%	88.1%
Netherlands	107.4%	105.3%	96.4%
Slovenia	108.2%	138.2%	94.1%
Spain (Girona)			84.8%
Sweden	116.8%	104.9%	86.6%
Total	*117.5%*	*122.4%*	*89.6%*

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Waves 6 and 7 were conducted in a different mode.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 29: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery of all Wave 6 (2014) samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 6-7)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-8)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-SCS1)	Retention plus recovery (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention plus recovery (SCS2-Wave 9)
Belgium	70.4%	37.4%	110.2%	89.3%	107.6%
Croatia	84.6%	56.4%	97.2%	93.5%	102.6%
Denmark	81.0%	53.9%	69.8%	72.8%	158.0%
Estonia	82.2%	46.2%	102.4%	88.0%	88.3%
France	64.9%	62.6%	78.4%	87.4%	132.1%
Greece	82.8%	70.5%	83.8%	88.2%	96.0%
Italy	62.2%	45.0%	98.0%	87.7%	117.0%
Luxembourg	65.1%	76.7%	81.1%	94.4%	87.2%
Netherlands	78.5%				
Poland	74.8%	43.3%	93.1%	94.7%	110.3%
Slovenia	82.9%	66.0%	98.2%	95.0%	107.6%
Total	*78.2%*	*60.8%*	*93.8%*	*90.7%*	*104.2%*

Table 29: Continued

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 8-9)	Retention plus recovery (annualized)
Belgium	206.8%	85.3%
Croatia	157.2%	90.4%
Denmark	120.9%	87.7%
Estonia	172.4%	86.1%
France	102.9%	88.2%
Greece	102.2%	89.6%
Italy	181.5%	85.4%
Luxembourg	83.3%	87.2%
Netherlands		88.6%
Poland	184.4%	86.6%
Slovenia	133.9%	92.8%
Total	*144.7%*	*88.8%*

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Waves 6 and 7 were conducted in a different mode; therefore, the Wave 6 baseline sample was not fielded in future waves.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 30: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery of all Wave 7 (2016) samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-8)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-SCS1)	Retention plus recovery (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention plus recovery (SCS2-Wave 9)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 8-9)	Retention plus recovery (annualized)
Bulgaria	48.2%	50.4%	88.7%	127.7%	99.2%	80.6%
Croatia	29.8%	87.1%	85.6%	101.3%	236.3%	78.0%
Cyprus	42.8%	72.2%	80.7%	108.7%	132.0%	80.5%
Finland	56.7%	73.1%	88.2%	85.0%	95.7%	82.3%
Israel	22.4%	58.5%	74.2%	31.9%	46.9%	56.0%
Latvia	45.3%	63.9%	96.3%	101.1%	124.0%	81.0%
Lithuania	71.4%	70.0%	98.0%	114.5%	100.3%	90.8%
Malta	63.4%	75.8%	89.1%	112.8%	110.5%	88.6%
Poland	41.6%	70.7%	94.4%	121.4%	172.3%	83.4%
Romania	63.5%	83.4%	97.8%	107.6%	123.2%	90.7%
Slovakia	49.2%	47.9%	96.2%	114.4%	105.5%	79.8%
Total	*54.6%*	*69.4%*	*92.9%*	*110.7%*	*125.4%*	*84.3%*

Note: Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 31: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery of all Wave 8 (2019) samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 8-9)	Retention plus recovery (annualized)
Austria	48.6%	78.6%
Belgium	66.4%	87.2%
Croatia	84.6%	94.6%
Czech Republic	56.6%	82.7%
Denmark	60.3%	84.5%
Estonia	77.9%	92.0%
France	58.5%	83.6%
Germany	60.6%	84.6%
Hungary	74.3%	90.6%
Israel	38.2%	72.5%
Latvia	82.5%	93.8%
Poland	77.0%	91.6%
Slovenia	74.4%	90.6%
Sweden	65.4%	86.8%
Switzerland	61.7%	85.1%
Total	*69.6%*	*87.7%*

Note: Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

5.3 Wave-to-wave retention including recovery of former respondents and new/missing partners

SHARE explores not only the original samples in each participating country from the first wave on, but also household members that enter the survey at later points in time, for example, when eligible persons move into SHARE households or partners do not participate from the beginning. The following tables in this subsection hence present the wave-to-wave participatory behavior of respondents including recovery as well as new/missing partners and thus provide

additional information about the sample size development in SHARE. Again, retention stabilizes after few waves at a high level, indicating that the survey succeeds in keeping respondents participating over a remarkable long time despite their, on average, advanced age. Further, the same restrictions as in Subsection 5.1 should be considered when comparing rates across countries.

Table 32: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery and new/missing partners of all Wave 1 (2004) samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 1-2)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 2-3)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 3-4)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 4-5)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 5-6)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 6-7)
Austria	78.9%	87.4%	85.6%	103.9%	97.9%	91.6%
Belgium	78.7%	93.2%	86.6%	94.8%	94.1%	93.8%
Denmark	80.1%	88.9%	95.7%	103.9%	99.4%	93.3%
France	68.7%	91.5%	96.4%	90.0%	83.7%	92.5%
Germany	59.4%	83.1%	87.3%	75.2%	91.6%	91.1%
Greece	87.2%	97.7%			86.2%	105.6%
Israel	89.9%			94.5%	86.5%	107.6%
Italy	80.0%	94.9%	89.9%	107.1%	103.1%	98.8%
Netherlands	66.4%	93.6%	92.3%	95.3%	57.4%	95.6%
Spain	90.2%	103.7%	92.6%	109.8%	102.0%	93.2%
Sweden	76.3%	83.9%	98.8%	110.5%	103.2%	86.0%
Switzerland	79.0%	89.8%	91.0%	87.5%	98.6%	92.4%
Total	*78.2%*	*92.5%*	*91.8%*	*98.8%*	*92.8%*	*96.2%*

Table 32: Continued

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-8)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-SCS1)	Retention plus recovery (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention plus recovery (SCS2-Wave9)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 8-9)
Austria	54.5%	109.9%	89.0%	106.7%	158.6%
Belgium	48.0%	87.4%	93.5%	103.2%	165.8%
Denmark	72.1%	84.3%	80.0%	144.8%	96.2%
France	82.8%	79.9%	92.5%	111.2%	81.9%
Germany	77.3%	75.8%	67.2%	144.1%	93.2%
Greece	65.8%	85.6%	91.7%	94.5%	119.5%
Israel	55.2%	90.5%	87.2%	46.4%	60.5%
Italy	61.6%	93.7%	93.1%	114.1%	141.8%
Netherlands	101.5%	177.0%	93.1%	106.8%	109.4%
Spain	59.0%	92.9%	90.7%	95.3%	122.7%
Sweden	77.7%	66.0%	39.2%	129.9%	104.9%
Switzerland	84.6%	83.1%	88.1%	97.9%	85.0%
Total	*70.0%*	*90.7%*	*87.5%*	*108.2%*	*119.2%*

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Waves 6 and 7 were conducted in a different mode.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 33: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery and new/missing partners of all Wave 2 (2006) samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 2-3)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 3-4)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 4-5)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 5-6)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 6-7)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-8)
Belgium	79.0%	78.2%	94.2%	97.9%	85.2%	37.2%
Czech Republic	68.8%	79.6%	95.1%	96.6%	96.7%	79.9%
Denmark	81.0%	88.0%	108.5%	92.4%	94.6%	71.7%
France	77.9%	89.9%	81.6%	86.3%	95.7%	72.7%
Germany	61.1%	87.2%	78.7%	94.1%	88.9%	85.1%
Greece	87.4%			79.3%	98.4%	80.5%
Ireland	86.1%					
Israel			80.8%	104.6%	85.3%	47.5%
Italy	73.8%	85.7%	98.8%	103.6%	90.7%	47.7%
Netherlands	71.2%	90.8%	98.1%	63.5%	93.0%	92.7%
Poland	82.4%	97.9%		95.6%	92.4%	59.8%
Spain	80.0%	88.0%	108.4%	97.8%	93.2%	54.2%
Sweden	43.9%	115.7%	104.1%	98.2%	87.8%	78.5%
Switzerland	90.5%	94.3%	84.7%	96.5%	86.9%	86.7%
Total	*77.7%*	*90.4%*	*95.2%*	*93.4%*	*92.9%*	*73.0%*

Table 33: Continued

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-SCS1)	Retention plus recovery (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention plus recovery (SCS2-Wave9)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 8-9)
Belgium	87.4%	86.7%	118.6%	202.4%
Czech Republic	68.7%	90.5%	121.6%	89.7%
Denmark	79.1%	81.7%	135.8%	97.1%
France	82.1%	89.3%	98.1%	82.4%
Germany	76.4%	73.0%	133.1%	89.7%
Greece	88.7%	96.3%	95.9%	104.0%
Ireland				
Israel	95.3%	92.1%	56.3%	87.4%
Italy	104.6%	91.8%	110.5%	185.4%
Netherlands	127.7%	78.5%	108.4%	113.7%
Poland	84.5%	95.3%	129.1%	147.6%
Spain	89.4%	91.6%	97.9%	130.0%
Sweden	59.4%	36.8%	120.3%	99.5%
Switzerland	84.9%	97.2%	91.9%	89.3%
Total	*84.4%*	*90.2%*	*115.8%*	*118.0%*

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Waves 6 and 7 were conducted in a different mode.
The Swedish sample could not be entirely approached in Wave 3 but only in Wave 4.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 34: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery and new/missing partners of all Wave 4 (2010) samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 4-5)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 5-6)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 6-7)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-8)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-SCS1)
Austria	83.6%	89.4%	88.0%	52.8%	108.4%
Belgium	72.9%	91.4%	90.4%	46.0%	96.1%
Czech Republic	78.1%	95.4%	92.5%	66.0%	67.6%
Denmark	89.0%	87.9%	93.5%	62.1%	80.3%
Estonia	88.6%	93.2%	98.8%	67.3%	98.7%
France	74.2%	82.6%	89.4%	78.7%	75.8%
Hungary			59.9%	58.3%	113.9%
Italy	65.5%	98.8%	101.2%	43.3%	107.7%
Netherlands	81.1%	48.5%	100.7%	105.7%	226.3%
Portugal		88.9%	81.8%		125.4%
Slovenia	82.3%	105.6%	94.4%	75.3%	96.1%
Spain	86.0%	94.0%	91.0%	54.3%	96.0%
Switzerland	80.5%	93.8%	88.3%	82.0%	81.2%
Total	*81.3%*	*92.5%*	*90.2%*	*67.1%*	*97.6%*

Table 34: Continued

Country	Retention plus recovery (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention plus recovery (SCS2-Wave9)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 8-9)
Austria	86.3%	108.7%	160.0%
Belgium	92.1%	109.1%	177.6%
Czech Republic	83.5%	126.4%	101.2%
Denmark	78.3%	147.0%	125.8%
Estonia	91.1%	102.4%	131.9%
France	88.9%	126.1%	92.2%
Hungary	87.8%	148.3%	164.1%
Italy	91.4%	115.9%	218.8%
Netherlands	119.4%	110.8%	116.3%
Portugal	95.6%	105.3%	
Slovenia	94.9%	113.9%	126.9%
Spain	91.3%	94.5%	132.5%
Switzerland	90.7%	96.5%	88.6%
Total	*90.4%*	*112.7%*	*126.3%*

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Waves 6 and 7 were conducted in a different mode.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 35: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery and new/missing partners of all Wave 5 (2012) samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 5-6)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 6-7)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-8)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-SCS1)	Retention plus recovery (SCS1-SCS2)
Belgium	74.7%	88.5%	34.0%	103.7%	86.8%
Czech Republic	79.0%	89.8%	70.4%	71.4%	81.9%
Denmark	81.4%	89.5%	69.8%	85.8%	80.7%
Germany	74.8%	89.1%	78.3%	78.1%	76.8%
Israel	65.5%	100.6%	37.3%	105.6%	77.0%
Italy	71.4%	98.4%	45.5%	111.7%	91.8%
Luxembourg	72.7%	86.7%	77.1%	80.0%	91.5%
Netherlands	41.2%	100.7%	108.5%	167.9%	103.7%
Slovenia	92.1%	91.2%	70.9%	110.1%	94.7%
Spain (Girona)	81.8%	90.6%	38.9%		
Sweden	80.0%	85.3%	80.1%	76.2%	52.8%
Total	*76.2%*	*90.5%*	*71.5%*	*91.3%*	*82.3%*

Table 35: Continued

Country	Retention plus recovery (SCS2-Wave9)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 8-9)
Belgium	114.8%	234.5%
Czech Republic	131.5%	102.2%
Denmark	135.6%	102.4%
Germany	127.3%	92.3%
Israel	37.1%	60.9%
Italy	116.2%	203.7%
Luxembourg	96.8%	86.4%
Netherlands	111.3%	109.1%
Slovenia	110.4%	141.0%
Spain (Girona)		
Sweden	118.2%	106.2%
Total	*119.0%*	*124.2%*

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Waves 6 and 7 were conducted in a different mode.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 36: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery and new/missing partners of all Wave 6 (2014) samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 6-7)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-8)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-SCS1)	Retention plus recovery (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention plus recovery (SCS2-Wave9)
Belgium	73.1%	37.5%	113.2%	90.3%	110.8%
Croatia	86.7%	56.7%	98.4%	93.7%	104.0%
Denmark	83.1%	55.8%	71.6%	77.2%	163.6%
Estonia	86.2%	46.5%	105.0%	88.9%	90.5%
France	68.0%	64.0%	80.4%	89.9%	137.7%
Greece	86.0%	71.9%	85.8%	88.4%	97.3%
Italy	66.1%	45.5%	102.1%	87.9%	120.8%
Luxembourg	69.7%	81.2%	86.5%	94.8%	90.4%
Netherlands	83.7%				
Poland	81.1%	44.4%	93.9%	94.7%	111.7%
Slovenia	88.1%	67.6%	101.3%	95.6%	110.8%
Total	*82.0%*	*62.0%*	*96.1%*	*91.2%*	*106.5%*

Table 36: Continued

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 8-9)
Belgium	212.9%
Croatia	159.3%
Denmark	125.2%
Estonia	176.8%
France	107.4%
Greece	103.6%
Italy	187.4%
Luxembourg	86.4%
Netherlands	
Poland	186.7%
Slovenia	137.9%
Total	*148.0%*

Note: The interviews in the Netherlands in Waves 6 and 7 were conducted in a different mode; therefore, the Wave 6 baseline sample was not fielded in future waves.
Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 37: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery and new/missing partners of all Wave 7 (2016) samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-8)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 7-SCS1)	Retention plus recovery (SCS1-SCS2)	Retention plus recovery (SCS2-Wave9)	Retention plus recovery (Wave 8-9)
Bulgaria	49.1%	50.5%	88.9%	128.4%	99.8%
Croatia	30.9%	93.8%	85.6%	108.0%	252.0%
Cyprus	45.9%	76.6%	82.3%	117.9%	143.1%
Finland	58.5%	77.2%	89.1%	88.3%	99.5%
Israel	23.0%	62.3%	75.8%	31.9%	46.9%
Latvia	47.8%	65.5%	96.8%	104.0%	127.5%
Lithuania	75.2%	72.1%	98.5%	117.6%	103.0%
Malta	66.5%	77.0%	89.5%	114.7%	112.4%
Poland	43.4%	72.5%	96.2%	125.9%	178.7%
Romania	65.5%	85.6%	97.9%	110.5%	126.4%
Slovakia	50.2%	48.0%	96.4%	115.2%	106.2%
Total	*56.8%*	*71.6%*	*93.6%*	*114.0%*	*129.5%*

Note: Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

Table 38: Wave-to-wave retention rates incl. recovery and new/missing partners of all Wave 8 (2019) samples by country

Country	Retention plus recovery (Wave 8-9)
Austria	56.3%
Belgium	69.8%
Croatia	88.1%
Czech Republic	58.2%
Denmark	65.8%
Estonia	82.6%
France	60.4%
Germany	64.5%
Hungary	79.1%
Israel	41.7%
Latvia	84.9%
Poland	79.4%
Slovenia	79.8%
Sweden	69.8%
Switzerland	67.6%
Total	*72.1%*

Note: Total response rates are calculated by taking into account the total number of interviews in each country.

5.4 End-of-life interviews by the respondents' partner or a close relative

SHARE requests interviewers to confirm the death of a respondent by a proxy respondent. In case of decease, interviewers try to conduct an end-of-life interview, which mainly contains information on the circumstances of death like time and cause of death (including Covid-19 since the outbreak of the pandemic). Proxy respondents can be a family member, a household member, a neighbor or any other person of the closer social network of the deceased respondents. Table 39 shows the number of end-of-life interviews that have been conducted in each country so far as well as the percentage of end-of-life interviews that could be realized from all deceased persons, whose death is validated by a proxy-respondent. Overall, end-of-life interviews could be realized for about three out of four deceased panel participants. However, due to the lack of a national mortality register (or other frequently updated administrative records) in most European countries, we cannot ascertain the vital status of non-respondents who drop out of the SHARE sample because they do not consent to be re-interviewed or – despite all efforts of our interviewers – cannot successfully be re-contacted. We are trying to convince national statistical offices to generate data that are more accurate, but this is a long-term process. Until data from mortality registers or similar records are available, SHARE has to classify the vital status of non-respondents without any further information from a proxy as "unknown". As a consequence, the number of cases with unknown vital status is larger in SHARE than in other studies, where a central mortality register is available, such as the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) or the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey.

Table 39: End-of-life interviews in Waves 1-9 by country

Country	Number of end-of-life interviews	Percentage of end-of-life interviews from validated deceased persons
Austria	1040	72.8%
Belgium	1235	65.0%
Bulgaria	180	70.3%
Croatia	459	80.1%
Cyprus	82	68.9%
Czech Republic	1544	78.1%
Denmark	1005	72.0%
Estonia	1959	81.2%
Finland	55	56.7%
France	977	56.2%
Germany	699	49.5%
Greece	1299	87.0%
Hungary	708	76.4%
Ireland	36	54.5%
Israel	896	88.0%
Italy	1431	78.7%
Latvia	152	75.6%
Lithuania	204	73.9%
Luxembourg	104	51.2%
Malta	81	80.2%
Netherlands	563	38.6%
Poland	1218	71.9%
Portugal	368	68.9%
Romania	319	83.9%
Slovakia	66	89.2%
Slovenia	895	73.7%
Spain	1915	77.8%
Sweden	1268	73.7%
Switzerland	496	70.7%
Total	*21254*	*73.6%*

Note: Average percentage of end-of-life interviews from validated deceased persons takes into account the number of conducted end-of-life interviews in each country sample.

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Appendix

Table 40: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 1 by classification of sample units (absolute numbers)

Country	Gross Sample	Eligible households	Ineligible households	Households with unknown eligibility
Austria[a]	6425	2250	3234	941
Belgium[a]	7638	6002	645	991
Denmark	1932	1750	72	110
France[a]	5850	2105	2320	1425
Germany	3779	3423	322	34
Greece[a]	5720	2883	2070	767
Israel	3269	2586	671	12
Italy	3699	3208	328	163
Netherlands	3545	3174	348	23
Spain	3605	3302	244	59
Sweden	4125	3963	150	12
Switzerland[a]	4117	1604	1915	598
Total	*53704*	*36250*	*12319*	*5135*

Note: [a] Screening country.

Table 41: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 2 by classification of sample units (absolute numbers)

Country	Gross Sample	Eligible households	Ineligible households	Households with unknown eligibility
Belgium[a]	463	451	12	0
Czech Republic[a]	6147	2606	1545	1996
Denmark	1343	1319	24	0
France[a]	1996	666	797	533
Germany	1301	1259	42	0
Greece[a]	1696	962	623	111
Israel	348	345	0	3
Italy	1323	1253	70	0
Netherlands	1173	1127	46	0
Poland	3350	3207	143	0
Spain	506	479	24	3
Sweden	1198	1166	32	0
Switzerland[a]	4533	831	3369	333
Total	*25377*	*15671*	*6727*	*2979*

Note: [a] Screening country.

Table 42: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 4 by classification of sample units (absolute numbers)

Country	Gross Sample	Eligible households	Ineligible households	Households with unknown eligibility
Austria[a]	8156	3175	51	4930
Belgium	5591	4962	393	236
Czech Republic[a]	12464	4963	4446	3055
Denmark	563	539	24	0
Estonia	8388	7416	751	221
France[a]	5500	3999	774	727
Hungary	4202	3333	494	375
Italy	2499	2259	239	1
Netherlands	1395	1302	56	37
Portugal[a]	4013	2165	611	1237
Slovenia	4045	3799	201	45
Spain	2124	1770	349	5
Switzerland	3749	3302	445	2
Total	*62689*	*42984*	*8834*	*10871*

Note: [a] Screening country.

Table 43: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 5 by classification of sample units (absolute numbers)

Country	Gross Sample	Eligible households	Ineligible households	Households with unknown eligibility
Belgium	3202	2689	292	221
Czech Republic[a]	2990	1450	1147	393
Denmark	2255	2183	71	1
Germany	9635	8666	760	209
Israel	701	522	17	162
Italy	3096	2627	468	1
Luxembourg	4200	3716	470	14
Netherlands	2697	2481	173	43
Slovenia	1500	1272	73	155
Spain	4017	3331	587	99
Sweden	4995	4597	391	7
Total	*39288*	*33534*	*4449*	*1305*

Note: [a] Screening country.

Table 44: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 6 by classification of sample units (absolute numbers)

Country	Gross Sample	Eligible households	Ineligible households	Households with unknown eligibility
Belgium	2009	1722	226	61
Croatia	4990	3631	437	922
Denmark	302	290	12	0
Estonia	875	772	96	7
France[a]	845	468	148	229
Greece[a]	3991	2577	1080	334
Italy	2096	1873	220	3
Luxembourg	1207	1072	134	1
Netherlands	2801	2792	9	0
Poland	562	475	71	16
Slovenia	2159	2025	109	25
Total	*21837*	*17697*	*2542*	*1598*

Note: [a] Screening country.

Table 45: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 7 by classification of sample units (absolute numbers)

Country	Gross Sample	Eligible households	Ineligible households	Households with unknown eligibility
Bulgaria[a]	2998	1598	589	811
Croatia	862	664	175	23
Cyprus[a]	2497	1496	656	345
Finland	2400	2324	76	0
Israel	272	212	55	5
Latvia[a]	2931	1569	610	752
Lithuania[a]	7995	2136	4819	1040
Malta	2488	1716	764	8
Poland	5751	5167	565	19
Romania[a]	3797	2092	903	802
Slovakia[a]	5648	2790	2062	796
Total	*37639*	*21764*	*11274*	*4601*

Note: [a] Screening country.

Table 46: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 8 by classification of sample units (absolute numbers)

Country	Gross Sample	Eligible households	Ineligible households	Households with unknown eligibility
Austria[a]	5245	4062	220	963
Belgium	3301	1195	31	2075
Croatia	7499	5305	352	1842
Czech Republic[a]	4800	515	445	3840
Denmark	622	488	12	122
Estonia	1154	664	32	458
France[a]	2448	1030	158	1260
Germany	7916	5730	271	1915
Hungary	1522	888	111	523
Israel[a]	650	407	1	242
Latvia[a]	1424	889	86	449
Poland	3298	2001	108	1189
Slovenia	3060	1401	75	1584
Sweden	900	844	24	32
Switzerland	637	575	44	18
Total	*44476*	*25994*	*1970*	*16512*

Note: [a] Screening country.

Table 47: Baseline/refreshment samples in Wave 9 by classification of sample units (absolute numbers)

Country	Gross Sample	Eligible households	Ineligible households	Households with unknown eligibility
Austria[a]	4189	2988	269	932
Belgium	2749	2097	307	345
Croatia	6075	3479	1459	1137
Czech Republic[a]	5441	1079	683	3679
Denmark	267	252	5	10
Estonia	708	653	46	9
Finland	2100	1871	126	103
France[a]	2388	1146	211	1031
Germany	6518	5254	938	326
Hungary	872	728	133	11
Israel[a]	256	24	0	232
Latvia[a]	1234	339	179	716
Poland	2739	2223	512	4
Portugal	1031	888	143	0
Slovenia	2220	1848	370	2
Spain	2499	1785	483	231
Sweden	324	294	24	6
Switzerland	373	294	57	22
Total	*41983*	*27242*	*5945*	*8796*

Note: [a] Screening country.

Table 48: Sample size development in SHARE

Country	Sampling wave	Released main interviews											Released end-of-life interviews									
		W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	W8	SCS 1	SCS 2	W9	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	W8	SCS 1	SCS 2	W9
Austria	1	1558	1193	993	805	756	690	582	290	498	431	414	36	50	45	80	50	50	27	11	8	46
Austria	4				4328	3523	2633	2593	1279	2244	1882	1892				94	106	128	90	28	33	154
Austria	8								387			214										4
Austria	9											885										
Belgium	1	3810	2960	2659	2218	2005	1784	1571	701	1254	1126	1119	40	99	86	97	102	102	53	51	35	43
Belgium	2		267	206	156	142	135	113	41	84	70	79		5	5	5	4	2	1	6	2	4
Belgium	4				2948	2099	1818	1581	695	1274	1131	1189				50	101	62	32	30	21	45
Belgium	5					1388	1017	873	287	690	586	651					20	27	10	14	8	22
Belgium	6						1059	762	280	617	538	579						12	6	7	3	17
Belgium	8								268			181										6
Belgium	9											699										
Bulgaria	7							1998	907	879	705	831							75	13	18	74
Croatia	6						2495	2062	1092	1854	1673	1660						101	78	59	53	80
Croatia	7							346	102	295	238	235							5	10	11	22
Croatia	8								842			702										40
Croatia	9											2090										
Cyprus	7							1233	538	842	653	736							28	8	12	34
Czech Republic	2		2728	1809	1359	1193	1068	972	717	632	529	580		67	81	99	85	61	60	3	17	63
Czech Republic	4				4154	3119	2787	2406	1451	1526	1161	1341				124	190	173	136	13	23	127
Czech Republic	5					1312	987	827	543	554	422	495					49	59	39	2	3	60
Czech Republic	8								325			179										10
Czech Republic	9											724										
Denmark	1	1706	1316	1105	983	934	831	717	497	424	330	439	50	65	74	87	97	58	20	23	1	39
Denmark	2		1313	1038	866	895	780	697	477	428	341	437		26	47	45	47	41	23	16	2	26
Denmark	4				437	388	340	314	194	219	166	243				1	1	4	1	1		1
Denmark	5					1928	1533	1311	885	857	668	865					36	61	30	35	3	41
Denmark	6						248	206	115	114	88	143								2		1
Denmark	8								199			131										
Denmark	9											90										
Estonia	4				6863	5751	4992	4565	2774	4111	3573	3370				331	368	369	299	160	125	288
Estonia	6						646	550	254	564	496	444						7	2	1	1	5
Estonia	8								380			311										3
Estonia	9											361										
Finland	7							2007	1164	1502	1311	1143							10	15	15	15
Finland	9											615										
France	1	3122	2087	1817	1666	1422	1138	979	761	627	560	602	59	92	85	78	52	74	50	5	10	21
France	2		903	683	598	474	398	366	256	248	215	208		20	16	14	11	15	10		2	3
France	4				3586	2609	2095	1772	1329	1139	972	1180				52	60	101	66	2	24	46
France	6						316	214	136	119	106	145						1	1		1	1

France	8								535			318											5
France	9											456											
Germany	1	2995	1728	1381	1164	847	756	664	487	487	315	442	52	55	41	28	20	25	26	5	11	12	
Germany	2		900	537	455	355	325	282	224	211	151	191		13	13	3	9	7	16		3	10	
Germany	5					4548	3330	2874	2168	2136	1573	1957					70	94	83	14	32	45	
Germany	8								989			626										12	
Germany	9											1251											
Greece	1	2897	2477	2289			1688	1584	943	1324	1193	1058	50	131			284	199	100	29	13	69	
Greece	2		933	801			569	523	403	460	437	399		14			66	37	18	3	2	20	
Greece	6						2667	963	1662	2074	1769	1655						36	112	12	37	67	
Hungary	4				3070			1538	779	1057	862	1099						300	117	60	33	179	
Hungary	8								440			329										19	
Hungary	9											400											
Ireland	2		1035	855										36									
Israel	1	2449	2037			1760	1409	1414	689	1085	899	376	164			165	113	102	92	28	32	41	
Israel	2		411			302	278	219	87	157	135	65				30	38	18	17	7	4	11	
Israel	5					537	348	346	128	282	210	77					4	4	1	2	1	1	
Israel	7							152	32	64	47	15							3	2			
Israel	8								482			185										16	
Israel	9											26											
Italy	1	2551	1990	1814	1561	1572	1487	1371	790	1139	982	1028	52	75	70	100	134	98	54	28	46	92	
Italy	2		990	714	590	558	546	463	205	402	344	350		17	22	25	32	32	16	11	12	30	
Italy	4				1415	900	843	811	330	724	623	677				27	46	42	21	21	8	45	
Italy	5					1705	1190	1118	489	986	857	919					27	53	20	23	15	77	
Italy	6						1231	802	356	671	552	649						12	9	9	12	18	
Latvia	7							1734	795	1056	975	947							33	9	28	67	
Latvia	8								423			344										15	
Latvia	9											425											
Lithuania	7							2035	1437	1333	1259	1414							93	8	37	66	
Luxembourg	5					1607	1150	963	727	727	649	616					18	34	15	3	9	12	
Luxembourg	6						413	287	228	237	218	194						1	5	1	3	3	
Malta	7							1261	806	913	790	875							32	3	15	31	
Netherlands	1	2968	1922	1726	1539	1409	797	749	702	327	291	726	49	73	54	57	12	13	58	4	6	42	
Netherlands	2		761	532	476	452	284	261	226	82	72	246		10	7	15	3	3	16	1	1	11	
Netherlands	4				773	614	298	299	301	128	117	342				13		1	15	1		8	
Netherlands	5					1690	692	695	712	268	250	752					4	2	42	4	2	25	
Netherlands	6						2504	2086										11					
Poland	2		2466	1939	1733		1461	1240	664	857	759	884		94	165		195	110	78	24	44	96	
Poland	6						365	293	128	231	214	235						3	2		2	4	
Poland	7							3164	1283	2003	1821	2132							89	44	58	161	
Poland	8								781			571										49	
Poland	9											1006											
Portugal	4				2013		1674	1282		1156	1073	1061					116	88		79	16	69	
Portugal	9											577											
Romania	7							2114	1282	1590	1467	1492							103	15	72	129	
Slovakia	7							2077	999	973	921	1055							43		17	6	
Slovenia	4				2748	2210	2234	1985	1389	1704	1548	1656				52	100	124	105	42	52	107	
Slovenia	5					748	667	581	393	547	502	525					22	27	19	8	13	29	

Slovenia	6						1322	1125	720	993	896	948						40	41	21	32	45
Slovenia	8								554			426										16
Slovenia	9											889										
Spain	1	2316	1991	1939	1671	1669	1513	1276	691	1097	890	776	97	125	125	166	190	134	62	31	46	72
Spain	2		431	332	275	275	251	216	110	182	146	130		13	17	23	18	18	7	4	6	13
Spain	4				1781	1452	1284	1078	545	927	764	686				79	81	91	40	21	33	36
Spain	5					3295	2561	2133	783								134	187	46			
Spain	9											495										
Sweden	1	3047	2261	1803	1625	1630	1568	1253	904	531	330	845	63	95	156	166	114	96	69	6		103
Sweden	2		534	158	342	333	304	261	185	91	60	166		6	26	23	23	6	20	1		18
Sweden	5					2584	2028	1680	1269	778	580	1243					39	49	77	7		105
Sweden	8								179			125										
Sweden	9											49										
Switzerland	1	997	774	676	593	501	471	415	334	339	290	269	14	19	22	18	23	20	17	6	7	15
Switzerland	2		724	648	594	489	451	383	318	323	309	280		7	17	14	21	9	14	2	4	4
Switzerland	4				2597	2058	1881	1604	1255	1300	1152	1088				33	49	57	61	2	17	24
Switzerland	8								188			127										
Switzerland	9											80										
Total		*30416*	*37132*	*28454*	*57982*	*66038*	*72630*	*81271*	*53695*	*57547*	*49263*	*69447*	*726*	*1207*	*1174*	*2194*	*3384*	*3691*	*3059*	*1116*	*1212*	*3491*

Note: The column “sampling wave” indicates the various baseline/refreshment samples in each country. The sample size development of each baseline/refreshment sample (main and end-of-life interviews) is presented from left to right.